Food for all, renewable energy, sustainable ecosystems and healthy people and communities—THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL AND LIFE SCIENCES (CALS) is an international leader in the science affecting these critical concerns.

CALS’ research excellence is matched by a commitment to teaching and outreach. In our classrooms, in our laboratories and through fieldwork around the globe, we make discoveries that improve life and help sustain the natural world.

Students come to CALS for an education that equips them to address these global challenges. At CALS, our breadth of faculty expertise—encompassing agriculture, natural resources, fundamental life sciences and social sciences—puts us in a strong position to prepare them.

A FOUNT OF DISCOVERY

Since its founding in 1889, CALS has built an international reputation for fundamental scientific research—and for translating many breakthroughs into real-world applications. From discovering vitamins, sequencing genomes and breeding new varieties of hybrid crops to pioneering technologies in food production and strategies for fighting diseases in plants, animals and humans, CALS functions as a research enterprise that improves our understanding of the natural world. Much of the knowledge that comes from our lab and field investigations turns into solutions that strengthen our economy and better our lives.

FOSTERING TOMORROW’S LEADERS

With a current enrollment of about 3,500 undergraduate and 900 graduate students, CALS prepares students to serve as leaders in agricultural and scientific fields. Undergraduates at CALS have 24 majors from which to choose. In all of them, students integrate classroom instruction with interdisciplinary thinking and “beyond classroom” experiences that foster the creativity and initiative they will need in their careers. This “Wisconsin Experience” model has served nearly 40,000 CALS alumni today, many of whom hold leadership positions in agriculture, business, education, nonprofits and government around the world.

CALS STUDENTS FIND SUCCESS IN A WIDE VARIETY OF FIELDS

Lucas Joppa BS'04 • Wildlife Ecology
Joppa, who went on to earn a Ph.D. and serve in the Peace Corps, develops technologies and models to support global conservation efforts conducted by the Microsoft Corporation. He credits CALS with providing both a theoretical and hands-on understanding of conservation biology—something he has found to be rare in his field.

Kendra Allen BS'12 • Biological Systems Engineering
Allen discovered a passion for biological systems engineering at CALS and is now pursuing a PhD at Iowa State University, specializing in plastics and polymers from renewable sources. She hopes to make her mark both in industry and academia, where she would one day like to lead in university administration.

Jenna Klink BS'07 • Biology
While at CALS, Klink helped found the Village Health Project, a student organization that performs community health work in Uganda. She later earned a master’s degree in public health and worked for a public health agency in New Orleans. Now she’s a program evaluator at the CALS/UW-Extension Environmental Resources Center, where she focuses on water quality and climate challenges.

Jordan Ebert • Dairy Science
Ebert grew up on his family’s large dairy farm in Algoma, Wis., which he plans to help manage after completing his bachelor’s degree and working his way up through the ranks, he says. But he’s already making a name for himself showing dairy cattle. A Holstein he showed at World Dairy Expo (pictured here) was named the junior supreme champion.
A COMMITMENT TO ENGAGEMENT

In keeping with the Wisconsin Idea, CALS is committed to sharing its work with the state and the wider world. Through our Agricultural Research Stations, partnerships with local governments and professional training programs, CALS reaches communities and businesses in all corners of Wisconsin.

As for global connections, many CALS faculty engage in international work, called abroad for access to diverse plants, animals and landscapes or collaboration with other leaders in their fields. Students have ample opportunity to participate in this exciting work through programs such as CALS Study Abroad and our undergraduate Certificate in Global Health.

CALS ranks among the top agricultural colleges in the world in terms of scientific impact.

CALS researchers lead more than $100 million in research projects annually.

Three former faculty members and three CALS alumni have won Nobel Prizes.

All CALS students participate in a “capstone experience” requiring them to integrate diverse bodies of knowledge to solve a problem or formulate a policy of societal importance.

Nearly half of CALS students participate in a research project with a faculty member before graduation.

15 CALS professors are members of the National Academy of Sciences.

CALS innovations commercialized by the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF) have produced more intellectual property income than those of any other school or college at UW-Madison.

With Agricultural Research Stations located around the state, CALS maintains more than 6,500 acres of land devoted to on-field research, ranking the college as one of the largest agricultural operations in Wisconsin.