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Zajj B Daugherty* (daugherz@stolaf.edu), **Arun Ram** and **Rahbar Virk**. *The degenerate affine BMW algebra and its center*. Preliminary report.

The *degenerate affine BMW algebra* W_k was introduced by Nazarov (there called the *affine Wenzl algebra*) in his study of the Brauer algebras via Jucys-Murphy elements. It arises in Schur-Weyl duality with the orthogonal and symplectic Lie algebras in the same way that the graded Hecke algebra of type A is in Schur-Weyl duality with the Lie algebras \mathfrak{gl}_n and \mathfrak{sl}_n , and therefore exhibits many similarities in structure. We will explore how results arise for W_k which parallel those for the graded Hecke algebra, describing, for example, its center as a ring of symmetric functions. (Received February 14, 2011)