Message from the Dean

Dear Donors, Alumni, and Friends of the Quinney College of Natural Resources,

Greetings from the Dean's Office. This newsletter marks a transition from our monthly email to a quarterly publication that allows us to provide more in-depth highlights of our faculty, students, and donors. We hope this format allows you to experience some of the activities that define our lives, and helps you to relive some of the days when you were scrambling up the hillsides of the Bear River Range, tracking waterfowl on Cutler Marsh, or taking a few turns down Beaver Mountain.

In this issue we highlight the first endowed professorship in our college, the Daniel Professorship in Forestry. Jim Long is a most deserving recipient of this award. Many of you know Doc Daniel and Jim and we hope you will delight in reading about their past and present accomplishments. We also feature stories on Dr. Wayne Wurtsbaugh's selection as a Fellow in ASLO, as well as recent teaching recognitions awarded to Drs. Rich Etchberger and Fee Busby. We thank Paul Holden for his generous support of our student clubs and activities of the fisheries students in the Quinney College, and give a nod to the QCNR students who served as summer interns last year for state and federal natural resource agencies.

We look forward to another great year with increasing numbers of graduates, nationally recognized research programs, and expanding activities of our extension programs. Please join us in the journey.

Chris Luecke, Dean
A newly endowed professorship will bear the name of Theodore “Doc” Daniel, a giant in American forestry and past professor in the College of Natural Resources. The Theodore W. Daniel Professorship in Forestry will be supported by the endowment established by Doc—who passed away in 2004—and his son Bill Daniel.

“Doc” Daniel studied at the University of California, Berkeley, where he received a bachelor’s degree in 1934 and his doctoral degree in 1942. Professor Jim Long pointed out that Daniel was among the first people in the country to have a Ph.D. that focused on natural resources. Doc was nearly as old as American forestry itself, as the Society of American Foresters was formed just seven years before his 1907 birth. He was an active member of the Society of American Foresters for his entire career.

In 1944 Doc joined the faculty of the precursor to today’s QCNR, then known as the College of Forestry. His reputation as a gruff and demanding (but effective!) teacher became the source of legends. He had a tremendous work ethic and expected the same of those around him. Doc influenced an entire generation of young foresters who either worked with him or took classes from him. Worldwide he was known for his classic text *Principles of Silviculture* which has been printed in three languages.

Dr. Theodore Daniel’s work and legacy will be honored in this fitting and deserving manner by the naming of QCNR’s first Endowed Professorship.
Dr. James Long will be named as the first recipient of the Daniel Professorship in Forestry at our Annual Awards Banquet on March 19. Faculty and students alike consider Jim a worthy successor to Ted Daniel. Jim was first hired as an assistant professor in 1980 with a specialty in the production of coniferous forests and quantitative silviculture. He has been major advisor to 10 masters students, 10 PhDs and 4 post-doctoral fellows. He was a Fulbright Fellow at the University of Edinburgh in 1991–92 and spent sabbatical years in Seville, Spain in 2001–2002 and at the Università degli Studi di Torino in 2010–2011. In 1991 he was elected a Fellow of the Society of American Foresters and in 2005 SAF presented him with the Barrington Moore Memorial Award for Distinguished Biological Research.

Jim considered Ted to be “an incredible resource, mentor, colleague and friend.” Not surprisingly, Jim’s students feel the same way about him. Marcella Windmuller-Campione, a recent PhD graduate and Assistant Professor at the University of Minnesota, indicated that Jim helped her achieve her professional goals. “He brought up questions about things that I never thought I needed to know about. His breadth of knowledge is amazing. He remains such a great mentor even now.”

A living reminder of Doc is the forest that bears his name. In 1996, over 2500 acres within the Wasatch Cache National Forest in the Bear River Range of northeastern Utah were designated as the T.W. Daniel Experimental Forest. One section of the experimental forest belongs to USU and is managed by the Quinney College of Natural Resources, and three sections belong to the US Forest Service. Principal forest types include spruce-fir, lodgepole pine and aspen. Meadows and shrub-grasslands are interspersed among the trees. These forests range in age from recently regenerated lodgepole and aspen to nearly 300 year-old spruce-fir stands.
Faculty Highlight: Dr. Wayne Wurtsbaugh

Watershed Sciences Professor Honored by the Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography

Wayne Wurtsbaugh is among a select group of scientists elected to the inaugural class of fellows in the Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO). Comprised of over 4300 specialists in freshwater and marine science from 58 countries, ASLO honors members who have “advanced the aquatic sciences via their exceptional contributions to the benefit of the society and its publications, meetings, and other activities.” Wayne, who joined ASLO as a graduate student in 1977; has served on the association’s board and several of its committees. He has published over 200 papers. Wayne helped create ASLO’s Image Library providing free, online access to more than 2,300 aquatic science images for educational purposes. He frequently applies his expertise to critical environmental problems facing humans and other lake-dependent species.

“Utah State University is proud to have a scientist of Wayne’s stature among our faculty,” says Chris Luecke, dean of the Quinney College of Natural Resources. He is “one of our country’s pre-eminent limnologists, making substantial contributions to our understanding of nutrient dynamics in lakes, the ecology of salt lakes and the complex interplay of physics, chemistry and biology in aquatic ecosystems.”

With a student volunteer, Wayne Wurtsbaugh, right, prepares brine shrimp kits to give to youngsters at USU’s Science Unwrapped program in January, 2015. The USU limnologist was the featured speaker at the event, which focused on Utah’s Great Salt Lake.
Lake Urmia’s woes arise from a combination of factors that will sound familiar to people knowledgeable about the Great Salt Lake. At its former capacity, Lake Urmia was the fifth largest saline lake in the world, while the Great Salt Lake is the sixth. Both have been shrinking for decades, largely due to water withdrawals for human use. Lake Urmia is in a more critical situation—in spite of its protected status as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and as a Wetland of International Importance in accordance with the Ramsar Convention—it is in imminent danger of disappearing altogether.

Exposed lakebed and old shoreline of Lake Urmia.

The largest lake in the Middle East is disappearing at an alarming rate. Lake Urmia—once with a surface area of 5,200 sq. km.—is now only one tenth of its original size. The human and environmental costs that would result from Lake Urmia’s disappearance are considerable. In response to the impending crisis, USU faculty and colleagues in Iran are sharing best practices, science and technology associated with Great Salt Lake management. They are planning a summer workshop in Iran to identify gaps in science and management to provide potential solutions to the crisis.

Dr. Wayne Wurtsbaugh of QCNR’s Department of Watershed Sciences and Dr. David Rosenberg, from the College of Engineering and Water Research Lab, will lead the team from USU. Their expertise in saline lake ecology and water resources planning will be instrumental to the workshop design. Dr. Massoud Tajrishy, Director of Environment & Water Research Center at Sharif University will be the Iranian host for the USU delegation.

The summer workshop will take place thanks to the generous sponsorship of the Semnani Family Foundation. Established by Iranian-Americans Khosrow Semnani and his wife Ghazaleh, the mission of this Utah foundation is to find creative and effective ways of serving the needs of marginal and vulnerable communities around the world. The foundation focuses on those whose survival and security is at grave risk. Mr. Semnani hopes that the upcoming workshop will “put all parties in a better position to leverage their relationship and expertise to draw attention to this vital project.” We hope that this collaboration between USU and the Iranian government will lead to better conservation programs for Lake Urmia and improved relationships among water resource managers in both countries.
Rich Etchberger, a Wildland Resources professor at Utah State University’s Uintah Basin campus (UBC), has been named the 2015 Carnegie Professor of the Year for the state of Utah by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. Etchberger, who created the wildlife science program at UBC, was presented the award during a ceremony Nov. 19 in Washington D.C.

The U.S. Professors of the Year program salutes the most outstanding undergraduate instructors in the country—those who excel in teaching and positively influence the lives and careers of students. Sponsored by CASE and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, it is the only national program to recognize excellence in undergraduate teaching and mentoring. Etchberger is one of only 35 recipients to take home the award this year and is the 14th honoree from USU.

Etchberger’s passion for mentoring undergraduates, particularly non-traditional students, led him to begin his career in the College of Natural Resources at the Uintah Basin Campus in the mid-1990s. He dedicated himself to inspiring students to make an impact on natural resources and the economy at the small, rural campus located in the heart of Utah’s energy development corridor in northeastern Utah.

“I motivate my students to grasp the opportunities to change their lives, to earn a degree and to contribute to their community,” Etchberger said. “I have been extremely fortunate to work with an amazing bunch of undergraduate students over the past 20 years.”

“Rich takes being an excellent teacher beyond the classroom by ensuring that the wildlife students in the Basin get experience through internships, where he eventually helps many of them get career jobs with agencies and businesses through his contacts,” said Michael Kuhns, professor and head of QCNR’s Wildland Resources department.
QCNR Professors Give Last Lecture for Two Consecutive Years

For the second year running, USU Honors students have chosen a QCNR professor to give the Last Lecture. In 2014, Dr. Nat Frazer Professor of Environment and Society presented “Teaching Fast and Slow: What Have We Done For You Lately?” And on October 31, 2015 Dr. Fee Busby, Professor of Wildland Resources, delivered the 40th Annual Honors Last Lecture to an audience of more than 200 people. His topic was “Make a Difference: It’s Our Only Hope.”

The Last Lecture is a tradition at many universities that involves students honoring their favorite professors. At USU, Honors students select an outstanding professor who has made a noteworthy contribution to the education and mentorship of undergraduates. The chosen professor then speaks to students, faculty and the community as if it were his or her final lecture. This year Brianne Palmer, an Honors senior in Wildland Resources, and president of USU Range Club nominated Dr. Busby.

In his Last Lecture, as well as in his class Ecology of our Changing World, Fee warns students that if current trends continue, human population will reach 8-10 billion during their lifetimes. The students will be faced with the social, economic and environmental challenges that this 8-10 billion people presents. While they are here at USU, students should prepare to make a difference in their field of study so that they can offer bold and effective solutions to upcoming challenges.

Photo: © John Zsiray, Herald Journal, from October 31, 2015

QCNR Alumnus Receives Heart and Hand Award at Utah Philanthropy Day

Paul Holden, ’68 MS Fisheries and Wildlife, ’74 Ph.D. Fisheries and Wildlife received the Heart and Hand Award from the Quinney College of Natural Resources at Utah Philanthropy Day on November 18th. Paul has been a longstanding supporter of the college, particularly the fisheries program and to honor his tireless support Dean Chris Luecke and Fisheries faculty member Phaedra Budy nominated him for the award. In 2015 he was instrumental in securing funding from several chapters of Utah Trout Unlimited to support a new undergraduate fisheries scholarship at USU. The Cache Anglers Chapter is a main supporter of this new scholarship. Paul has been active in this chapter for many years.
March 19: QCNR Awards Banquet

March 28 - April 2: NR Week

April 5-6: Spring Runoff Conference

April 22: Earth Day - Bioblitz on the Logan River

May 6-7: USU Commencement

For details on these and other upcoming events please visit:

www.qcnr.usu.edu

Summer Interns 2015

Molly Van Engelenhoven
Forest Service

Jennifer Gardner
Forest Service

Liz Winters
Forest Service

Chaylee Dixon
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

Nathan Harris
Forest Service

Wes Anderton
Forest Service

David Duncan
National Park Service