The Closing of Another Year

Well, it seems the closing of another year is upon the college of Natural Resources. Some of us are leaving, some of us thought we would be leaving, and some of us wish we could stay either one. In any case, the year has been full of opportunities. Speaking from an extra-curricular point of view, the college has been very active. There was NR week, The Thanksgiving Fundraiser, Lunch on the Patio, The Winter Leadership Retreat, The Christmas Social, The Speaker Forum, Loggers Ball, The Hyde Park Re-vegetation service project, an upcoming Closing Fiesta (look for the banner) and all those TWS activities; plus the college got a new (what I call) “Fish Club” and the SOSNR club. There are many other activities I haven’t mentioned that went on behind the scenes; activities that made all those opportunities possible, as well as some of the active participation in the college’s other clubs. At the beginning of the year, I didn’t understand how it would all come together and things would get done. Well, it didn’t take too long to find out that this college is full of willing, helpful people who are reliable and creative. Every single college club was active and productive this year. I just wanted to say thank you to the students, faculty, and staff who helped make that possible. It was all greatly appreciated.

Next year’s council and clubs have such a good start thanks to the hard work their members put forth this year. Next year is promised to be a good extra-curricular year because the activities are in such good hands. Scott Shine (senator) and Tonya Stephenson (council president) are great people and I am happy to support them, and I urge you to as well. There are many learning opportunities outside of the classroom, and these are the people who want to bring them to you; so let them what you think. Thanks for your time.

Kyle Peterson

Silent Force

My edges support their feet.
My waters support their keep.
I am the silent force in which they thrive upon.

They came into me on boats.
They sank into me with their ropes.
They disturbed me with their habits.
Yet I am the silent force in which they thrive upon.

My heart was darkened with their pollution.
My appetite suppressed by their waste.
My spirit dampened underneath their feet.
Yet I was the silent force in which they throw upon.

They awoke and couldn’t find me.
They sought me, but couldn’t see me.
So they learned to respect and maintain me.
And I am still the force in which they throw upon.

—Anonymous

The 2003 Conclave team shows off their winnings.
Paul’s Parting

By Lafe Conner

Only last week, I was walking from the atrium late at night. To my surprise, Paul was standing there and looking up into the sky. I asked him what he was doing there. He said, “When you’ve been here long enough, you’ll notice that the years start to pass at a different pace. You won’t bother so much as days go by. Weeks turn into weeks like the changing of hours.” Then, Paul’s large wooden eyes fell down on me, and I could see that he was scanning my expression to be sure that I understood him well.

His gaze moved toward the mountains, and after a brief pause he continued. “Sometimes,” he said, “you might take note that the seasons are changing, but mostly I don’t do that any more.”

In his face were the deep lines of years that showed the weathering of many storms. Beneath his great brow, and behind his deep eyes, I could sense a tiredness that has taken this most ancient of friend. There are the tales of course, and the stories of the old days. Before the stories are the legends; legends about the digging of the Grand Canyon, and the leveling of ancient trees. Oh yes, and a big blue oxen called Babe.

“At night,” Paul said suddenly, calling my attention back into the present, “at night, I often see a narrow beam of light extending up into the stars, a thick green light reaching out there toward forever. It seems from here that there is no end to it.” I nodded my head in agreement, as the old woodsman’s voice began to trail off.

“I am old now.” His solid lips released those solemn sounds. “I am old, and lately I’ve had this terrible pain in my leg. I don’t get around anymore like I used to and so many nights, I’ve just lain here hoping for the angels to come and carry me away.”

“Where would you go?” I ask.

“When a forest is old it dies,” he answered, “then the dry years come and it is burned to the ground. I’ll go to, I guess, and I’ll rest with the other seeds and legends who are waiting to be born.”

I didn’t see Paul again after that, I reckon that somebody did finally come down and carry him away.

The 2nd Annual Bear River Celebration

When: Saturday, April 26th from 9-4
Where: American West Heritage Center in Wellsville
Why: This is a FREE public event, which will include hands-on activities for children, live music, booths, displays, live animals, student presentations, talks by local resource specialists, games, crafts, information about the Bear River Watershed and much more. For more information, please contact Andree’ Walker with USU Water Quality Extension at (435)797-2580.
See you there!
Undergraduate Research

By Olivia Lester

Have you ever wondered how to get involved in undergraduate research in the College of Natural Resources? Even if you haven’t, the benefits of being involved in research are many. You may think that you do not have enough experience in your field to be involved in your own research project, however, this is not true! I started my first research project at Utah State when I was a freshman and knew very little about aquatic sciences. I simply told Maureen Wagner I was interested in being involved in research, and she sent me to talk with Dr. Chris Luecke. A few weeks later, Dr. Luecke informed me that there was an opportunity for a project studying an invasive daphnia species in Willard Bay, Utah in conjunction with the Division of Wildlife Resources. I was very excited to work on the project and we began right away. During the next few years, I learned how to work in the field, on computer programs, on microscopes, and in the laboratory performing experiments. I learned how to present my research and had the opportunity to present this project at regional and national conferences. Doing this research project has been one of the greatest experiences of my life, and I encourage all of you to become involved in a project. The keys to being successful at performing an undergraduate research project are to be responsible, curious, creative, hard working and excited. These qualities will take you far in your research project. Even if you are not the expert when you start, if you work hard, by the end of your project you will have gained valuable experience in your field and will have developed many marketable skills such as: grant writing, technical writing, field experience, research presentation, data analysis, team skills, and increased knowledge.

My experience working with Dr. Luecke on my own research made me very hirable because I had skills that most students don’t gain until graduate school. For example, I was hired in the summer by a university in Maine to run an aquatics research lab by the time I was a sophomore. Since that time, I have had the opportunity to work on projects with leading scientists in my field at Harvard University, University of California, Riverside, and here in the CNR with Dr. Chris Luecke, Dr. Wayne Wurstbaugh, and Professor Barbara Middleton, gaining invaluable insight and experience through the teaching of amazing professors. These types of opportunities are available to College of Natural Resources undergraduates because we have amazing professors who are willing and interested in working with and mentoring us! We have no excuse not to take advantage of our opportunities in the CNR!

At this point, you may be thinking, “great, so I have an idea, but I don’t have money to support my research.” One of the best things about CNR and USU is that they provide a variety of ways to receive funding for research. The URCO grant (undergraduate research and creative opportunities grant) is available twice a year. These grants are up to $1000 matching grants to be used for student projects. In addition, CNR provides undergraduate research grants and also travel awards to help you present your research at national meetings. ASUSU also provides funding with their academic opportunity awards. They will award up to $500 for students to travel and present research. In addition, many professors have money from larger grants to hire students and may allow you to be involved in one of their projects while doing a smaller project of your own. If you are creative, there are ways to find money for your ideas here in CNR! I want to personally encourage any of you who are interested in becoming involved in Undergraduate Research to start investigating possible projects and talking with professors right away. It is never to late to start! If you have any questions, feel free to contact Olivia Lester at olester@cc.usu.edu.
Final Words

Ahh, my final words. First, I would like to thank everyone for voting me as outstanding senior of the year. I especially want to thank all the people in the Wildlife Society who became my good friends. We have traveled all over the country together for different meetings and activities. We went to Reno, NV for my first national TWS meeting, got stranded together in Laramie, WY, and most recently, flew to Arkansas. (When the second prop on the plane didn’t start for awhile, I admit I was nervous). I hope my efforts of being TWS pres., giving raptor presentations, improving the wildlife collections, and teaching Wildlife Specimen Preparation have helped you. I know you guys sure have taught me a lot in our many good conversations and in all the fun times we’ve had. I want to encourage all the students to take advantage of the activities and meetings that clubs help get students to. Don’t just complain about the lack of hands-on in the curriculum, do something about it! Find those experiences and meet professionals. Seek out the many opportunities available. Projects and trips with The Wildlife Society and Berryman Institute has really changed how I view the world. It really helps to see outside the classroom, as well as make friends within the CNR. As for my plans, I will be moving to Israel this summer and volunteering on a Jewish farm (Kibbutz) to fulfill my dream of visiting the Holy Land. Someday, I will return to the U.S. to work for a wildlife agency doing information and education.
Shalom, Luke. (my new Email is ljs_7@lycos.com)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**On April 19th, there will be a tree planting at the Denzil Stewart Nature Park to celebrate Earth Day. The park is located at 700 East 100 South in Logan. The event will begin at 11:00 am. Activities will include tree planting, nature walks and talks, and music. A Kid’s Parade will occur at 2:00, costumes recommended. Baby trees, shovels, and refreshments will be provided. Old clothes and gloves recommended. Smiles required. For more information call the Utah Conservation Corps at (435) 797-0964.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO CHRIS LUECKE—USU FACULTY ADVISOR OF THE YEAR!

Closing Fiesta

Date: April 22, 2003
Place: Adams Park
Time: 5:00 pm
Cost: FREE!!

There will be tacos, volleyball, and much more!