Spring is here!

Spring is slowly making its way to Cache Valley and most of the western US this year. The hills around Logan are greening up and students are preparing for their fieldwork and summer jobs. In the Quinney College we celebrated the recent accomplishments of our students and faculty at the QCNR Awards Banquet. Details of award winners are presented on pp. 6-7. Congratulations to all recipients of our awards and scholarships.

We gave out over $150,000 in scholarship money this year, a record for our College. Alumni and Friends were especially generous this past Christmas where we received almost twice the number of donations. We acknowledge some of these donors in our Alumni Updates on pp. 2-3 of this newsletter. It’s great to hear from so many of our alums at Christmas time each year.

We anticipate placing a record number of QCNR students into summer internships with local, state, and federal agencies. We thank Stokes Nature Center and Canyon Discovery Center for joining us in our internship programs. Thank you all for your continued support.

Chris Luecke, Dean

Highlights:

Alumni News Pg. 2

Clubs Pg. 4

Of the Year Recipients Pg. 6
Alumni News and Events

Mason Family gift to create North American Wildlife Display in the Quinney Library

Jerald Mason was a lifelong hunter and angler who believed strongly in the role of hunting in wildlife conservation. After his death in 2004, his family approached USU about donating his extensive taxidermy collection to provide a long-term educational opportunity for the students, faculty and community. After many years of discussion about possible locations for the collection, Dean Chris Luecke and the family agreed to house the collection on the second floor of the Quinney Library.

The Mason family generously donated funds for the remodel of the library space for the creation of interpretive displays and for future educational programs about the role of hunting in North American wildlife conservation. We are proud to house this impressive collection to honor the life and vision of Jerald and his family. There will be a dedication event in the fall of 2018 that QCNR alumni, students, faculty and the community are invited to attend. We owe a great deal of thanks to the vision and philanthropy of Jerald and the Mason Family for providing this unique opportunity. Please come visit this new display and enjoy the educational materials and displays.
The goal of QCNR is to provide a world-class education to its students, to prepare them for a meaningful career in natural resources and to improve the management of those resources for the benefit of diverse constituent groups. Towards that end, Dean Chris Luecke is proud to announce two recent gifts to support student professional development and recruitment into employment. QCNR alumnus Stephen Ryberg and his wife Claire, along with Merilyn Reeves, widow of QCNR alumnus Henry Reeves have generously made gifts to support student travel to professional society meetings to present their research posters and to develop relationships with natural resources professionals.

QCNR has already sent students to meetings at The Society of American Foresters, Society for Range Management, American Fisheries Society and the Wildlife Society because of these gifts. This program is critical to students’ professional and academic development and would not be possible without generous support from our alumni and donors. If you would like to make a gift to support this project, please contact Jon Paulding, Director of Development at jon.paulding@usu.edu. Our ultimate goal is to create a permanent endowment to fund this program.

We thank Sheila Miller for her assistance in coordinating an internship program that provides funds for one of our students to work at a National Park facility each summer. The Joseph Ray Miller Endowment, established in 2010, will provide a summer intern at Cedar Breaks National Monument during summer of 2018. Dr. Nicki Frey will serve as the faculty mentor for the Cedar Breaks intern this summer. This internship will be one of 23 that the Quinney College supports through our internship program. Interns will serve positions with the US Forest Service, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Logan City, Canyon Country Discovery Center, Stokes Nature Center, and the Wild Utah Project.
QCNR Clubs in Action

The Wildlife Society
USU’s student chapter of The Wildlife Society has had tremendous student leadership this year resulting in many hands-on experiences for members. TWS partnered with UDWR and State Parks to conduct wildlife monitoring projects during the fall and spring semesters. The club assisted with deer and big horn sheep capture and also helped round up Bison on Antelope Island State Park.

Society of Range Management
The USU student chapter of SRM attended the 2018 annual meeting in Sparks, Nevada in January. SRM member Will Price took 3rd place out of 215 students in the Undergraduate Rangeland Management Exam. Other team accomplishments included 5th place overall in the URME team exam. Team member Will Price also placed 2nd in the extemporaneous speaker competition.

Student Organization for Society and Natural Resources
SOSNR continues to focus their passion and efforts on issues affecting Utah’s public lands. This group of students joined other students and community members from across Utah and beyond to make their voices heard at the Utah State Capital this fall surrounding issues of land designation.
New Clubs

QCNR Fire Club

Wildland Resources faculty Larissa Yocom brings her experience to the undergraduate students in the new QCNR Fire Club. Larissa will be the faculty advisor for the new club which will focus on engaging students in the field of fire and disturbance ecology through academic and hands-on exploration.

AWRA USU Student Chapter

Two students from the Department of Watershed Science traveled to the American Water Resources Association’s (AWRA) fall conference to discuss involvement in USU’s student chapter. The QCNR students will partner with students in the Civil & Environmental Engineering Department to provide leadership to students interested in the field of water resources. Watershed Science faculty Sarah Null and Department Head Peter Wilcock provide mentoring for the club.

Two students from the Quinney College of Natural Resources presented their research at the 2018 “Undergraduate Research Posters on the Hill” event held at the State Capital. Andrea Jo Johnson presented her research on the response of forb restoration to altered precipitation as predicated by climate change. Anders Hart presented his poster titled “Effects of Seed Coating and Water Level on Alkali Bulrush Germination and Biomass.”
Teacher of the Year

Dr. Peter Adler was the recipient of the 2018 Teacher of the Year Award for QCNR. Peter has been with USU’s Department of Wildland Resources and Ecology Center since 2006. He teaches Wildland Plants & Ecosystems, and Community Ecology. Along with his teaching, he mentors undergraduate research, and serves as academic advisor. Adler say, “My primary goal is to help students build the critical thinking and problem solving skills they will need to be effective global citizens, natural resource managers and researchers during an era of rapid global change.”

In 2018 Dr. Adler was also recognized as one the country’s top scientists by Web of Science in their Highly Cited Researchers list for 2017. Peter is very deserving of this acknowledgement in that his research has been cited by peers over 7400 times. Dr. Adler studies plant ecology in most of the biomes of our planet and is recognized as a global expert in ecosystem ecology.

As summed up by one of his students, “I give Dr. Adler the credit for making me find my passion for plants.” Dr. Adler’s creative approach to science teaching and research is recognized not only by students and colleagues in the Quinney College of Natural Resources but also by colleagues from across the field of Ecology.

Faculty Researcher of the Year

Dr. Patrick Belmont’s research combines watershed hydrology, environmental geochemistry, and geomorphology to address questions in sediment dynamics and feedbacks between geomorphology and ecology.

Patrick published eight peer review articles in 2017. These papers were published in leading journals in the fields of hydrology and geomorphology. Patrick leads a very active research lab which currently includes two post doctoral scholars, two PhD students, and one MS student.

His recognition this year as the QCNR Researcher of the Year is a well-deserved honor. As noted by his Department Head Peter Wilcock, “His remarkable research achievements do not detract from any other facet of faculty life but instead seem to draw on the same determination to get it right and to truly make a difference.”
Margaret (Maggie) Hallerud was awarded the Jardine Juniper Award, QCNR Outstanding Senior and Scholar of the Year for 2018 at the QCNR Awards Banquet in March.

Maggie will graduate with a BS in Wildlife Ecology and Management in May. This first generation college student was raised in the suburbs of Chicago and came to Utah State in 2014 to pursue a future in wildlife research. She discovered that her native habitat is the mountains. With the support of advisors Drs. Dan MacNulty and David Stoner, Maggie began the USU Cougar Project- a large-scale camera-trap study aimed at understanding the status and behavior of our local big cats. Maggie received the QCNR Undergraduate Researcher of the Year in 2017, and presented her research at USU's 2017 Ignite Event. A leader in the USU Wildlife Society, an active member of the Honors Program, and a three-year student-athlete, Maggie will complete 2 minors in addition to her BS degree.

Maggie has taken part in several research projects including habitat restoration in the Great Salt Lake Wetlands, small carnivore monitoring in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, and black bear research in the Great Smoky Mountains. Maggie plans to continue her education in a graduate program focused on carnivore ecology.

Student Awards

ENVS Senior of the Year – Emily Richards
WATS Senior of the Year – Lindsay Capito
Masters Researcher of the Year - Susan Washko
Legacy of Utah State Award - Rebecca Thomas

Undergraduate Researcher of the Year - Jesse Fleri
Doctoral Researcher of the Year - Christine Rohal
Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Fellow of the Year – Stephen Lytle
April 22: Earth Day

May 4: Graduate School Commencement, Spectrum 1pm

May 5: General Commencement, Spectrum 9 am
QCNR 12 noon, Morgan Theater

Oct 13: Colorado River Celebration, Moab Utah

For details on these and other upcoming events please visit:

www.qcnr.usu.edu