



DEMETER NEWS

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

President's Message

by Sharon Brantmeier



Happy summer! A big thank you to all who attended the Demeter Annual Meeting at Blackhawk Country Club. It was a great event and Mike Peters, who was our speaker, did a fantastic job. I was elected president at that meeting and will be serving for the next year. I retired from my job last fall and was asked again to help lead this great group. I was Demeter president 2018-2019 and am excited to give back again.

As I write this article, I am wearing a t-shirt that says "Be the Sunshine." This was the last post of a local businesswoman before she passed from cancer. This t-shirt reminds me of Demeter. We are the sunshine in many people's lives. Included in this newsletter are notes from cancer survivors who are thrilled to receive the caps that the sewing group creates. Each fall we hear from the scholarship and grant awardees who say that the funds we give them help their collegiate lives. The Garden Party and Corn Roast bring joy to many who attend them, meeting new and old friends. It's fitting that our group is called Demeter and we add joy and sunshine to many people's lives.

Our board met in June and one of our goals is to increase membership. If you know someone who wants to join, please contact them and ask them to join.

Another project was the ability to register for events online (demeterwi.org). We found a cost-effective way to do that. You can register for the corn roast online or by mail (flyer enclosed)

We look forward to a great year of events for Demeter. Enjoy the rest of the summer, and we'll see you at the Corn Roast on September 3.

Continue to be the sunshine in people's lives!

Demeter Scholars at AWA Day

by George Shook, immediate past chair, Demeter Education Committee



It was my pleasure to be invited to the Association of Women in Agriculture (AWA) dinner on April 5 to introduce four AWA members receiving Demeter scholarships for 2025-2026. It also was a great joy to visit with so many AWA alums and spouses I had worked with as undergraduate students and who went on to successful careers.

All four of the new Demeter AWA scholars are Dean's List students. They are active in several leadership roles within AWA and other CALS student activities as well as in local, state and national organizations.

Josephine Ammons comes from a diversified family farm near Wellesley, Massachusetts. She is a junior majoring in Agricultural Business Management and earning a certificate in Public Policy. She writes that "AWA has given me a home away from home." She works as a communications assistant in the Life Sciences Communications department.

Lauren Breunig is a senior majoring in Life Sciences Communication specializing in communication strategy and in communication skills and technology. She also is earning certificates in Business Management for Agriculture and Life Sciences, Entrepreneurship, Digital Studies and

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(Shook, continued from page 1)



Josephine Ammons



Lauren Breunig



Alexandria McCourt



Brianna Meyer

Food Systems. Lauren grew up on a family dairy farm near Sauk City, Wisconsin.

Alexandria McCourt is majoring in Textiles and Fashion Design and is earning a certificate in Entrepreneurship in the School of Human Ecology. She was active in Fond du Lac County 4-H and local theater programs. She is a lab technician in the School of Human Ecology.

Brianna Meyer has been active in a variety of roles on her family's Brown Swiss and Holstein farm near Chilton, Wisconsin. A junior majoring in Dairy Science, she works as a lab assistant in the department's lactation and reproductive physiology laboratories. She also is a Food Animal Veterinary Medical Scholar in the School of Veterinary Medicine.

Bethany Dado-Senn, an AWA alum and Demeter member, chaired the AWA scholarship committee that reviewed students' applications and awarded



Larry Binning, left, and his Corn Roast cooking crew, prepare a batch of corn for Demeter members and their guests. Photo: Nan Field

Corn Roast — We're all ears!

The Demeter Annual Corn Roast will begin at 5 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 3 at Lakeview Park in Middleton. We'll hear presentations by CALS Dean Glenda Gillaspay; Sarah Hagenow, 78th Alice in Dairyland; and the Demeter scholarship and internship recipients and agriculture club members.

Come and enjoy pork or beef sandwiches, Cherries Jubilee and more. And, of course, there's always the tasty sweet corn picked fresh by a team of Demeter volunteers. Check out the enclosed flyer for more details. We'll see you in September!

Demeter elects new officers at annual meeting

The Demeter annual meeting was held May 14 at the Blackhawk Country Club in Madison. Forty-nine members attended the event, which featured the election of officers for 2025-2026. The members approved and voted for the slate of officers as follows:

- President: Sharon Brantmeier
- Vice-president: Megan Lauber
- Recording secretary: Linda Harvey
- Corresponding secretary/membership: Jan Martin
- Treasurer: Doug Maxwell

Also during the meeting, Doug Maxwell, with assistance from Megan Lauber, presented the treasurer's report. The Demeter board approved funding for student support:

- In FY24-25 Demeter had \$10,000 in checking and \$28,000 from seven funds at the UW Foundation for a total of \$38,000. That amount was awarded in scholarships, internships and grants.
- In FY25-26 Demeter had \$11,000 in checking, \$6,500 from the Daughters of Demeter (DoD) Education Fund at the UW Foundation; and \$39,000 from the seven member-endowed funds. The total for FY25-26 is \$56,500, an impressive amount to be awarded in scholarships and grants.

The annual event also featured a presentation by Mike Peters, director of the UW Agricultural Research Stations. He addressed the purposes of each of the stations.



Demeter elects new officers for 2025-2026. They are (from left): Doug Maxwell, treasurer; Candee Craven, immediate past president; Sharon Brantmeier, president; Jan Martin, corresponding secretary/membership; and Megan Lauber, vice president. Missing from the photo is Linda Harvey, recording secretary. Photo: Jan Martin



Mike Peters, director of the UW Agricultural Research Stations, talks about the 12 stations, which feature outdoor laboratories, classrooms and education centers. Photo: Jan Martin

DONATIONS FOR GENERAL SUPPORT OF DEME- TER ACTIVITIES

Sharon Brantmeier and Sally Leong

DONATIONS TO STUDENT SUPPORT

Judy and Darrell Barth, Dorothy and Larry Binning, Gennie and Lloyd Bostian, Jackie Bowe, Joyce Bringe, Catherine Buege, Sandra Bubenzer, Sue Cowan, Betty Jo Dahlman, Mary Jane and Vernon Getlinger, Fawn Gottschalk, Kathy Knox, Ester and Birl Lowery, Sherry O'Connor, Rita Harris, Daphne Holterman, Tonia and Mike Peters, Natasha and Peter Rayne, Helen Read, Mary K. Reinemann, Gail Schomisch, Beverly Schrag, Mary Melvin Shapiro, Judy Stang, Leone Suttie and Eve Wilke

DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF

- Ruth Apps by Peggy Daluge
- Frederick Buelow by Lois Buelow
- Albert Ellingboe by Ann Ellingboe
- Don Field by Nan Field
- Laverne Forest by Betty Forest
- Dwight and June Forsyth by David Forsyth
- Neal Jorgensen by Darlyne Jorgensen
- Andrea Kelling by Carrie and Abe Aberle, Judy Barth, Betty Keeney, Keith Kelling, and Judy and Walter Stevenson
- Glenda and Bob Lindsay by Karen Bradley, Joyce Bringe, Jan Martin, Mary Stuibler and Mary Whitmer

- Bob Luening by Ruby Dobson
- Jeff Martin by Jan Martin
- Everett Nelson by Aleta Murray
- Ardith and Don McDowell by George and Donna Beestman
- Kenneth D. Munkres by Ann Zenner
- Art Pope by Dave Thomas
- Edward L. Springer by Patricia Springer
- Leo Walsh by Hanna Boekhoff-Walsh, Ruby Dobson
- Mary Worf by Gayle Worf

DONATIONS IN HONOR OF

- Candee Craven by Sharon Brantmeier, Liz Henry, Gail Schaefer and Judy Stang
- Sandy and Gary Bubenzer by Amy Lorimer
- Laura Hernandez by George Shook
- Jan Martin by Hanna Boekhoff-Walsh
- Doug Maxwell by Sally Leong
- Martha and Doug Maxwell by George Shook
- Tonia and Mike Peters by Doug and Martha Maxwell
- Ed Reid by Pamela Reid
- George Shook by Martha and Doug Maxwell, Gail Schaefer

DONATIONS TO SEWING GROUP

Julie Arriaga, Dorothy and Larry Binning, Hanna Boekhoff-Walsh, Gennie Bostian, Karen Bradley, Sandra Bubenzer, Sue Cowan, Betty Jo Dahlman, Ruby Dobson, Ann Ellingboe, Betty Forest, Lynn Grooms, Rita Harris, Daphne Holterman, Katherine Liu, Natasha and Peter Rayne, Beverly Schrag, Judy Stang, Walter and Judy Stevenson, Mary Whitmer

SEWING DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF

- Glenda Lindsay by Linda Harvey
- Andrea Kelling by Keith Kelling
- Betty Pope by Lynda Thomas



Reba Luiken, director of the Allen Centennial Garden, introduced her team of interns at the Demeter Garden Party. From left are Reba; Ava Jeffery, Demeter-supported intern; Mia Homan, intern; Lydia Pulsinelli, intern; Molly Zimmermann, intern; Jenny Zinniker, horticulturist; and Fernando de la Torre, intern.



Darrell and Judy Barth organized another lovely Garden Party at Allen Centennial Garden.



Curt Lauderdale talks to Demeter members about opportunities students in CALS have. Photos: Lynn Grooms

Garden Party highlights

The annual Demeter Garden Party was held on June 11 at Allen Centennial Garden. Fifty-three Demeter members and eight garden staff attended the event.

Curt Lauderdale, assistant dean for student advising and development in UW CALS, spoke to the group. His parents were unable to go to college, but encouraged him to pursue higher education, he said. He graduated from Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin, with a BA in government. He also earned an MA degree in education and human development from George Washington University in Washington, DC.

Lauderdale has worked in student affairs and student services for several years. He joined UW-Madison in 2022. He tries to impress upon students the importance of taking advantage of the many opportunities available to them, he said. Among those opportunities are scholarships, internships and club activities supported by organizations such as Demeter.

Another highlight from the Garden Party — Reba Luiken, garden director at Allen Centennial Garden, introduced her staff, including Ava Jeffery, a Demeter-supported intern. The students delivered tasty catered meals to Demeter members. They also gave tours of the garden.

Many thanks to Judy and Darrell Barth for organizing another lovely Garden Party. Judy maintains a great weather percentage!

Editor's note: *According to UW CALS, 827 new students joined CALS in fall 2023, including 620 new undergraduates and 207 new graduate students. There was a total of 558 new freshmen.*

More than 925 new students joined CALS in fall 2024, including 678 first-year undergraduates, 89 undergraduate transfer students and 161 new graduate students. The college saw an increase of more than 20% in new undergraduate students.

**Welcome New Members
We're Glad You're Here**

Michelle Chang-Der Bedrosian

Laura Daniels

Sarah Gragg

Courtney Halbach

Taylor Holterman

Joan Jorgensen

Erica Majumder

Erica Ronk



Demeter Sewing Group receives thank you

We are writing to you to thank you for your kindness and generosity. The head scarves you create are so very appreciated, especially as the temps begin to go up. Our patients do so appreciate all you do. They always comment on the quality and the variety of patterns. They are always struck by the fact they are donated and free for them to take. Your kindness touches so many.

Gratefully, UW Health Carbone Cancer Center

CONDOLENCES

Family of Bob Lindsay

Family of Guy Gottschalk

THINKING OF YOU

Jackie Bowe

LIFE EVENTS

*Please send news of life events
to*

Jan.Martin539@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER

*Please send news articles to
groomslynn@gmail.com*

CALENDAR

Garden Walk

5 p.m., Aug. 6

West Madison Research Station

Corn Roast Picnic

Beginning at 5 p.m., Sept. 3

Lakeview Park, Middleton

Cranberry Tour

Car pools depart from Park n Ride, 4340 Parmenter St., Middleton

at 7:45 a.m., Oct. 7

Gottschalk Cranberry Farm

Wisconsin Rapids

Bulb Planting

1 p.m., Oct. 17

Allen Centennial Garden

Board Meeting

5:30 p.m., Oct. 21

West Madison Research Station

Executive Committee Meeting

5:30 p.m., Jan. 7, 2026 via Zoom