And they came tumbling down........

As highlighted in our November e-newsletter, the silos on our farms were to come down later that month and indeed they did. Over several weeks all 11 vertical silos – seven on the Campus Farm and four on the Mann Valley Farm – were taken down. Despite the unusually cold weather and some snow, things went off fairly well and we did our best to document this one-time event. Posting of photos and video of the demolition on our Facebook page generated a lot of interest, reaching more than 14,000 views, our second most popular post of the year! The most prevalent reaction we heard to the video was an exclamation of “wow” or “cool,” but individuals with a lot of experience climbing silos were happy to see them go. Others expressed some sadness that this represented the end of an era. We compiled a selection of the video at: bit.ly/LabFarms. In what turned out to be serendipitous timing, you can see the very last silo on the Campus Farm go down with the sun.

The demolition of the silos marks progress on the Farm Master Plan. Our first priority was to remove structures no longer being used. With that done, we are moving forward on several fronts:

• Instructional technology will be added to the Mann Valley Farm Pavilion this spring. The Pavilion is already heavily used for demonstrations and lab exercises with live animals. This will make the space much more functional for blended coursework, where lecture and lab are interspersed.

• A budget request has been submitted to the state for basic infrastructure work on the Mann Valley Farm consistent with the Master Plan. This includes upgrading the utilities (water, natural gas, data/communications, electrical) and the creation of a utility corridor along the northwest perimeter of the farm. Road work is also part of this request, including upgrading the existing northwest perimeter circulation road to allow two-way traffic and the creation of a new main entrance road off Radio Road.

• The final design meeting for the new beef handling facility is coming up. A USDA grant obtained by Justin Luther and Amy Radunz, both animal science faculty members, is helping fund this project.

• Equine faculty and staff are preparing a request to be submitted later this year to renovate the Campus Farm classroom/pavilion building. The renovated space will offer a classroom/laboratory setting for equine production and reproduction courses, and a new “front door” to the Campus Farm.

• Discussions have begun on how best to address the swine facilities, particularly the finishing barn, which is the most structurally deficient.

• Winfield Solutions, which has had a presence on the Mann Valley Farm for more than 25 years, expressed their commitment to our farm and the college, and approached us about expanding their presence on the farm and their desire to construct some facilities. There are some challenges to such a public-private partnership, but we are optimistic that we can work through them to the benefit of both organizations.

These are exciting times for our farms, and we’ll keep you updated on our progress!
Hello from the Dean’s Office.

Greetings from the CAFES Dean’s Office. Another year has gone by and, as always seems to be the case in the College, oh what an active year it was!

During 2014 we accomplished much while at the same time remaining alert and vigilant about the future. We continued our dedication to students and providing them with the best possible educational experiences both in and out of the classroom, we know we must balance our energy and activities in the present with an eye to the future and its needs and challenges.

We have filled faculty vacancies in Agricultural Business and Crop and Soil Science along with adding a new position in Agricultural Engineering Technology (Food and Process Engineering). During 2015 we hope to fill additional vacancies in Animal Science, Conservation/Environmental Science and Crop and Soil Science depending on the budget situation for CAFES.

We are promoting a new option in Fruit and Vegetable Sustainable Systems in the Horticulture major, added a new emphasis in Companion Animals to the Animal Science major, and revised a minor in Food Processing Technology. We recently received approval to plan a program in Agricultural Engineering – a major step forward in CAFES continuing to offer programs for the 20 years at both Farms. A major renovation of the Pavilion on the Mann Valley including an upgrade of facilities connections and access roads, replacement of the swine finishing barn, and a new Pavilion. And on another note, fundraising on the Dairy Pilot Plant continues.

A lot going on in terms of additions and changes in personnel, programs, facilities and other areas of CAFES. But unfortunately it’s not all good news. I’m sure many of you are aware of the cuts proposed to the UW System which will certainly impact UWRF and CAFES. Although the final details of what and how much will be affected within the College are yet to be determined, the magnitude of the reduction dictates we will be sharing in that at a significant level.

One thing that won’t ever change in CAFES is our focus on students and their experiences. It’s what many of you experienced and benefitted from while you were here as students and what many of you continue to help support financially. Given the budget situation, the next two years at least will test our ability to maintain the quality and quantity of what we can do with and for our students. We will not be able to do everything we’ve been doing and we will need to be even more strategic in new initiatives. But please know, the underlying core focus on students and their experiences will remain.

Next time you’re in town or on campus stop in and see us. In spite of our struggles we’ll still greet you with a smile and would love to show you the things that have changed and those that have not. We think you’ll appreciate both.

Best wishes to each of you in 2015.

Dale Gallenberg
Dean of CAFES

CAFS – The Basics

In 2013-14 CAFES awarded 253 bachelor’s degrees, just over 21% of the total bachelor’s degrees awarded by UWRF.

With our enrollment of 1252 in Fall 2014, CAFES represents nearly 23% of the undergraduate enrollment on campus.

Since Fall 2007, CAFES has surveyed our incoming classes to find out who our ‘typical’ student is and the factors that influenced their decision to attend UWRF. Over those eight years the results have been very consistent.

How did you learn about UWRF?

family/friends 68
teacher/counselor 26
web 22
live nearby 20
UWRF marketing/brochure 13
UWRF staff visit 9
other 3
Newspaper 1
CAFES Facebook 1

The most frequent source of information about UWRF for incoming students for all eight years has been family and friends – in other words, YOU! You have clearly been twice as important as the next most important factor. Keep up the good work! Here are the 2014 results:

CPS – One of CAFES’ top priorities on campus, is our top priority there, with several projects in mind for 2015. We are confident that the projects will continue to positively benefit the UWRF community by allowing our students to gain valuable hands-on experiences in applicable food product processing.

A living green wall of foliage plants has been installed in one of the classrooms in the Ag Science building. These are relatively new systems, with a self-sustaining automated irrigation system where a lightweight porous material takes the place of soil. A group of horticulture students helped with the installation of the plants during the semester break. The wall is also part of a research project taking place this semester. Terry Frass, professor of horticulture, was awarded a grant from the National Foilage Foundation which helped fund installation of the wall.

Two dairy science students were named to the pilot WiSys Ambassador program. Rachel O’Leary of Janesville and Erin Sorge of Baraboo have extensive undergraduate research and field experience. WiSys works with the UW comprehensive campuses to support research and technology development and speed the technology transfer through patenting and licensing activities. The students will devote time each month helping to increase the understanding and awareness of WiSys’s role across the campus, and identify potential opportunities where WiSys can provide support.

The National Earth-Kind Rose Team was honored with the Texas A&M AgLife Vice Chancellor’s Award in Excellence for Collaboration. The honor was presented January 6 in College Station, Texas. Along with team members who were recognized, David Ziesak, associate professor of horticulture, was recognized for helping expand the range of Earth-Kind efforts to the north. The team has designated 23 cultivars as Earth-Kind roses – those that perform well with little maintenance (irrigation, fertilizers, pesticides, etc.).

Lucas Martin an ag engineering technology major from Albertville, Minn., and Lucas Teixeira da Silva of Campinas, Brazil, were selected as delegates from UWRF to attend the 2015 Agriculture Future of America (AFA) Food Institute in Chicago. Selective is very competitive and all expenses are paid by industry sponsors. Held annually in February, the AFA Food Institute brings together 75 talented college students for a three-day program focusing on the food and process engineering industries.

Assistant Professor of Conservation Jarod Blades and Jill Coleman-Wasik, assistant professor of Environmental Science were awarded a $30,000 Undergraduate Research and Discovery Grant from the UW System. The goal is to create the Kinne Watershed Consortium to better coordinate research efforts, engage the community, and ultimately lead to the implementation of organized best management practices for the Kinncreek River. Undergraduate students will help develop the consortium framework and participate in research projects.

We are approaching $1.5 million in gifts and commitments in private contributions to update and upgrade equipment in the Dairy Pilot Plant. In addition, the data has now committed $900,000, specifically for the physical renovation of the space and infrastructure upgrades.

During fall commencement, Case It and Value Implant were honored with the Outstanding Service Award, the highest honor given to an individual or organization outside of UW-River Falls. Since 2009 they have provided UW/RF with state-of-the-art agricultural equipment for minimal cost. The equipment is used in the classrooms, on the farms and by the campus grounds crew. They also have provided financial support to student organizations that educate the general public about agriculture.

The college has recently added three new programs to its academic array:

• Growing consumer interest in sustainable and locally grown foods prompted the addition of a new option within the horticulture program, Fruit and Vegetable Sustainable Systems. UWRF already offers courses in the area in fruit and vegetable production. This option integrates specific non-horticulture support courses in a systems approach.

• Students in animal science with a meat animal emphasis traditionally take coursework that gives them exposure to the basic processes and practices of converting livestock into a retail product, and the associated issues of quality and product processing. The new minor in food processing technology will give students in other areas (dairy science, crops and soils, horticulture) the same experiences in applicable food product processing.

• The new animal science emphasis in companion animals complements the existing animal science emphases in meat animal and equine, and responds to the growing interest in this branch of animal science. The companion animal emphasis will provide a home for the substantial number of students with a passion for animal biology who are not necessarily interested in food producing species. At the same time, these students will be exposed to a significant amount of coursework that focuses on production animals which will help build their appreciation of production animal agriculture.

This fall 14 undergraduate and graduate students from China Agricultural University (CAU) spent several weeks studying dairy science at UWRF as part of the partnership established in 2012. The students were recognized with a ceremony during World Dairy Expo for successfully completing a customized dairy farm safety course offered through the Center for Dairy Farm Safety at UWRF. Wisconsin Lieutenant Governor Rebecca Kleefisch and Ben Brand, secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, participated in the spring semester.

Ferry Clark will spend several weeks at CAU with a group of UWRF students where he will teach DASC 404 – Lactation and Milk Quality to the UWRF and CAU students. This will be the first trip to CAU for UWRF students.

Updates from across the college

L to R: Dale Gallenberg; Darrell Severson, Case It; Chancellor Van Gaaren; Patti Lardi, Case It; Bob Salonak, Value Implant.
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We have filled faculty vacancies in Agricultural Business and Crop and Soil Science along with adding a new position in Agricultural Engineering Technology (Food and Process Engineering). During 2015 we hope to fill additional vacancies in Animal Science, Conservation/Environmental Science and Crop and Soil Science depending on the budget situation for CAFES.

We are promoting a new option in Fruit and Vegetable Sustainable Agriculture. We have passed the new undergraduate program in Agricultural Engineering – a major step forward in CAFES. 

A lot going on in terms of additions and changes in personnel, programs, facilities and other areas of CAFES. Although unfortunately it’s not all good news, I sure many of you are aware of the cuts proposed to the UW System which will certainly impact UWRF and CAFES. Although the final details of what and how much will be affected within the College are yet to be determined, the magnitude of the reduction dictates we will be sharing in that at a significant level.

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Ready for the Falcon Premier Heifer Sale!

Poultry Club - They hosted guest speakers from the Midwest Poultry Consortium who talked about scholarship opportunities and from Ross Ace Farms concerning internship opportunities.

Pre-Veterinary Club - In between maintaining active intramural teams for broomball and volleyball, and volunteering to help with therapeutic riding sessions at Pine Lakes Pastures, the group found time to attend the Midwest Pre-Vet Symposium at Iowa State University where they had the chance to participate in hands-on vet labs conducted by veterinary professionals.

Rodeo Club - Members hosted a milestone event - the 50th Annual Falcon Frontier Days rodeo! They engaged Charley Hanson, a long-time supporter of the rodeo to build a new sign which was dedicated during the three-day event.

Sagma Alpha - The woman of Sigma Alpha helped with a community blood drive, and did some advocating with a booth in the University Center, explaining where meat comes from and a milk giveaway in conjunction with the Turkey Trot.

Student Alliance for Local and Sustainable Agriculture - SALSA built a nice addition to the student garden on campus - a garden shed.

Resource Management Club - Club members were busy with a number of volunteer activities: they adopted a pond as part of a local community effort, collected seeds for the WI DNR Seed Farm, removed invasive plants at the Erikson Waterfall Production area, taught scouts about heroes in the conservation field...and lots more!
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SALSA built the new Rodeo sign which was dedicated during the 50th Annual Falcon Frontier Days rodeo.

The Falcon Ag Challenge for high school FFA members and conducting parliamentary procedure workshops, but they took some time for fun, by Christmas caroling at local nursing homes.

On campus, members were active in flag football and locomental intramurals, built a float for the Homecoming parade and served as ushers for commencement. In the community they helped with a weekly clean up of Main Street and volunteered at Second Chances, the resale store benefitting the local domestic abuse violence shelter.

Alpha Tau Alpha - Members took on the challenge of assisting with the organization and management of Temple Grandin’s lecture on campus last September, which filled the ballroom with nearly 700 attendees.

CARE - They hosted a series of guest speakers with topics including reptiles, emergency veterinary care, and pet stores.

UWRF Geological Society logo on the front and on the back -- nearby Rohl’s Quarry and developed a new club t-shirt featuring the UWRF Geological Society logo on the front and on the back -- You Breccia we Rock.

Kailey Gehl spent the first 10 years of her life on a dairy farm before her family moved so her mother could pursue a career in American agriculture. Throughout high school Kailey was active in local, state and national FFA activities, while balancing her role as a student and working at a local horse farm. Her goal is to graduate in the top of her class at UWRF, with a bachelor’s degree in agricultural business. “There are so many opportunities for my generation to make an impact through American agriculture,” she says.

It was a fall from her horse, Comet, during what she envisioned would be an award-winning ride, that she credits to her contribution to the UWRF community. "I like the fact that I am still growing and learning, and I have a positive attitude and passion for agriculture will be her contribution to the UWRF community.

Paige Roberts - Approximately 80 students participated in the project with all species being well-represented. They are looking forward to the spring Prospect Weekend which typically attracts about 200 exhibitors.

The Bureau held their annual fall barn dance at White Pine Berry Farm and are gearing up for the Third Annual Ag Day on campus this spring.

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Your Generosity at Work

Each year we use a portion of the alumni donations from the Fund for Excellence to support scholarships for new and continuing students. In addition, individuals and companies with ties to the college have established scholarships to support students in program areas of particular interest to them. Last year we awarded 65 scholarships totaling nearly $153,000. We thought you might want to meet just a few of the CAFES scholarship recipients who benefit from these generous donations.

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Bethany Modlowski, 2014, an animal science alum, joined UWRF as a new outreach specialist for the UWRF Center for Dairy Farm Safety (CDFS). The CDFS was established in 2011 from funds that were awarded to UWRF from OSHA’s Susan Harwood Training Grant Program.

Jacki Roden, 2014, was featured in the October Wisconsin Agriculturist in an article titled “Recent UW-River Falls Graduates Develop Agro-Ecology Business.” Jacki Roden Barnyard Adventures LLC, offers tours, camps, special events and a retail location to entertain and educate customers about local agriculture.

Emily Dressler, 2013, agricultural education graduate, has just accepted the position of technical support specialist at AgSource. She is one of four tech support specialists who will serve the Southern AgSource Region. Emily resides in Lindsborg, Kansas.

Danielle (Hammer) Clark, 2012, and her husband, Tim, were appointed to the American Farm Bureau Federation’s Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee for the 2015-17 term. Danielle is an ag business graduate.

Jaclyn Tweel, 2012, marketing communications and agricultural business major, received the Young Master of Science in agricultural education and studies degree at Iowa State University and joined Filament Marketing, LLC as a marketing associate.

All finalists in the 2014 Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmer and Agriculturist Discussion Meat contest were from UWRF - Peter Kimball, 2005, Ag Studies; Jamie Propson, 2012, Ag Education; and Adam Wehling, 2009, Ag Education.

Kaleb Santi, 2011, was appointed the WI/X/Marian University Teacher of the Month for November. He is the agriscience teacher at Pulaski High School.

Two horticulture alumni, brothers Joey Faust, 2006, and Jeff Faust, 2011, were featured with their family in the article “Winter Farmers Markets Extend Growing Season building. Their 18 acre farm, in northeastern Fond du Lac county, has two greenhouses with three more to come. Jeff works off the farm at Park Ridge Organics, Joey works in the greenhouse in Green Bay.

Three CAFES alumni were featured in the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board’s Milkmans profile “Americans’ Dairyland is My Land.” The videos feature feature Adam Monson, 2011, dairy processor; Bill Eiben, 1996, dairy processor; and Patty (Regelbert) Sellen, 2008, and Troy Sellen, 2006, dairy farmers. To watch the videos, visit the Dairy Impact: Wisconsin YouTube Channel.

Marketing communications alumni Amber Elliot, 2009, received the WHY (Wisconsin Holdain Youth) Friends Award at the Wisconsin Junior Holstein Convention for her helping youth in Dane County prepare for events.

The following Agricultural Education alumni were given special recognition by the National Association of Agricultural Education (our apologies for missing these individuals in the Fall 2014 News and Notes):

- Kristy Bathe, 2008 - NAAE Outstanding Young Member and Awards. Kristy is an agricultural educator with the Misoula (Mont.) County Public Schools.
- Troy Talford, 2005, agricultural education graduate and a member of the CAFES Alumni Club, teaches at Sauk Prairie High School and was recently one of 62 teachers that achieved the National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT) certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

Jeremy D. Melissen, 2005, ag studies graduate, passed away unexpectedly on January 14, 2018. He is survived by his wife, Linda K. (Manc), and their three sons. Lindsay is also a graduate of UWRF and teaches agricultural education at Greenwood High School.

Dustin Williams, 2003, 2006, received the Excellence in Agriculture Award from the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation at their Annual Meeting Dec. 7. Dustin is an agricultural education instructor at Richwoods Technical School in Madison. He is the vice president of the Green County Farm Bureau and is active in their county Ag in the Classroom program.

Troy Cavanaugh, 1995 of Reedsburg passed away unexpectedly on Nov. 2. He had a bachelor’s degree in broad area agriculture and was a member of Alpha Gamma Rho. He is survived by his wife, three children and two grandchildren.

Mary Hoffmann, 1995, agricultural instructor and FFA advisor at Spcin Eir High School, was named the FFA Adviser of the Year by the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation.

John Galgowski, 1990, dairy science graduate, won the Kllussendorf Scholarship Award presented at 2014 World Dairy Expo. The award is given to someone who exemplifies character, sportsmanship, ability and endeavor. Galgowski worked at the UWRF Farms for 34 years as dairy herd supervisor before retiring in 2015.

Leann Waugh, 1983, coach of the Goodhue County 4-H livestock judging team, was featured on the front page of the Dec./Jan. issue of The Ag Reporter.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau President Jim Holte, 1975, was elected for a one-year term on the American Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors. In December, Jim was reelected for a third one-year term as the president of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation and Rural Mutual Insurance Company. He raises beef cattle and grows corn, soybeans and alfalfa on 460 acres near Elk Mound in Dunn County.

It has been a pleasure serving as your board president for the last three years. I am proud to represent the alumni of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences. Over the past year while talking with fellow alumni many of you ask, what is the CAFES alumni board and what do you check out the board? You could check out our website or Facebook page, but let me give you a quick snapshot. Each year the board hosts the Senior Supper to welcome graduating seniors from CAFES into the CAFES alumni association. The alumni board represents the association as your voice and avenue for staying connected to the college, fellow alumni, current students, faculty and friends. We do this by hosting alumni receptions at events such as World Dairy Expo, WI Crop Management Conference, Northern Green Expo, WI Farm Technology Days, and the Steeleville County Fair, just to name a few. If you plan on attending one of these events, please stop by our alumni reception for a visit. It be you’ll see some familiar people and meet new ones as well. Not to mention we usually serve refreshments and CHEESE! Who doesn’t love cheese?

In addition to hosting these alumni receptions, the board has had a busy past year. In 2014, the board hosted the first on-farm alumni gathering in western Wisconsin at fellow alum Brian and Jenna Batley’s. We would like to thank the Batley’s again for their warm hospitality. Brian and Jenna guided the group on a tour of the dairy farm and hosted a wonderful cookout. The board plans on hosting another on-the-farm event in the state this summer. Stay tuned!

In fall 2014 the board co-sponsored the 50th annual UWRF Rodeo alumni gathering at the campus farm. We had many alumni join us for a cookout, bean bag tourney and social prior to the rodeo. We had a lot of fun!

A current project for the board is the renovation of the ag lounge on the first floor of the Ag Science building. Loved by many past and current students, the ag lounge will see new lighting, work areas, and most of all a new leather couch. This lounge will continue to be a place for student collaboration and retreat between classes. Besides keeping fellow alumni connected, the board has felt it necessary to reach out to prospective students as well. Last fall many high school students visited the UWRF campus and the board wanted to connect with these prospective students, visit about their questions, concerns and goals for the future. It was a great feeling knowing you are able to network with these students to help guide them in their future endeavors. The board plans to continue this initiative in efforts to support strong CAFES enrollment and positive beginnings for our future alumni.

For more information and up-to-date happenings, check out our Facebook page, the CAFES website and participates in Ag�round! We love hearing from all of you and sharing in your successes! Ashley (Soliman) Gauman, 2009

With the new year the CAFES Alumni Board is rolling out two new initiatives:

Alumni Profiles - We would like to build a database of alumni profiles that we can use for a variety of promotional purposes. We will post short stories on our website, features on social media, and highlights in print materials. It’s so helpful for our prospective and current students to see what they too might achieve. We developed a six question survey that can be found at bit.ly/CAFESAlumniSurvey. Simply enter this URL into your web browser and answer the questions. We will let you know when we intend to use your information in some way.

CAFES Pride - Show your CAFES pride by taking a photo with a CAFES alum, your friends, place of work, places you visit, wherever you like! Have some fun with it! Then post your photo via social media using the hashtag #CAFESAlum and #Ag Proud. You can find the sign on our website at bit.ly/CAFESGetInvolved - look in the gray box on the right side of the page. Did you see the proud alum on the back cover?

Name(s) (please include maiden name if married since graduation)
Address/City/State/Zip __________________________ check if new
Email Address __________________________
Phone __________________________
Year(s) of Graduation __________________________
Premier Supporter (formerly Lifetime Member): Individual - $400 or Family - $600
Donations: General Fund (FencePost, Alumni receptions, etc.) CAFES Alumni Scholarship Donation Other (specify) $________
(Your contribution may be tax deductible to the extent allowable by law)

Please make checks payable to: UWRF Foundation-CAFES Alumni Association

With the students who indicated they had interest in CAFES offerings. We contacted these prospective students, visited about their questions, concerns and goals for the future. It was a great feeling knowing you are able to network with these students to help guide their future endeavors. The board plans to continue this initiative in efforts to support strong CAFES enrollment and positive beginnings for our future alumni.

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With the new year the CAFES Alumni Board is rolling out two new initiatives:
Bethany Modjuky, 2014, an animal science alumnus, joined UWRF as a research specialist for the UWRF Center for Dairy Farm Safety. (CDFS). The CDFS was established in 2011 from funds that were awarded to UWRF from GSHA’s Susan Harwood Training Grant program.

Jacki Roden, 2014, was featured in the October Wisconsin Agriculturist in an article titled “Recent UW-River Falls Graduate Develops Agrotourism Business Based on Robin Barnyard Adventures LLC,” which offers tours, camps, special events and a retail location to entertain and educate custumers about the agricultural industry and sharing.

Emily Dreessler, 2013, agricultural education graduate, just accepted the position of technical support specialist at AgSource. She is one of four tech support specialists who will service the Southern AgSource Region. Emily resides in Lindon.

Danielle (Hammer) Clark, 2012, and her husband, Tim, were appointed to the American Farm Bureau Federation’s Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee for the 2015-17 term. Danielle is an ag business graduate.

Jaclyn Twesten, 2012, marketing communications and agricultural business major, recently named Master of Science in agricultural education and studies degree at Iowa State University and joined Filament Marketing, LLC as a marketing associate.

All finalists in the 2014 Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmer and Agriculturist Discussion Meet contest were from UWRF - Peter Kimball, 2005, Ag Studies, Jamie Propson, 2012, Ag Education, and Adam Wahling, 2003, Ag Education.

Kaleb Santi, 2011, was appointed the WIXX/Marion University Teacher of the Month for November. He is the agriscience teacher at Pulaski High School.

Two horticulture alumni, brothers Joey Faust, 2006, and Jeff Faust, 2007, were featured with their family in the article “Winter Farmers Markets Extend Growing Season” in December 2014 Wisconsin Agriculturist. Their 18 acre farm, in northeastern Fond du Lac County, has two greenhouses with three more to come. Jeff works off the farm at Park Ridge Organics, Joey’s greenhouse in Green Bay. These CAFES alumni were featured in the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board’s Milksennial profiles “America’s Dairyland is My Land.” The videos feature Adam Monson, 2011, dairy producer and official with the UW - River Falls; and Patty (Riegert) Sellen, 2008 and Troy Sellen, 2006, dairy farmers. To watch the videos, visit the Dairy Impact: Wisconsin YouTube Channel.

Marketing communications alumni Amber Elliott, 2009, received the WHY (Wisconsin Holstein Youth) Friends Award at the Wisconsin Junior Holstein Convention for her helping youth in Dane County prepare for events. The following Agricultural Education alumni were given special recognition by the National Association of Agricultural Education (our apologies for missing these individuals in the Fall 2014 News and Notes):

- Kristy Bathe, 2008 – NAACE Outstanding Young Member and Unleaded. Kristy is an agricultural educator with the Missoula (Mont.) County Public Schools.

Troy Talford, 2005, agricultural education graduate and a member of the CAFES Alumni Board, teaches at Sauk Prairie High School and was recently one of 62 teachers that achieved the National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT) certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

Jeremy D. Melssen, 2005, ag studies graduate, passed away unexpectedly on January 7. He is survived by his wife, Lindsay K. Melssen, and their three sons. Lindsay is also a graduate of UWRF and teaches agricultural education at Greenwood High School.

Dustin Williams, 2003, 2004, received the Excellence in Agriculture Award from the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation at their Annual Meeting Dec. 7. Dustin is an agricultural education instructor at Rockland Technical High School. He is the president of the Green County Farm Bureau and is active in their county Ag in the Classroom program.

Todd Cavanaugh, 1995 of Reedsville passed away unexpectedly on Nov. 2. He had a bachelor’s degree in broad area agriculture and was a member of Alpha Gamma Rho. He is survived by his wife, three children and two grandchildren.

Mary Hoffmann, 1995, agricultural instructor and FFA advisor at Sleepy Eye High School, was named the FFA Advisor of the Year by the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation.

John Galgowski, 1990, dairy science graduate, won the Kluessendorf Achievement Award presented at 2014 World Dairy Expo. The award is given to someone who exemplifies character, sportsmanship, ability and endeavor. Galgowski worked at the UWRF Farms for 34 years as dairy herd supervisor before retiring in 2011.

Leann Waugh, 1983, coach of the Goodhue County 4-H livestock judging team, was featured on the front page of the Dec./Jan. issue of The Ag Reporter.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau President Jim Holte, 1975, was elected for a one-year term on the American Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors. In December, Jim was reelected for a third one-year term as the president of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation and Rural Mutual Insurance Company. He raises beef cattle and grows corn, soybeans and alfalfa on 460 acres near El-Mound in Dunn County.

It has been a pleasure serving as your board president this past year. I am proud to represent the alumni of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences. Over the past year while talking with fellow alumni many of you ask, what is the UWRF alumni board and what do you check the board? You can check out our website or Facebook page, but let me give you a quick snapshot. Each spring the board hosts the Senior Surper to welcome graduating seniors from CAFES into the alumni association. The alumni board represents the association as your voice and avenue for staying connected to the college, fellow alumni, current students, faculty and friends. We do this by hosting alumni receptions at events such as World Dairy Expo, WIC Crop Management Conference, Northern Green Expo, UW Farm Technology Days, and the Steeleville County Fair, just to name a few! If you plan on attending one of these events, please stop by our alumni reception for a visit. I bet you’ll see some familiar people and meet new ones as well. Not to mention we usually serve refreshments and CHEESE! Who doesn’t love cheese?

In addition to hosting these alumni receptions, the board has had a busy past year. In 2014, the board hosted the first on-farm alumni gathering in eastern Wisconsin at fellow alumni Brian and Jenna Batley’s. We would like to thank the Batley’s again for their warm hospitality. Brian and Jenna guided the group on a tour of the dairy farm and hosted a wonderful cookout. The board plans on hosting another on-farm event in the state this summer. Stay tuned!

In fall 2014 the board co-sponsored the 50th annual UWRF Rowe’s alumni gathering at the campus farm. We had many alumni join us for a cookout, bean bag tourney and social prior to the rodeo. We had a lot of fun!

A current project for the board is the renovation of the ag lounge on the first floor of the Ag Science building. Loved by many past and current students.

Besides keeping fellow alumni connected, the board has felt it necessary to reach out to prospective students as well. Last fall many high school students visited the UWRF campus and the board wanted to connect.

For more information and up-to-date happenings, check out our Facebook page, the CAFES website and participate in RagerOld. We love hearing from all of you and sharing in your successes! Ashley (Sollman) Gauaman, 2009
Five of the 16 Ag Proud CAFES Alumni on the UWRF CAFES staff gathered in front of the new green wall in Ag Science. Left to right: Dan Waletzko, 1994; Karalyn Littlefield, 1990; Justin Luther, 2000; Larry Baumann, 1974; and, Nathan O’Connor, 1997. We would love to see a photo of you with our Ag Proud sign! Check inside – page 7 - for details.