



AWA Happenings



Issue III
March 2005

Plans Underway for Breakfast on the Farm

Beth Porior

The Association of Women in Agriculture is proud to announce the 10th Annual Breakfast on the Farm! This year's event will be on Sunday, April 24, 2005 at the West Madison Agricultural Station. A hearty breakfast of pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, applesauce, juice, milk and ice cream sundaes will be served from 8:00AM until Noon. There will be entertainment, a petting zoo and an education area for all to enjoy.

Preparations for this year's breakfast are in full swing! Twelve of AWA's finest have stepped up to the task of planning and facilitating our 10th Breakfast on the Farm! Planning a breakfast for 1500 people is no small task. Chairwomen will spend the next 2-3 months collecting donations, ordering food, reserving entertainment and creating exciting educational displays. Breakfast on the Farm is not only a great way to educate and promote agriculture to Madisonians, it is AWA's opportunity to give back to the community. In 2004, AWA donated over 700 meals to the Harvest of Hope, a local food bank. It is our hope that this year we will be able to donate even more to the Harvest of Hope.

The general chair for this year's breakfast is Beth Porior, a senior majoring in agriculture education. She hails from Oconto Falls, WI. This will be Beth's fourth Breakfast on the Farm and her third year serving as a chairman. Beth is joined by Nicole Hosto, the general co-chair for this year's breakfast. She is a junior double majoring in dairy science and agricultural journalism. Nicole grew-up on a registered Holstein dairy farm in Juda, WI. This year is Nicole's second year as a chairman, and she's looking forward to coordinating the 2006 BOTF. She feels the AWA Breakfast on the Farm is an educational opportunity for the public and AWA, and she couldn't think of a better place or way to make such a positive impact in our community.

This year's set-up chair is Lindsy Hagen from Mauston, WI. She is majoring in dairy science. This is her first time being a chair for BOTF, however, she has worked at the breakfast the past two years. She is looking forward to the breakfast again this year with all the fun times and a great chance to meet and educate community members about agriculture.

Kelsi Hendrickson and Kara Kasten are the co-chairs for donations. Kelsi is from Belleville, WI. She is a freshman double majoring in dairy science and agricultural journalism. She is happy to serve as a donations chair for Breakfast on the Farm and is looking forward to making it a great event. Kara is from Richfield, WI. She is a junior majoring in dairy science and agricultural journalism.



Chairwomen of the 2005 Breakfast on the Farm include, front row, left to right, Emily Enockson, Lindsey Worden, Lindsy Hagen; back row, Beth Porior, Amanda Levzow, Andrea Klahn, Devon Frei, Chrissy Wendorf and Kelsi Hendrickson. Missing are Nicole Hosto, Kara Kasten, Alane Uhe, and Eliza Ulness.

would not be complete without lots of baby animals! Alane Uhe, from Janesville, WI, will be chairing the petting zoo. Alane is currently a sophomore at UW-Madison with a major in dairy science. She grew up on a dairy farm and enjoys showing her Jerseys across the country. Alane is excited about sharing her love of animals with the guests at this year's breakfast. She is also excited about educating attendees about a very personal misconception: brown cows do not make chocolate milk!

Amanda Levzow is an agriculture education major from Pardeeville, WI. She has been a member of AWA for 2 years and this year is the tickets chairperson for Breakfast on the Farm. Amanda grew up on a dairy farm and is excited to become an agriculture teacher for high school students.

Chrissy Wendorf and Devon Frei are the publicity co-chairs for breakfast. Chrissy is from Viroqua, WI. She is a freshman majoring in dairy science and agricultural journalism. Being her first year in AWA and working with Breakfast on the Farm, she is looking forward to helping make this 10th Breakfast an extra special one! Devon Frei is a junior majoring in animal science and agricultural journalism. Her hometown is Janesville, WI. In addition to publicizing Breakfast on the Farm, she is looking forward to making it her third consecutive year scooping ice cream at breakfast.

A dynamic pair of AWA ladies are heading up this year's food chairmanships; Emily Enockson and Andrea Klahn. Emily is from Watertown, WI. She is a sophomore majoring in child development. She is really excited about Breakfast on the Farm this year and she can't wait for all the yummy food. Andrea is a sophomore, majoring in psychology. She grew up on a hog farm in Lodi, WI. She spent this past winter break studying aboard in Oaxaca, Mexico. Hopefully the warm weather of Mexico will be present at this year's breakfast!

Eliza Ulness and Lindsey Worden will be leading the educational aspect of breakfast. Eliza is a sophomore majoring in dairy science from Valders, WI. It is her desire to teach the general public about the awesome industry that we like to call agriculture. Lindsey Worden is a sophomore majoring in dairy science and agricultural journalism. She hails from Cassville, New York. It is her desire that all who attend this year's Breakfast on the Farm will take home some new knowledge that they didn't possess before!

These women will be working hard to ensure that this year's Breakfast on the Farm will be a great success! Please mark your calendars for April 24 and join us for the 10th Annual AWA Breakfast on the Farm!

Beth Porior is a senior majoring in agricultural education from Oconto Falls, Wisconsin.

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Breakfast on the Farm



AWA Inc. President's Report

Leanne Ketterhagen

AWA DAY – celebration, friends, and memories

AWA Day is a great day to review the successful year AWA has completed, celebrate good times, see old friends and meet new ones. The AWA Corporation Board would like to encourage you, alumni, to attend AWA Day. AWA Day is a fantastic opportunity to meet the current actives and reunite with other alumni.

Please think back to the AWA Day's you participated in during college as an active. Do you remember how fun it was to see who would come and join in on the day? Or see alumni you knew and how nice it was to catch up with them? Do you remember what it was like to make a new alumni friend that you had many things in common with? This event means a lot to the actives and to the alumni.

AWA Day is seen as the largest alumni event of the year. This year we had a successful turn out at the Ten Year Celebration for the AWA House. We hope to continue that involvement through this annual activity and would encourage you to also participate.

One of our four Corporation Board goals consists of getting more alumni involved. We have set a goal to have 30 Alumni attend AWA Day. Please help us achieve this goal and receive great benefits for yourself by attending.

The actives and alumni have put a great deal of effort into this day for you. This is our annual meeting and a celebration day, so come on over and see what is going on with AWA. There are great things on the agenda that hopefully you find interesting.

Please come on over to AWA Day on April 9th at the Union South starting at 9am.

See you there,

Leanne Ketterhagen



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Actives Compete for Fairest

Susan Orth

Wisconsin's Fairest of the Fair programs have a history of excellent AWA representation, and this year was no different!

Three AWA actives competed in the Wisconsin Fairest of the Fairs competition held in conjunction with the Wisconsin Association of Fairs Convention in January.

Stacey Adams, Susan Orth, and Shelly Schultz, along with 31 other contestants, spent three fun-filled days participating in individual interviews, group interviews, on-stage appearances, workshops, and icebreaker games.



Standing before a banquet hall of family, friends, fair supporters, and former Fairests, all three AWA members were honored as top ten finalists. The competition was then whittled down to five finalists.

Finally, the runners-up and the 2005 Fairest of the Fairs was named.

Two of the top five finalists were proud AWA members: Stacey earned third runner-up honors and Susan was chosen to serve as the Wisconsin Fairest of the Fairs.

Susan will serve as an ambassador for Wisconsin's 76 county, district, and state fairs and is the official host of the 2005 Wisconsin State Fair, which is set for August 4-14.

AWA representation didn't end there. Handing down her crown after serving as the 2004 Fairest of the Fairs, Gena Cooper, also an active, rounded out a phenomenal year and will continue to serve as a mentor for all of AWA's fairests.

Gena will be graduating in May with a degree in biochemistry, while Stacey and Shelly will also be graduating in May with degrees in animal science. Susan is a junior double majoring in animal science and agricultural journalism.

Susan Orth is a junior double majoring in animal science and agricultural journalism from Fennimore, Wisconsin.

Celebrate Cows on the Concourse

Jill Makovec

Celebrate June Dairy Month as Wisconsin dairy cows return to the Capitol Square for the 26th Cows on the Concourse. Led by AWA alumna, Laura Daniels, a committee of industry leaders coordinates this event to educate consumers on the nutritional benefits of dairy products and the economical importance of the dairy industry in Wisconsin.

Last year, over 5,000 consumers learned about Wisconsin's dairy industry through Cows on the Concourse Dairy Fun Books, educational displays, and on-hand nutritional experts while enjoying ice-cold milk, cheese, ice cream, cream puffs and yogurt on sale throughout the day.

Kids and parents learned about the different breeds of dairy cows by petting 12 cows and calves of all ages at two different locations on the Square and visiting with "moo experts" about cows, the dairy industry and dairy product nutrition. Area dairy producers provided the cows and calves for the event.

Special guests, highlighting Wisconsin's \$20 billion dairy industry, included Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk, Alice in Dairyland and area dairy producers. Live entertainment

was provided by local musicians including The Soggy Prairie Boys and 4-H Showcase Singers.

Livestock biosecurity measures and limited volunteers kept the cows from grazing the Capitol Square for the past three years.

This year, the committee plans to expand the event by adding more cows and educational displays. New this year will be a Game Zone where parents and children can learn more about dairy products and Wisconsin's dairy industry.



Cows on the Concourse

will be held Saturday, June 11 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in downtown Madison on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. The event will be held rain or shine. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Amanda Daniels at ajdaniels@uwalumni.com.

Cows on the Concourse is presented by the Dane County Dairy Promotion Committee with involvement from area dairy producers, the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board and several Dane County agribusiness representatives.

Jill Makovec is an active AWA alumni and is currently serving as AWA Corporation Board treasurer.



Inaugural Attendees:

AWA alumni member Angie Kargus and her husband Brian were invited to attend the recent Presidential Inaugural festivities, including the Commander-in-Chief Ball, where this picture was taken. The Commander-in-Chief Ball, the newest of all Inaugural festivities, was dedicated to military personnel who have served, or are about to serve, in Iraq and Afghanistan. Veterans and their guests were treated to Texas barbeque with all the trimmings and Texas-style hor d'oeuvres served by waiters in 10-gallon hats

The Karguses listened to addresses from President George W. Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney, former President George H. Bush, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, and enjoyed the musical entertainment of Patti Labelle and country artist Mark Wills.

Spring Joining Class off to a Great Start

Eliza Ulness

There are seven girls that are going through the joining process for AWA this semester.

They will be taking quizzes, doing a group project, painting their portion of the basement, doing a professional workshop and having a big and little sister bonding activity all before their initiation ceremony on April 11th.

Katie Behnke is a freshman majoring in agricultural business management from Clintonville, WI; Nikki Brown is a sophomore majoring in animal science and theatre from Ellsworth, WI; Marta Grinde is a sophomore majoring in animal science from Potosi, WI; Ginger James is a freshman majoring in animal science from Darlington, WI; Emily Miller is a freshman majoring in business from Belmont, WI; Vicki Scannell is a junior majoring in agriculture and biology education from Fond du Lac, WI; and Emily Winther is a freshman majoring in animal science from Holmen, WI.

All the girls have shown sincere interest in joining AWA and have started the joining process by going through intent to pledge and taking quizzes at our weekly meetings. They have also started painting their wall in the basement and are working on ideas for a group project. All of the girls have been matched up with their big sisters in AWA and will be bonding with them throughout the semester in various activities. They will be participating in a professional resume, parliamentary procedure and interview workshop on April 3rd. Finally, initiation will complete their joining process and we look forward to celebrating another great group of ladies joining our organization. Together AWA ladies will continue to grow in excellence professionally, socially and in service.

Eliza Ulness is a sophomore majoring in dairy science from Valders, Wisconsin.



Amanda Levzow (right) and little sister Vicki Scannell (left) take time from sisterly bonding to pose for a photo.

Woman's Weekend April 1 & 2, 2005 Hilltop Inn Fish Creek, Door County, Wisconsin

Greetings AWA Alumnae and Actives,

We cordially invited to spend a weekend without an agenda or a to do list, without your children or your significant other, while relaxing in the company of AWA sisters in the comfort of the Hilltop Inn's 2 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath condos (full kitchen, fireplace and deck included!).

Each condo has a sofa sleeper and can sleep up to 6. Rates per night are \$89 for 2 people, \$101 for 3, \$113 for 4, \$125 for 5 and \$137 for 6. Please coordinate your group and contact the Hilltop Inn (1-888-868-3556) directly for reservations. Hilltop has 19 units available on a first come, first served basis. Please mention AWA, as the Hilltop will block our condos together. Also, please contact one of the weekend coordinators if you are attending. The coordinators will be making reservations for Friday night dinner and can assist with carpooling.

The objectives of the weekend are to allow AWA sisters to connect and reconnect in comfortable surroundings, to enjoy good conversation, to relax and renew. With this in mind, the weekend has two rules:

- Competitive cooking is not allowed, however if you would like to show off your culinary skills you may do so. Please contact one of the weekend coordinators with menu plans.
- This is a Women's Weekend. Please leave your children with your highly capable significant other. Pictures of children and/or significant other are welcome and encouraged.

Hope to see you on April 1 & 2!

Sandy Cardo Gorsuch
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608-524-6338 (home)

Pam (Umstadt) Hodgson
dfeld@bytehead.com
920-565-2754 (home)



AWA actives and chairwomen Kari Behling, Crystal McNett, Bonnie Berezowitz, Annie Haughian, Lea McCullough, Molly Florent, Nicole Hosto and Jeni Dingbaum worked hard to help pull off an extremely successful 12th Badger Invitational. The sale held on March 5th averaged \$3292 on 54 lots. New to the sale was a badger item auction that raised \$2710 in aid of the tsunami victims. The high seller of the day at \$8900 was a choice September Storm from Regancrest Starbuck Denyse consigned by Carrousel Farms and purchased by Adam Morris. The staff and chairman of the 12th Badger Invitational would like to send a special "Thank You" to all their sponsors.

Catching Up With AWA Alumni

Kylene (Cook) Anderson
Whitewater, WI
Graduated: 2002

Greetings to fellow AWA actives and alumni! As they say, time flies and it certainly has over the past couple of years since graduation, but I still look back with many great memories of my days in AWA.

After graduating in December of 2002 with degrees in dairy science and agricultural journalism, I spent five months working for the UW International Agriculture Programs in central Mexico. My responsibilities included the facilitation of the exchange student agreement between the UW and Monterrey Tec University in Querétaro, Mexico. I lived with a Mexican family as well as took courses in Spanish. I made an extra effort to travel throughout Mexico and see all that the country has to offer. I have so many amazing memories as well as friendships with other Mexican and American students that I will treasure throughout my lifetime. If I ever finish my scrapbook one of these days, I would love to share it with everyone!

After my return to the U.S., a wonderful surprise awaited me as my now husband, Mark Anderson proposed to me on a warm June night. We were married on August 21, 2004. Mark stays busy in his career at Frontier FS in Jefferson, WI where he serves as a crop specialist.

I am now employed with ABS Global as a technical service specialist, with a focus on the ABS udder care product line. My career has allowed me the chance to travel throughout the U.S. and Canada working with our representatives through sales support. On occasion I have the opportunity to work with Hispanic dairy employees teaching proper milking procedures and the reasoning behind producing quality milk.

In my free time I enjoy working on our newly purchased home in rural Whitewater as well as spending time with family at our home farm in Fort Atkinson.

I look back and truly appreciate all that AWA has provided me including some of my best friends and experiences. I wish the very best to all in the AWA family!

Pamela (Umstadt) Hodgeson
Plymouth, WI
Graduated: 1984

*Lately it occurs to me,
What a long strange trip it's been.*

Ok, I'm not a deadhead, however when I reflect on the 20 years (no way!) since graduating from Madison, I realize that it hasn't been the journey that I expected. My plans were to launch a wildly successful career in production agriculture, marry a terrific man and when we were financially stable, have 2-3 kids which I would raise while farming full time. I married the terrific guy – Dave Hodgeson in 1984. Whether I achieved anything else of the scenario is highly debatable.

After graduation, I began my career with Land O' Lakes as a livestock production specialist. The position leveraged my strong interest in dairy nutrition and taught me the people skills which I use everyday. Because of the interpersonal skills, I had the opportunity to transfer to the Land O' Lakes dairy foods division. In 1991, I started as the quality assurance supervisor in their Kiel, Wisconsin plant. After a couple of years, I supervised their whey condensing and drying operations in addition to my QA responsibilities. In 1996, I moved to the cheese making side of the business.

Meanwhile, my husband and I gave up on the idea of waiting to have kids until we could afford them. We have been blessed with our daughter since 1991 and our son since 1995. In 1985, Dave had the opportunity to start farming in a rented barn without any acreage. We rented several barns until we settled on our current farm. We own the buildings and a small amount of land. Since our children were born, my involvement in the farm has been very limited.

That changed in May, 2004, when my position at Land O' Lakes was eliminated. After 20 years with one company, I found myself emotionally bruised with a generous severance package and the opportunity to decide what I wanted to do with the rest of my life. Last summer, I farmed while I healed and loved it. Around Labor Day, just as I was

gearing up my job search, a friend asked if I would be interested in doing some consulting. For a few weeks, I assisted a cranberry packaging facility develop their quality system and pass an outside audit. It was a great confidence builder and financially rewarding.

My long tenure with one company did not prepare me for a job search. Fortunately, I have great, supportive friends and my severance package included outplacement. I learned job seeking skills and through networking was contacted by Sartori Foods in Plymouth. Recently, I joined their R & D/Product Development team as a food technologist – cheese. I am humbled by the generosity of friends and acquaintances who assisted my job seeking activities. Additionally, I welcome the opportunity to help others in similar situations.

Last summer, as I evaluated my priorities, I was blessed to spend a weekend with some dear AWA sisters and their families. We realized that we hadn't been together for 10 years which was way too long. We also realized that our gathering was incomplete - there were other great AWA women that we needed to reconnect with as well. As a result of our discussion, we started to plan a Women's Weekend in Door County. More details on the weekend are listed elsewhere in this newsletter. Whether you attended Madison at the same time as me, earlier or later, I hope you will call your best AWA girlfriends and join us in Door County on April 1 and 2.

This entire dialog would be incomplete without giving credit to God, who has blessed me and my family, and whose presence on the journey has been a source of courage, strength and guidance. Thanks be to God.

Carol (Proeber) Bundsgaard
Fayetteville, AR
Graduated: 1982

WooPig Sooeee!! Greetings to my fellow AWA alumni and active members from Arkansas. No, I haven't become a traitor to the Badgers, but after living in here for over 10 years, the last five or so in Fayetteville, I have added Razorback red to my Wisconsin red and white.



It's hard to believe it has been over 20 years since I may have seen some of you. That was when I married Rich Bundsgaard and when we lived in Fond du Lac. So here's an update on what's new in my life for those of you that aren't on the annual Christmas card list.

Rich and I met when we were both teaching at Goodrich High School where I taught vocation and English classes, and he taught graphic arts/printing courses. We had two daughters while living in Fond du Lac, but left teaching behind for Rich to have the opportunity to pursue the business world of printing and publishing. After some time in the south suburbs of Chicago and extreme Southeast Wisconsin, academia called Rich back, and we moved to Menomonie where he worked at UW-Stout, and I spent my time substitute teaching in area school districts.

Once involved in the university setting, people can become prone to travel which is what we did. In July of 1993, we left Wisconsin and moved to Jonesboro, Arkansas, where Rich not only headed up Arkansas State University's printing management degree program, but also managed the printing services department. I spent my time working with physically and mentally challenged adults at a day services center for four years while we were there and, during our final year in Jonesboro, was back in the classroom full-time teaching English and family and consumer sciences at Jonesboro High School. I enjoyed the work there, but the employment was to be short-lived as we found ourselves "pulling up stakes" and moving to Fayetteville (and the University of Arkansas) in August of 1999.

Since we have arrived here, where Rich has a staff of over 50 in the university's printing, mailing, and copy services areas that he oversees, I spent one year teaching special education as a long-term substitute and more recently have been teaching English and journalism at Farmington High School. I also completed my master's degree in journalism this past summer.

We greatly enjoy the area and sometimes wonder if anyone is left in Wisconsin since we are continually meeting fellow northerners who have relocated to this beautiful part of the country.

Those two children born in Fond du Lac have now grown into 18- and 16-year-old young ladies. Valerie, our older daughter, graduated in May, 2004, and is currently spending a year studying art in Poland.

Kimberly is a sophomore at Fayetteville High School. Both are at that stage in life where we were not too long ago (or so it seems anyway, because I don't feel any older) where they are exploring their options for the future. In addition to these two children, we will often talk about our 11 "sons." These are the exchange students we have hosted yearly since 1995 who have become just as much a part of the family as our own two girls. They are the reason we try to travel to Europe as often as possible to see them and their families.

So that is an update on the life of this alum. I look forward to every AWA newsletter I get, and though the names may not all always seem familiar, the fond memories of the time spent as part of this group while at Madison come back to me when I read of the organization now. It has certainly come a long way since its founding and my active membership days. I am positive it will continue to be a source of good times and fond reminiscences for years to come. Although I have lost contact over the years with many friends from high school, and regrettably some from college, those friends who I still count among my best, despite the miles that keep us apart, are those I met while in AWA. This association has always been a tie that binds and knows no borders for anyone who has ever been a part of it.

If you ever find yourself in Northwest Arkansas, look me up. Better yet, if you want to get in touch, or reacquainted, drop me an email at cbunds@hotmail.com.

All my best to all of you!

Lynn Fredrickson Helmer
Plymouth, WI
Graduated: 1983

Wow! Has it really been 20 plus years since I graduated from college armed with a dairy science degree with a business & industry option. A lot has happened over the years for me and for AWA. I recall signing papers at Rural Insurance for the purchase of the two original AWA houses the summer after I graduated in 1983 and look at the outstanding facility and organization we have today. I truly enjoyed my years at UW-Madison as a student, and being involved in AWA and other ag campus organizations was a great experience both personally and professionally. However, just living in

Madison was an experience for me after growing up on a farm in Lena, WI with a population of 500.

My first position after graduating from UW-Madison was as an interim dairy and livestock agent at the Sheboygan County UW-Extension Office. This interim position was only for one year but I met and eventually married a Sheboygan County dairy farmer and never left the county. Today my husband, John, and I have two children - Andy 9 and Erica 6. John, Andy, Erica and I operate a dairy farm along with John's parents just north of Plymouth.

Following the interim dairy and livestock position, I was self-employed as a farm management consultant for twelve years and then worked as a lender for an area bank. Along the way, I attended Lakeland College and completed enough coursework to earn an accounting degree plus nine graduate credits. For the past seven years, I have been employed as a cost accountant at a cheese manufacturing plant in Plymouth. The plant was formerly part of the Borden Food Company and still manufactures and markets Borden brand cheese products but it is now owned by Dairy Farmers of America (DFA). My primary job responsibilities are in cost accounting but I also work with barcoding and I am responsible for implementing RFID at our location.

We have opted to keep Helmer Dairy Farm, Inc. at 70 cows using a more hands-on approach to management while implementing current technologies. For the past two years, our registered Holsteins have been the top 2X-a-day herd in the county for milk production and we continue to look for new ways to improve productivity and profitability.

It is quite a challenge to balance our children's school and other activities, a full-time job and the operation of a dairy farm. Andy loves all sports and Erica enjoys dance. Both Andy and Erica have recently joined 4-H and this will be Andy's first year showing dairy cattle at the county fair. In past years I had been involved in AWA having served on the financial management committee. In more recent years, with young children at home, both John and I have limited our involvement to work-related activities and operation of the farm. As our children get older, we look forward to again being more involved in agricultural and community activities.

I enjoy hearing about other alumni and hope that you and your families are all doing well.



Spring Semester Keeps AWA Actives Busy



On February 23, AWA invited Dr. Dave Dickson to the house for his birthday celebration. Everyone enjoyed dinner and delicious birthday cake, as well as the opportunity to spend time with one of AWA's most dedicated supporters.



AWA members braved the cold and jumped into the icy water of Lake Mendota. The Polar Plunge is a fundraising event for the Special Olympics, where participants collect donations and dive into the lake. AWA members Nikki Brown, Ashley Huijbregtse, Ginger James, Andrea Klahn, Patti Maedke and Buffy Sacia were "freezin' for a reason" and supporting a good cause.



AWA officers kicked off the spring semester with a winter retreat held on January 21st and 22nd at the Comfort Suites in Madison. The retreat started with officer reports followed by a revision of the 2004-2005 goals. The retreat was very productive yet enjoyable. The officer team took advantage of sisterly bonding through activities such as board games and swimming. The officer team looks forward to a great semester!



A group of AWA ladies chose to spend Valentine's Day in the company of their sisters. After supper and socializing at Ginza of Tokyo, the ladies finished the night off with delicious Cold-Stone ice cream. Valentine's Day is a great day to share the love of AWA sisters.



AWA girls showed their "Badger Pride" by dressing in Wisconsin wear for the first meeting of the semester. Angie Barbian was voted as the best dressed Badger fan by her fellow members.

On March 12th high school seniors accepted to UW-Madison's College of Agriculture and Life



Sciences were invited to attend Competitive Edge. Competitive Edge gives seniors the opportunity to learn about CALS and the numerous student organizations associated with it, including AWA. Seventeen girls and their parents toured the AWA house and were able to learn more about the organization. After eating lunch prepared by the AWA girls, parents had a financial informational session while AWA active seniors led a question and answer session. The afternoon was concluded with the announcement of the \$250 AWA incoming freshman scholarship. Four girls were interviewed. Hannah Uhlenhake was awarded the scholarship.

Winter at the RainTree

Katrina Dvorak

On January 29th, 40 AWA ladies and their dates packed up their cars and headed north to Wisconsin Dells for "Winter at the RainTree - Formal 2005". The RainTree Resort and Conference Center was the location and fun was on the menu! Formal began early for some with an afternoon of gathering in the hot tub or taking the time for puttin' on the ritz. The evening began with cocktails and socializing, then moving on to a delicious multi-course dinner.



such categories as: Miss Congeniality (Eliza Ulness), Most likely to become President (Christine Lepple), Most likely to become the next Milo Wiltbank (Liz Matzke) and several others. AWA ladies concluded the night with several hours of wild-n-crazy dancing to SWAHT DJ Inc. Formal ended early

Sunday morning with the ladies heading back to Madison to return to the daily grind - but everyone seemed revitalized after the wonderful weekend spent with their sisters at the RainTree.

Katrina Dvorak is a senior double majoring in psychology and criminal justice from Whitelan, Wisconsin.



AWA celebrity awards were again on the agenda, with awards being handed out for



AWA Goals: Spring 2005



- *Respect and uphold the integrity of AWA*
- *Have 97 percent attendance at mandatory events*
- *Promote growth of little sister/big sister relationships*
- *Encourage members to participate on active and alumni committees*
- *Facilitate and maintain relationships with Competitive Edge attendees*

AWA Members of the Month

Laurie Volkman

Sarah Eichhorst was my nominee for December Member of the Month. Sarah has done an awesome job as a big sister. During the scavenger hunt, she made an effort to really get to know her little sister. After meetings, I see them frequently chatting. She has also invited her little sister to non-AWA social events. This member truly understands the purpose of big and little sisters, and has helped her little sister's first semester to be an enjoyable one.

Laurie Volkman is a junior double majoring in agricultural journalism and dairy science from Black Creek, Wisconsin.

Eliza Ulness

Lindsey Worden was my nominee for December Member of the Month because she has gone above and beyond her sisterly duties. She willingly tutored anyone who needed it for exams, even when she had her own exams to study for. Lindsey is also doing an exceptional job as a big sister. Her little sister just joined and already she has been there for her many times whether to hang out and watch movies or giving advice at 3 am. This AWA sister is doing a great job.

Susan Orth was my nominee for February Member of the Month. As an AWA sister, Susan has shown support to not only me, but the rest of AWA as well. She was more than willing to help me out when looking for internships and giving advice for the summer. Susan is also always very encouraging to everyone, and is a great time to watch hockey with!

Eliza Ulness is a sophomore majoring in dairy science from Valders, Wisconsin.

AWA Active and Alumni Gossip

- **Pamela (Umstadt) Hodgson** recently joined Sartori as the Food Technologist for Cheese.
- **Wes and Katy (Duwe) Katzman**, Whitewater, are the proud parents of a son, Aaron Thomas, born December 17.
- Congratulations to **Susan Orth**, 2005 Fairest of the Fairs!
- **Suzy Duwe** is engaged to Brett Weeks.
- **Valerie Breunig** is now working for the World Council of Credit Unions.
- **Kristina Duwe** recently accepted a full-time position with Capital Newspapers, Inc., working as the account executive for Dane County Kids.
- **Stacey Adams** and **Heather Blasel** were accepted to Madison's School of Veterinary Medicine.
- **Jeni Dingbaum** recently accepted a full-time position with Minnesota Holstein Association, working as the executive secretary.
- **Laura Daniels** and her husband Jarred had a baby girl, Julia on February 17th.
- Congratulations to the AWA women who chaired the extremely successful 12th Badger Invitational.
- **Bobbi Schumacher** is engaged to Tim Pruski.



Active President's Report

Kristina Duwe

With spring around the corner and graduation approaching, many students and alumnae may be thinking about new jobs and how to make gainful career decisions.

AWA actives and alumnae will remember Valerie Breunig's presentation "Salary and Beyond" at the Real World Workshop in November. Some of her career tips bear repeating for anyone considering a new job or change of career.

Valerie just negotiated a new position herself with the World Council of Credit Unions in Madison. I caught up with Valerie on her new job on the CUNA campus and she gave me these basic reminders to share:

Determine Your Goal: Will you take the job no matter what, or only for a good raise? Twenty percent is a very good raise (don't forget benefits, tax implications, etc). Don't ask for more than the job is worth, they may be unhappy and fire/demote you later.

Know the Market: While surveys can be helpful, the best way is to ask AWA friends. Other good sources are employers and employees in the same industry and city. Don't ask what they make; ask what the salary range (on your title) might make in their organization.

Don't Go First: Chances are you will go too high and lose the job, or go too low and lose some income. On job applications, say "negotiable" or state a very wide range. Make them give you a salary range. Here's an example: "I'm sure your compensation is in line with the market. Before we discuss specifics, let's make sure I'm the right person for the job." If they persist, "My research suggests this type of position in this market might pay (state broad range), but we can discuss specifics later. If they persist for exact amount ask, "Are you offering me the job?"

Don't Say Yes Immediately (Unless They Meet Every Demand): Take time to think, review numbers; this gives you a chance to call back and "nibble" for extra vacation days, earlier salary review, etc. Respond promptly (one week, unless relocation involved) even if only to ask for more time. If you ask for more time or compensation, restate your excitement for the position first and be honest.

Know When to Remain Silent: After they have given you a salary figure to consider, be silent for a moment, perhaps repeat it, so they see you are considering it, but are not excited. Perhaps they will jump in with, "But for someone like you we might be able to go a little higher." Always restate your excitement for the position and get the offer in writing!

Best of luck to all of you in your careers; whether that involves growth within your current position, a first job or a new job. A special thanks to Valerie for her career guidance and input on this column.

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Calendar of Events



April

April 5: House Management
Committee Meeting

April 9: AWA Day

April 19: Marketing Committee
Meeting

April 24: Breakfast on the Farm

May

May 1: Officer Elections

May 15: Commencement

Fascinating Facts about the Egg

Susan Orth

Easter traditions wouldn't be the same without the time-honored Easter Egg. But, one may wonder how Wisconsin's 1.3 billion dollar egg industry became such an important part of holiday traditions.

Today eggs are a universal symbol of Easter, but they were dyed and decorated long before Christianity. It was England who initiated the tradition of Easter Eggs during the Middle Ages. The most significant decorated eggs were made especially for the Russian Czar, Alexander, who commissioned Peter Carl Faberge to make the most eloquent eggs for his wife as an Easter gift. These eggs were hand-painted and accented with pure gold.

History proves that eggs symbolized much more than Easter. Romans, Gauls, Chinese, Egyptians and Persians thought the egg to be a symbol of the universe. Pregnant Roman women also carried an egg with them with the thought that an egg would tell them the gender of their child, while French brides stepped on an egg as they entered their new homes as a source of good luck.

In Germany, eggshells were elaborately decorated before being hung on a tree with ribbon. The early settlers brought over this tradition from Europe. They also brought the custom of the Easter Bunny bringing special treats to children.

The Easter Egg commonly brings communities and families together for the celebration of an annual Easter Egg hunt.

Regardless of historical symbolization, Easter Eggs bring fond memories of family time spent around the kitchen table as we transformed each egg from its original color to a new, more desirable hue. Memories also include the excitement and anxiousness of children before they scurry outside in search of the hidden eggs at family gatherings.

However you spend time with the egg this season, we hope you enjoy quality time spent with family and friends.

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