The students descended on the Quinney College like the cooler temperatures and colors on Logan Peak. Five hundred of our undergraduate majors made it back from summer opportunities in internships, study abroad programs, and research adventures. At our opening social the student clubs and research labs recruited students for fall activities and research jobs. We heard from students who spent the summer warming lakes in the Arctic, observing declines in the Great Barrier Reef, and counting Goshawk nests in the Uintas. Now everyone can take a deep breath, get back to their eBooks, Python models, GIS layers, and satellite assessments of our planet’s carbon stocks.

In this issue of the newsletter, we welcome four new faculty members, highlight club activities, catch up with alums, and launch new degree programs. Fall on campus is a time of renewal to begin new friendships and reunite with old buddies. We take advantage of the good weather to continue restoring our landscapes and completing field projects. We hope you join us in the journey.
Milo (Mike) Doran has been assisting us with the design of a new statue of Paul Bunyan. Milo was the lead carver of the statue in 1956 (see photo at right) while he attended the School of Forest, Range, and Wildlife Management at the Utah State Agricultural College. Milo has been working with carvers in Oregon to create a new version of Paul.

In 1957, Milo left school to take a position with the US Forest Service in the Salmon National Forest in Idaho. Subsequently he enlisted in the Army. He returned to Utah State University and received a degree in finance in 1964. We appreciate Milo's contribution to the new statue and look forward to its arrival in Logan in November.

Ecological Society of America Meeting

Nancy Huntly celebrated the 50th anniversary of our Ecology Center at USU at an alumni social during the Ecological Society of America's annual meeting in Portland in July this summer. Nancy and the College hosted the social for fifty plus alumni. It was great to get reacquainted with old friends and new colleagues. To commemorate our 50th anniversary, past graduates began a scholarship fund for new students. Contributions to the scholarship fund can be made at https://www.usu.edu/advancement/ecologycenterscholarship/

Society of American Foresters

USU's Quinney College of Natural Resources and Wildland Resources Department will be hosting a reception for alumni and friends at the Society of American Foresters meeting in Albuquerque on Thursday, November 16 from 6:30-8:30 (room to be announced). We look forward to meeting with old friends and meeting new ones. There will be a cash bar and appetizers.
Grand Teton National Park Fall Tour: A QCNR Tradition

The Bridgerland Audubon Society led the annual Grand Teton National Park trip September 22-24. Students and community members had an opportunity to experience the spectacular wildlife and fall colors of the Tetons.

Allen Stokes began this QCNR tradition in the 1970s, when he was a faculty member in the college. Allen began his distinguished career in wildlife management as a Ph.D. student of Aldo Leopold. Allen had a strong connection to the natural world and continued leading the Grand Teton trip well into his retirement; a tradition that QCNR feels honored to continue.

A group of QCNR undergraduates joined the trip this year. Our students continue Allen’s passion for wildlife and wild places. Their love of nature is evident in their ability to capture the beauty of the Tetons in their photography. The photos on this page were taken by undergraduate Wildlife Ecology and Management students Ethan Hammer and Rylee Jensen.

Environmental Studies B.S. Degree Goes Online

The Department of Environment and Society is pleased to announce that the Environmental Studies B.S. degree is now available to students throughout Utah through a combination of online and broadcast courses. The degree’s curriculum (both for on-campus and regional students) has been updated and revised to make it more relevant for today’s graduates, with an emphasis on skills development and problem solving.

Along with a strong common core, students will work closely with their faculty advisor to choose electives of interest to complement their future career goals. Joining the Recreation Resource Management program, which has been available at Regional Campuses for several years, the Environmental Studies B.S. adds to the department’s commitment to serve students throughout Utah and beyond.
QCNR Welcomes New Faculty

**Dr. Larissa Yocom**

Larissa Yocom joined the QCNR faculty as Assistant Professor of Fire Ecology in the Department of Wildland Resources in August. She is interested in how fire, climate, and management interact with forested ecosystems, and how those interactions change over time and space. Larissa comes to Logan from Flagstaff, AZ, where she completed a PhD in 2011 in the School of Forestry at Northern Arizona University. She also holds degrees from Pomona College and the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

She grew up in rural western Washington enjoying the forests of that region. Larissa is teaching Forest Vegetation Disturbance Ecology and Management this fall, and enjoying the students as well as the weekly field trips associated with the class. Larissa says, “I’m happy to be here at USU, and look forward to meeting everyone I haven’t yet met.” QCNR welcomes Dr. Yocom.

**Dr. Soren Brothers**

Soren Brothers joined the Quinney College of Natural Resources last August as an Assistant Professor in Limnology in the Department of Watershed Sciences. He is originally from Toronto, but received his PhD in Limnology in Berlin where he studied the effects of turbid and clear-water conditions on algal growth and carbon cycling in lakes. Before joining the QCNR team he was manager of a program studying the limnology of the Laurentian Great Lakes.

His work documented long-term shifts in planktonic and benthic primary production, and hypoxia formation in these large lake systems. Soren also examined food web interactions and lake metabolism in tundra lakes near Rankin Inlet, Nunavut. Soren's current interests include microbial processes, food web relationships, and local, regional, and global patterns in the way lakes interact with their surrounding landscapes. When he has free time, he works on his musical interests ranging from classical piano to psychedelic guitar.
Dr. Emily Burchfield

Emily Burchfield is thrilled to join the Department of Environment and Society. Dr. Burchfield has a background in economics and environmental engineering. Her research draws from interdisciplinary scholarship examining the causes and consequences of socio-environmental inequality. Her work integrates social and environmental data to study patterns of exposure to environmental change.

Emily’s research explores agricultural adaptation in the U.S. She is currently analyzing large datasets to identify adaptive and sustainable responses to exposure to climate extremes in U.S. agricultural systems. Emily plans to continue exploring the distributional dimensions of climate change and adaptation. Outside of work, you can find her in Logan Canyon hiking with her fat one-year old and her Belgian husband.

Dr. Mark Chynoweth

The department of Wildland Resources at Quinney College welcomes Mark Chynoweth. Mark is a conservation biologist interested in large carnivore ecology and wildlife management. He completed his PhD in Biology at the University of Utah and his MS in Natural Resource Management at the University of Hawaii. In addition to his academic pursuits, Mark develops programs in environmental education and public outreach.

He has a passion for undergraduate education and looks forward to working at the Uintah Basin campus to provide coursework and mentorship for students in the wildlife program. Outside of work, Mark enjoys traveling and exploring the outdoors with his wife, Laura.

USU Ranks Among Nation’s Elite

Utah State University begins fall semester ranked as the 5th best public national university in Washington Monthly’s 2017 College Rankings. Washington Monthly rates schools based on their contributions to the public good in three broad categories: social mobility, research and service.

“These rankings showcase our strengths as a university and highlight our land-grant mission and are a testament to the exceptional achievements of our students, particularly in the area of service that is an important factor in the rankings criteria,” said USU President Noelle Cockett. “We are proud of our institution and the fact that we are making a difference in the world and are influencing the future of the nation’s educational system.”

From USU Today, Sept. 7, 2017

Noelle Cockett - USU President
Wild About Utah

QCNR’s Shauna Leavitt is a regular contributor to Utah Public Radio’s Wild About Utah program broadcast each week throughout Utah and parts of Idaho. Her stories focus on the research the college is doing to preserve the State’s natural resources. To see a full list of archive stories go to: upr.org/programs/wild-about-utah. Here are a few stories:

The Passion of Penstemoniacs

If you’ve ever hiked in the rugged, dry areas of Utah and come upon a vibrant flower with hues of red, purple, or blue and wondered how such a beautiful plant could survive in such a desolate place - you may have found one of Utah’s native penstemons, better known as beartongue. They thrive in hot conditions and require very little water. Dr. Tom Edwards describes over 100 full species or sub-species of the plant that are native to the beehive state.

Bear Lake Sculpin

The Bear Lake Sculpin is a scale-free, tadpole-like fish with a broad flat head, a slender body and eyes placed high on its head. Although the Sculpin is small, its worth is significant. According to Dr. Jereme Gaeta, Bonneville Cutthroat trout rely heavily on the Sculpin as its’ main forage fish. The Sculpin makes up more than 70% of the diet for juvenile trout.

Orphaned Cub Rehabilitation

Sadly each year, there are orphaned bear cubs in Utah. Some lose their mothers to forest fires, while others are orphaned by vehicle-bear collisions or other human-related conflicts. If the orphaned cubs are too young to survive on their own and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) finds them before they perish they can be rehabilitated and have a good chance of surviving. Dr. Julie Young supervises bear care at USU.

Greater Sage-Grouse in Utah

Biologists estimate that since the European settlement of North America there has been a 50% decline of the sage-grouse sagebrush habitat and population. In the late 1990’s, in an effort to reverse this trend, Dr. Terry Messmer began a collaboration with the State of Utah to develop a community-based conservation plan. Its purpose was to bring local communities and agencies together to determine the best methods to preserve sage-grouse.
11th Annual Restoring the West Conference

The 11th Annual Restoring the West Conference took place on the USU campus October 17 & 18. The theme for this year’s conference was *Forest Restoration: What’s Working, What’s Not?* Each year the Restoring the West Conference takes an in-depth look at a current issue in land management. The conference serves as a venue for an open exchange of restoration ideas and techniques that will facilitate cooperation and collaboration between land managers and scientists focused on natural resources.

Forests in the western U.S. have been shaped, and often degraded by, fires, invasive species, pests, climate change, livestock grazing, and logging. Forest managers have taken many different approaches to restore degraded forests, with varying levels of success. This year’s conference featured leading forest restoration experts who suggested techniques to sustain and restore Interior West forests. Paul Hellburg, landscape ecologist with the USFS in Wenatchee, presented a talk titled The Era of Megafires. Craig Allen, a research ecologist from Bandelier National Monument in New Mexico, spoke on the importance of understanding fire ecology. Keynote speaker and respected social scientist Susan Charnley, described the challenges of forest restoration as they relate to different land ownerships. Our speakers and participants provided new insights to this important topic. See [www.restoringthewest.org](http://www.restoringthewest.org) for details.

QCNR’s New Online GIS Certificate

The Quinney College of Natural Resources is offering a new online Geographic Information Science Certificate. It is designed for graduate students or professionals wanting skills and experience applying ArcGIS and remote sensing tools to natural resource issues. The curriculum includes courses on Python and “R” programming languages and tools for geospatial analyses. For more information visit our website [qcnr.usu.edu/gis/](http://qcnr.usu.edu/gis/) or contact Melanie Conrad at 435-797-3375.
November 15-19: SAF Conference, Albuquerque, NM

November 18: Logger’s Ball

November 27: Forestry Club’s Christmas Tree Sale begins

December 8: QCNR Christmas Social

For details on these and other upcoming events please visit:
www.qcnr.usu.edu