Fall 2016 CAFES Alumni News ‘n Notes

Dairy science and agricultural business graduate **Meghan Connelly** (2016) was selected as the Vita Plus dairy nutrition and management fellowship student.

Recent horticulture alumnus **Phil Martola** (2016) won the Men’s Club Golf Championship title at the Causeway Club in Maine in late August. In February, he’s headed to Madagascar to serve in the Peace Corps and assist with farming in the country.

The Bangor High School FFA led by agricultural education alumnus **Rick Bierbrauer** (2012), donated more than 12,000 pounds of food to the WAFER Food Pantry in La Crosse, WI.

**Max Hart** (2012, agricultural education) and Vicki Dunnum (1988, biology) were among those from the Wisconsin Farmers Union who traveled to Washington, D.C. in September for the National Farmers Union Fall Legislative Fly-In. They met directly with lawmakers, USDA officials, and other leaders.

Many alumni were recognized by 2016 Wisconsin Association of Agricultural Educators Professional Development Conference awards.

- **Jamie Propson** (2012) - Outstanding Young Member, Teachers Turn the Key Scholarship
- **Rachel Sauvola** (1999) - Outstanding Agricultural Education Teacher
- **David Kruse** (1995) - Outstanding Secondary/Middle School Program

Many alumni also received awards from the National Association of Agricultural Educators and will be recognized at the national convention this winter.

- **Jim Ertl** (1977) - NAAE Regional Citation for Outstanding Service
- **Cal Geiger** (1982, 1987 M.S.) - NAAE Regional Citation for Lifetime Achievement
- **David Kruse** (1995) - Outstanding Secondary/Middle School Program
- **Jamie Propson** (2012) - Outstanding Young Member, Teachers Turn the Key Scholarship
- **Mary Hoffmann** (1995) - Teacher Mentor

Dairy science alumna **Annaliese (Doornink) Wegner** (2010) is known as Modern-day Farm Chick and advocates for agriculture through her website and social media. She was profiled in the Wisconsin State Farmer in the article “‘Modern day farm chick' puts a face to agriculture”.

Master Cheesemaker **Jon Metzig** (2007) recently debuted a new artisan cheese Red Willow, a stinky washed-rind cheese, which he made at his family’s second cheese factory Willow Creek Creamery.

**Leslie (Shuler) Svacina** (2004) and **Teresa (Hanson) Marker** (2007) are finalists for the Wisconsin Farm Bureau’s Excellence in Ag Award.
Farm Bureau members in the Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) Program had the opportunity to meet with Wisconsin’s congressional delegation in Washington, D.C. during their trip in early June. Many CAFES alumni participated, including Leslie Svacina (2004), Peter Kimball (2005), Jeff (2002) and Katrina (2003) Pionek, Adam Wehling (2003), and Dustin Williams (2003, 2010).

Nicole Brickner (2001, animal science-equine), who runs NB Horse Training, LLC, recently published a book titled Behavioral Issues in Horses: Why Do They Do It?. The Midwest Book Review states that her book is “a valuable information and instructional resource for anyone who has experienced the fear or frustration of their horse exhibiting dangerous/undesirable behaviors. Through personal accounts that are both entertaining and educational, Nicole covers the most common behavioral issues horses develop, including bucking, kicking, rearing, biting, bolting, and more.”

Horticulture alumna and Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) plant pest and disease specialist Konnie Jerabek (1996) was awarded the 2016 Carl E. Carlson Distinguished Achievement Award in Regulatory Plant Protection from the National Plant Board. She has 18 years of experience as a field inspector with expertise in Christmas trees and also speaks annually to the nursery management course at UW-River Falls.

Don Dipprey (1977) and Karalyn Littlefield (1990) both participated in the Polk County Fair Llama and Alpaca Judging Shows. Karalyn also placed well in several other entries to the Fair, including a wood carving that received Grand Champion.

Gregg Losinski (1983, scientific land management) was awarded a Fulbright Specialist Grant with Matej Bel University in Banska Bystrica, Slovakia where he will work this winter with local agencies on human coexistence with predators.

Virgil Martinson, (1948, agricultural education) passed away on August 22 at 94 years of age. Over his lifetime, he was greatly committed to agricultural education in the state of Wisconsin. He taught Vo-Ag in Marshfield for 22 years and was a State FFA Advisor and agricultural education consultant for the WI Department of Public Instruction for the rest of his career. He was also former president of the WI FFA Alumni Association.

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