

FOCUSING ON OUR COMMUNITY & THE UW-MADISON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL & LIFE SCIENCES

President's Message

by Candee Craven, president, Demeter

Spring is on its way and, hopefully, our Demeter bulbs are beginning to sprout at the Allen Centennial Garden! The board has been busy this winter in spite of the weather. Our January meeting was held via Zoom. Here are some highlights from that meeting.



George Shook presented a list of the scholarships, internship, research, and club grants for 2025-2026 recommended by the Demeter Education Committee. The total of the awards is \$56,500, the largest amount ever awarded by Demeter. His recommendations were unanimously approved. THANK YOU to our very generous members.

Organization and maintenance of our website was also discussed. Thanks to Weizhong Wang and Laura Hernandez who have agreed to update our website. If you haven't already visited DemeterWI.org, please do.

Included with this newsletter is the 2025-2026 Demeter membership/donation form. Please consider volunteering for a committee and/or board position. If you have questions regarding any of the volunteer options, please contact me.

Please plan to attend our Annual Meeting, beginning at 11:30 a.m. May 14 at the Blackhawk Country Club, 3606 Blackhawk Drive in Madison. Our speaker will be Michael Peters, director of the UW Agricultural Research Stations. A flyer and reservation form is attached to this newsletter.

We will also elect new officers at our annual meeting. As you know, Demeter is a 100% volunteer organization and most board positions do not require a major time commitment. The BEST part of volunteering is spending time with a wonderful group of dedicated volunteers – who all want Demeter to continue to be a strong contributor to the UW community.

Demeter Education Committee Report

by George Shook, chair, Demeter Education Committee

The annual Corn Roast is a highlight on the Demeter calendar each year. It's a fun social event



for members, and we celebrate the wonderful CALS undergraduate students who benefit from our support. This consists of scholarships, internships and grants to student organizations for professional and career development activities. We were delighted to welcome 20 students at our 2024 Corn Roast.

Support for students is the pinnacle of Demeter's mission. The total of Demeter's student support for the 2025-26 academic year will be the largest amount ever provided. The sources and distribution of that support are featured in a separate article in this newsletter. Contributions from Demeter members in amounts small and large, recently and over many years, have made these awards possible.

A milestone was achieved in October 2024 when Demeter President Candee Craven, CALS Dean Glenda Gillaspy, and UW Foundation CEO Michael Knetter signed a Memorandum of

Shook, continued from page 1

Agreement (MOA) for the Demeter Education Fund. The Demeter Education Fund was established at the UW Foundation in 1979, but an MOA had never been established. Long-time Demeter member Judy Stang brought the need for this agreement to our attention more than two years ago. Key points of the MOA are:

- the fund will continue to support undergraduate students in CALS;
- as a 'quasi-endowment fund,' spending can be made from the principal when desired; and
- if Demeter should cease to exist, awards will be determined within the CALS Dean's office. Until that time, awards will continue to be planned by Demeter leadership.

In June 2024 we welcomed Megan Lauber and Elton 'Abe' Aberle to the Education Committee. New Demeter member, Marisa Klister of Juda, Wisconsin, also recently joined the committee.

Committee members serve three-year terms and may continue for a second term. Tonia Peters serves the committee as scholarship coordinator and David Thomas is club grants coordinator. Both are nearing the end of their second year on the committee.

Alison Duff, internship coordinator, and George Shook, committee chair, will rotate off the committee in May. In June, we'll welcome their successors, Tom Breunig and Kate VandenBosch, respectively.

Demeter Scholarships, Internships, and Club Grants for Academic Year 2025-26

Recommended by Demeter Education Committee November 6, 2024 Approved by Demeter Board of Directors January 9, 2025

<u>Scholarships</u>			Internships		
<u>Fund</u>	Category	<u>Awards</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Awards</u>
Allen	AWA Merit ¹	\$4,000 ¹	DoD Checking	Allen Garden	1 @ \$3,000
Allen	Babcock Merit	1 @ \$2,000	UWF Demeter	Arlington ARS	1 @ \$3,000
Allen	Sophomore Merit	1 @ \$2,000	UWF Demeter	W Madison ARS	1 @ \$3,000
Pound	Sophomore Merit	1 @ \$2,000	Total	All Internships	\$9,000
Allen	Junior Merit	2 @ \$2,000			
Allen	Senior Merit	2 @ \$2,000			
Aberle	Need	2 @ \$2,500	DoD Checking	Student Clubs ⁴	\$8,000
Maxwell	Research	1 @ \$3,000			
Shands	Diversity ²	1 @ \$2,000			
Thomsen	Diversity ²	1 @ \$500	All Funds		<u>Totals</u>
Walsh	Horticulture	1 @ \$2,500	Allen Endowment		\$22,000
Allen	Merit Study Abroad ³	\$6,000	Named Endowments		\$17,000
Pound	Merit Study Abroad ³	\$2,000	UWF Demeter Fund		\$6,500
UWF Demeter Study Abroad ³		\$500	DoD Checking		\$11,000
Total	All Scholarships	\$39,500	Grand Total	\$56,500	

¹Total of AWA Scholarships will be divided among two or more students by AWA Scholarship Committee.

² The Shands and Thomsen awards will be combined and awarded to one student.

Study Abroad awards will be distributed among students based on costs of students' international experiences.

Awards to student clubs will be determined by the Education Committee in April 2025 based on applications from club leaders.

Demeter announces 2024-2025 scholarship recipients

For this academic year, 13 scholarships were awarded to students using income from seven Demeter funds established at the UW Foundation.



Lydia Pulsinelli, a senior from Knoxville, Tennessee, and majoring in Horticulture (Certificates in Food Systems, Theatre, and Art History), is the recipient of the <u>Carole Walsh Scholarship</u>. She wants to use her education in the field of public horticulture and/or food systems. She loves plants and wants to cultivate spaces for people to enjoy. The multidisciplinary possibilities of food systems combine her interest in agriculture with aspects of sociology, ecology and policy that provide opportunities to create real-world innovation and change.



Jenna Gries, a junior from Manitowoc, Wisconsin, and majoring in Dairy Science, is the recipient of the <u>Carrie Aberle Scholarship</u>. She said these funds will enable her to focus on her studies and involvement in agricultural organizations on campus. She is proud of contributing to her Wisconsin team's win at the 2021 World Dairy Expo 4-H Dairy Judging Contest. After graduation, she plans to work in the dairy industry where she can help farmers be more efficient and profitable.



Rianne Wagner, a senior from Wilmette, Illinois, and majoring in Agronomy (Certificates in Environmental Soil Science and Organic Agriculture), received the <u>Maxwell Research Award</u>. Wagner said they are honored and grateful to receive the award as it lessened the burden of financial worry. Wagner was recruited to UW-Madison as a lightweight rower and is excited to combine their passion for rowing and agriculture. Wagner's current career plan is to become a research agronomist or plant breeder.



Brianna Meyer, a sophomore from Chilton, Wisconsin, and majoring in Dairy Science and Life Sciences Communication, said she is honored to receive the <u>Daisy Pound Academic Merit Award</u> and that it has helped to make the most of her educational experience. The UW Dairy Science program is exactly what she wanted to learn about and to prepare herself for vet school. She would like to serve the agriculture community as a large-animal veterinarian.



Wendy Cruz Ramirez received the <u>H.L. & Jobelle Shands Scholarship</u>. She is a senior majoring in Animal and Veterinary Biosciences from Oak Creek, Wisconsin. She said that she is appreciative for Demeter's generosity. Her interests include small-animal medicine and emergency medicine. Planning to attend veterinary school, she is passionate about helping animals. She looks forward to turning her love of animals into her occupation and one day owning her own

veterinary clinic.

— by Tonia Peters

Oscar N. & Ethel K. Allen Memorial Demeter Endowment scholarship awardees named



Brigid Heller, a senior AWA awardee from Chicago, Illinois, is majoring in Biological Systems Engineering with a Certificate in Sustainability. In her childhood home, surrounded by neighborhoods that did not have access to clean and healthy food, she wants to use her knowledge to integrate farm-to-table food for people living in food deserts. She wants to work with urban areas to promote food security.



Sadie Goettl, a senior <u>AWA awardee</u> from Berlin, Wisconsin, is double majoring in Agricultural Business Management and Communication Arts. She said that she is grateful for the scholarship as it will provide her more financial stability. She aspires to dive into the world of marketing/sales or lobbying after graduation. She loves interacting with others and bettering the agriculture community.



Faith Baerwolf is a junior from Columbus, Wisconsin, majoring in Agricultural and Applied Economics. She said that she is thankful to receive an <u>AWA award</u> as well as for the UW-Madison alumni, community and enthusiasts for their support during her college journey. She is interested in business and how the economy works. She is not yet sure of her career plans.



Andrew Molodchenko is a Biochemistry major from Madison, Wisconsin, and a transfer student from Russia's Moscow State University. They are grateful for the <u>Babcock Merit Scholarship</u>, which will help cover college costs while allowing them to focus on classes and participate in house events. Molodchenko is interested in plant physiology — specifically how plants, bacteria and soil work together to create landscapes.



Alba Lee, a Food Science major with a certificate in Environmental Studies, is from Austin, Texas. She received the <u>Outstanding Sophomore</u> award. Lee was raised in a family of "foodies" and has long been drawn to how food is a medium that contains cultural and emotional significance. After graduation, she said that she hopes to find a job to pursue bettering food systems and working on solutions to environmental problems.



Sophia Delgado is an <u>Outstanding Junior</u> awardee from Minnetonka, Minnesota. A Food Science major (with Certificates in Business and Food Systems), she thanks Demeter for investing in her education and alleviating financial burdens. Her interest in food science is focused on allergies and protein. She hopes to start her own company in the future, focusing on creating products for athletes' unique needs.



Ben Tirtawigun, recipient of an <u>Outstanding Junior</u> Award, is an international student from Jakarta Utara, Indonesia. He is majoring in Food Science (with a Certificate in Business). He said the scholarship was invaluable in easing his increased tuition costs. He plans to work in the U.S. food industry before returning home to Indonesia where he hopes to establish a food company that provides instant, nutritious meals easily transportable to rural areas to combat malnutrition.



Loren Smith, recipient of the <u>Outstanding Senior</u> award, is from Dublin, Ohio. A Food Science major (with Certificates in Environmental Studies, Fermented Foods & Beverages and Food Systems), she is passionate about food science and food systems and their effect on environmental health. She is learning what niche she wants to pursue as she gains experience at UW-Madison in dairy, precision fermentation, and insect protein for human consumption.

— by Tonia Peters

Demeter funds study abroad programs



Chloe Hansen, a senior from Oshkosh, Wisconsin, is the recipient of the Allen Memorial Demeter Merit Scholarship. Her time in CALS has prepared her for a study abroad experience in Australia, she said. There she will study marine biology and a coastal community. Majoring in Conservation Biology and Life Sciences Communication, she believes a study abroad will result in personal and academic skills. Her career goal is to become a science communicator or researcher – building connections between people and science.



Ellery Bartels is a senior from Saint Paul, Minnesota. She is majoring in Biology with a Certificate in French. The scholarship will help enrich her education and global perspective while bolstering her aspirations for a nursing career, she said. Becoming bilingual is an asset which she expects will help her provide exceptional care to a broader group of people and enable her to more easily serve other parts of the world as a healthcare provider.



Tess Schueller is a senior from Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin. She will study abroad in Greece. A Biological Systems Engineering major focused on Food and Bioprocess Engineering, she will study chemical and sensorial properties of fermented Greek beverages. Her career plans include designing, testing and implementing solutions to problems concerning the chemical content and nutritional value of different foods.



Ciboney Reglos is a senior from Crystal, Minnesota. She is majoring in Global Health with Certificates in Health Policy and Southeast Asian Studies. The scholarship represents a significant financial relief as well as a recognition of her dedication to studying abroad in Sri Lanka. As a Filipino American, she is grateful to be able to explore the overlap between her culture and another Asian country, she said. The study abroad experience offers an opportunity to broaden her understanding of public health from an international perspective and to cultivate cross-cultural skills and global competence, she added.



Veronica Goveas is a senior Biology major from Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin. She is grateful for the opportunity to join the UW Health, Education and Tanzanian Culture program, she said. Her academic interests are focused on medicine and public health, a passion ignited by witnessing healthcare disparities in underserved communities. Witnessing different healthcare systems and cultural approaches will enhance her ability to provide culturally sensitive care and understand diverse perspectives in healthcare, she said.

— by Tonia Peters

Demeter-supports three internships

Each year, Demeter provides financial support toward internships at the Allen Centennial Garden, the Arlington Agricultural Research Station, and the West Madison Agricultural Research Station. These funds enable internship mentors to create hands-on research engagement for eligible students in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. The 2024 cohort of interns have shared details below about their internship experiences.



Margaux Rierson was hired as a program and events intern at Allen Centennial Garden. Under the direction of Director Reba Luiken, Rierson contributed to workshops, tours and marketing. She also developed a guided meditation walk around the Garden for her internship project. Nathan Larson, senior outreach specialist in the UW Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture, provided guidance as Rierson designed a project to benefit future visitors to the garden. She said of her internship, "It has been a fantastic experience that I will never forget. The skills and experiences gained from this internship will significantly enhance my future endeavors as a UW student and environmental educator."



Adam Schaik is an Animal and Dairy Sciences major who was selected by Jessica Cederquist and Jamie Reichert for an internship at the Arlington Agricultural Research Station. His internship involved rotations through the swine, sheep, and beef facilities at the station to gain a wide range of livestock research experiences. During the internship, Schaik was able to work alongside veterinary and animal care staff. His favorite experiences were participating in surgeries, working in the swine unit, and developing new or improved animal handling skills. In his intern report, he wrote, "Overall this was an amazing internship because I learned so many new things and I will be able to use what I learned down the road."



Mae Moen is an Environmental Science and Global Health major who interned at the West Madison Agricultural Research Station under the guidance of Janet Hedtcke and Mindy Breunig. Moen was responsible for the display garden, including layout of the garden beds and transplanting new cultivars of flowers and vegetables. She also gained experience with rating for flower evaluation and presenting information about plant trials to the public. Moen shared, "My experience as a garden intern has taught me a lot in a short time."

continued from page 7

Demeter thanks the location supervisors for providing impactful, engaging internship experiences for the 2024 interns. Please consider donating to support this important work. Our internship supervisors report that this funding is important, providing additional capacity to the locations and, in some cases, providing programming that would not otherwise have been possible. — by Alison Duff

Demeter offers opportunities to support students

Student Support Fund held at Oak Bank offers the greatest flexibility for allocation of funds. About \$10,000 is distributed annually for internships, scholarships and grants to student organizations, which use these funds to participate in contests and attend professional meetings. Please consider increasing your donation when submitting your membership dues or registration fees for events.

The Demeter Education Fund at UW Foundation (no. 132047830) is an endowed fund with a current value of ~\$100,000, which provides student support in perpetuity. The annual earnings of about \$4,500 from this endowment are used for student scholarships, study abroad, research awards, and internships. Funds are not used to support student organizations. Contribute online at https://www.supportuw.org/how-to-give/. Please contact Brooke Mulvaney at brooke.mulvaney@supportuw.org or 608-308-5330, or Douglas Maxwell at doug-las.maxwell08@gmail.com for more information.

Named Endowment Fund A permanent legacy in CALS or the department of your choice may be established at the UW Foundation with Demeter in the fund name. These funds can be designated to cover scholarships for study abroad, undergraduate research, students with financial need or other preferences. Currently, there are seven named endowment funds. The earnings from these funds, about \$35,000 per year, provide the majority of Demeter student support. Contact Jodi Wickham at the UW Foundation at jodi.wickham@supportuw.org for questions about establishing an endowment fund or for more information.





Volunteers make the Demeter Corn Roast Picnic, a major fundraiser for the Demeter scholarship, internship, and club grant program, a great success every year. Left photo: Jan Martin served as the event's chair for years and still donates her time volunteering on the food line. Top photo: Keith Kelling (left) and Scott Craven also have volunteered at the Corn Roast Picnic for many years. Many thanks to veteran and new volunteers alike!

Demeter-supported CALS Clubs report activities



ASABE Students attend the 2024 Midwest Regional Rally at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

UW-Madison Chapter of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE)

Student members of the ASABE attended in March 2024 Midwest Regional Rally (MRR) hosted by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). With Demeter's support as well as funds from our fundraising activities and the UW-Department of Biological Systems Engineering, we were able to pay for all registration fees and additional costs for attending this event for each student.

MRR is hosted by a different Midwestern university ASABE chapter each year. It is an excellent opportunity for undergraduates to network with industry professionals and other students, attend industry tours, and see agricultural and biological engineering facilities at the host university. This year students participated in tours of the Riggs Beer Company, Hydro-Gear, Dean's Beef and Bacon, John Deere, and Prairie Fruits Farm and Creamery. In the precision agriculture lab, students saw various robots used for research.

Forty-six students from six universities attended the rally. Nine students represented the UW-Madison Chapter. A banquet featured keynote speaker, Michelle Sterrett. She graduated from UIUC Aerospace Engineering and is now a vehicle architect at CNH Industrial. The UW-Madison ASABE Chapter will host the 2025 MRR. We are excited to be able to use a grant awarded by the Knapp Bequest Committee to help host the rally. Students benefit from networking opportunities, industry tours, leadership positions and learning directly from industry engineers. It's important that these career-preparation opportunities are at little to no cost to attending students. We thank Demeter for allowing our chapter to accomplish this goal.



The 2023-2024 Badger Crops Team is comprised of (front row from left) Rianne Wagner, Sabeel Abuhakmeh, Calli Anibas (Club Advisor), Zachary Olson and Jacob Roden; and (back row from left) Brandon Boyd, Langston Jones, Drew Dettmann, Daniel Zhu, and Jacob Criter.

Badger Crops Club

The Demeter grant helped defray travel costs of nine club members to attend events surrounding the joint annual meetings of the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and Soil Science Society of America in October 2023 in St. Louis, Missouri. The Badger Crops Teams placed second and third at the National Crops Judging Showcase.

Individually, Jake Roden placed first, Daniel Zhu placed sixth, Sabeel Abuhakmeh placed seventh, and Drew Dettmann placed tenth. The competition provided our team the opportunity to practice hands-on agronomic skills and receive feedback from industry agronomists.

Daniel Zhu also placed first in the research poster competition, and our Quiz Bowl Team made it to the final four out of 36 teams.

Badger Crops Club, continued from page 9

Our team members interacted with industry leaders, nationally recognized researchers, and fellow undergraduate and graduate students. The knowledge gained was brought back to UW-Madison and shared with the rest of our 30+member club.

We send Demeter our warmest thanks. This trip would not have been possible without your support. We look forward to building upon the hard work we've put in and to proudly represent our club, the university, and our great sponsors like Demeter.

Food Science Club

The Food Science Club used its Demeter grant to help with expenses for its product-development teams and its College Bowl team. In 2023-2024, three teams of 15 students submitted applications to three competitions:

- Dairy Management Inc. New Product competition
- MARS Smart Snacks for Kids competition
- Ocean Spray Product Development competition

While none of the club's applications advanced to national competitions in 2024, a UW-Madison team competing in the 2023 MARS Smart Snacks for Kids competition advanced to the International Food Technologists (IFT) conference where it placed fourth nationally.

It was a different story for the Food Science Club's College Bowl team at the IFT annual meeting in August 2024. The team was the undefeated champion.

Team members Tori Budin, Philip Eberly, Lauren Smith, and Bea Sutton beat California State Polytechnic University in the finals. The competition included seven other regional champions from across the United States.



Students enjoy the 2024 Wild Game Dinner.

UW-Madison Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society

Demeter funds were used to help defray costs of the annual Wild Game Dinner hosted by our Chapter with the goal of creating connections across the wildlife community at UW-Madison and the greater Madison community. Donations of harvested wild game and fish were prepared for the meal. Attending the dinner were chapter members, wildlife ecology undergraduates and graduate students, professors, local wildlife professionals, and students from other natural resources clubs. The meal included a raffle supported by donations from local businesses, organizations, and individuals.

The 2024 dinner was held in February 2024 at The Crossing Campus Ministry. More than 130 people attended. The wild game and wild rice were harvested locally or wild caught by our members.

National Agri-Marketing Association (NAMA)

NAMA students remained engaged year-round, joining business and industry tours, seizing networking opportunities, and representing UW-Madison at the National NAMA Competition in Kansas City, Missouri. Demeter funds primarily served as financial aid for students facing financial constraints, enabling their participation in these enriching events. The Demeter grant provided all students access to remarkable experiences within NAMA, paving the way for them to discover career opportunities in agricultural marketing and strategic communication.

NAMA, continued from page 10

Through Demeter funding, about a dozen students participated in NAMA activities and events throughout the year. They had opportunities to network with professionals in the agricultural marketing and communication sectors during business and industry tours and at the national competition. This exposure helped many students confirm their aspirations to enter the marketing industry after graduation.

The Demeter grant enabled students to access opportunities that would have otherwise been out of reach. NAMA is deeply appreciative of the continuous support and encouragement from the Demeter club grant program.

Plant Science Graduate Student Council (PSGSC)

The Plant Science Graduate Student Council (PSGSC) is thankful for Demeter's support for our 13th Annual Plant Science Symposium. The 2023 symposium was hosted at the Discovery Building on November 3. We hosted more than 130 people, of which, 100 were students. Others included faculty, staff, government personnel, and industry professionals. The symposium featured speakers who discussed breeding, plant pathology, genetics, forestry, and germplasm.

We used the Demeter funds to award student lighting-talk competitors. This competition challenges graduate students to pitch their research in three minutes or less with only one to two slides. This enables attendees to see the diversity of plant science research occurring across campus.

Student attendees had many opportunities to network and learn. Through invited speakers, students learned various areas of plant sciences research. In addition, students learned from their peers through the lightning-talk competition as well as the student poster session. The success of this symposium is only possible through the support of sponsors, like Demeter. Thank you again for your sponsorship of our symposium.

— by Dave Thomas

Donations for general support of Demeter activities

Donations to student support — checking

- Sandra Bertics
- Natasha and Peter Rayne

Donations in memory of

- Ruth Apps by Nancy Field
- · Dwight and June Forsyth by David Forsyth
- Neal Jorgensen by Darlene Jorgensen
- Andrea Kelling by Linda Harvey, Douglas and Martha Maxwell, Hanna Boekhoff-Walsh, Dottie and Bob Leuning by Mary Jane Getlinger
- Leo Walsh by Sharon Brantmeier and Randy Shaver

Donations in honor of

George Shook by Laura Hernandez

<u>Donations to Demeter Education Fund at UW</u> Foundation

- Judy and Darrell Barth
- Hildy Feen
- Deanna Marie Martin
- Rodney E. Martin
- Daughters of Demeter in memory of Glenda Lindsay

Sewing donations

None at this time

Welcome new member, Marisa Klister. We're glad you're here!



The Demeter Sewing Group collectively produces 100 head coverings each month to take to the Wig Salon at UW Hospital in Madison. Please contact demeterwi.org/ contact-us for more information.



Enjoying the 2024 Demeter Corn Roast Picnic are (from left), Jaya Suneja; Sam Anhalt; Halei Heinzel, aka 'Alice in Dairyland;' and Tonia Peters, who serves on the Demeter Education Committee.

CONDOLENCES

- Family of Chrystie Jackson
- Family of Mary Bula
- Family of Andrea Kelling
- Family of Ruth Apps
- Family of Sharon Brantmeier's sister
- Family of Bob Cassen
- Family of Glenda Lindsay

THINKING OF YOU

- Randy Shaver
- Elton "Abe" Aberle

LIFE EVENTS

Please send news of life events to

Jan.Martin539@gmail.com

CALENDAR

Board Meeting

6 p.m., March 13, 2025 West Madison Research Station

Sewing Workshop

Blue Bar Quilts 6333 Univ. Ave., Middleton 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 3rd Tuesdays, March-May, 2025

"The Fabulous

West Madison Agricultural Research Station," Janet Hedtke, speaker 6:30 p.m., March 31

Zoom Program

Annual Meeting & Luncheon

Beginning at 11:30 a.m., May 14, Blackhawk Country Club

Demeter Garden Party

Beginning at 4 p.m., June 11 Allen Centennial Garden, Madison

Corn Roast Picnic

Beginning at 5 p.m., Sept. 3 Lakeview Park, Middleton