CNR Vision of the New Dean

By Nat B. Frazer

My vision for the College of Natural Resources is simple, straightforward, and rather open-ended. There will be thousands of natural resources jobs coming open due to retirements in NGOs, the private sector and local, state, and federal agencies in the next 10 years. I envision CNR graduates being the preferred candidates to fill those positions. I also envision our graduates having the ability to generate new knowledge and to synthesize knowledge from diverse disciplines in solving complex natural resources problems in Utah, the nation, and internationally. The College should be a place in which people are excited about their work, convinced that we can and do make a real difference [in advancing science and in benefiting society], feel free to express their ideas and opinions openly, treat each other with respect, and are enthusiastically optimistic about our future. We should be the premier academic natural resources institution in the country – a place where excellence in scholarship is nurtured and rewarded, where collegiality is nurtured and rewarded, where regional, national and international accomplishments in teaching, learning, research, extension, engagement, and outreach are nurtured and rewarded. Within that general context, I look forward to working with department heads, faculty, staff, and students to develop and implement our collective vision.

I’m currently engaged in meeting one-on-one with CNR faculty and staff to determine (1) what people hope the new dean will not change and (2) what people hope the new dean will change. [I’d also be happy to meet with student groups and ask you the same two questions or answer any questions you might have.] After only two weeks, it’s obvious that many people here have some really excellent ideas! My often-stated view that “None of us is as smart as all of us” is certainly proving to be true within CNR.

I also am trying to meet as many students as I can, as well as to meet legislators, staffers, and agency personnel in Logan, Salt Lake City, across the state, and Washington, DC. If I haven’t met you yet, please don’t hesitate to stop me in the hallway or whenever you see me and introduce yourself. I’d like to get to know as many of you as I can. After all, I plan to be around for awhile!
Professor Spotlight

Michael White

Where did you grow up? I grew up in Washington D.C. and Santa Fe, New Mexico

Where did you get your degrees? I did my undergraduate from University of Virginia and then received both my masters and Ph.D. degrees from University of Montana.

What are those degrees in? My undergraduate major was Environmental Science, and School of Forestry when I went to school in Montana.

What classes do you normally teach? AWER 3820 – Climate Change, AWER 6760 – Programming class.

What research are you currently involved in? Jeez! There are so many and all are current. Looking at the effects of extreme temperature on agriculture especially on wineries, doing a high resolution interpretation of MODIS satellite data, using remote sensing to track the effectiveness of post fire re-vegetation treatments, working on ecological forecasting, science education, biogeochemical modeling, remote sensing modeling and field analysis of vegetation phenology, spectral analysis, risk assessment of invasive species in Australia, spatial parameterization for ecological models.

Have you had any interesting jobs before becoming a professor? I was a full time chef, Santa Fe Opera (Abbi: I didn’t know you sing!) and I was an usher. I did some construction work and archaeological work too.

Hobbies/Interests? I like to: Mountain bike, ski, hike, drink, play ping-pong, watch movies, read novels, [am into] architecture, low water use landscaping, travel, and collect Navajo rugs. I also used to read and collect comic books.

Advice to the world? You should figure out 2 things: what you like and what you are good at. Next, you should combine those 2 and contribute to society.

What book would you recommend for someone to read? Crime and Punishment by Fyodor Dostoevsky.

What do you hope people will remember you for? (What kind of influence you hope to have on others.) It is not my goal to influence people. I believe the word “to influence” is a euphemism for control. I would instead want to help people.

Strange talents? I can burp loudly and deeply.

Favorite music? Interpol – it’s modern new wave music.

Pet peeves? Dirty kitchens and lack of curiosity.

Thoughts on Logan? Do you enjoy living here? What’s your favorite part about it? There are some parts about Logan I like, and some parts I absolutely detest. The best is Eddies’ BBQ. I do like living here in Logan. The worst is the air quality in winter.

Future plans? Dreams? Wishes? I want to be more involved in the interface between science and the public. I also want to go on a trip to Western Europe to look into the architecture of Santiago Calatrava.

Favorite color? Red.

Most embarrassing moment: I constructed a squirrel trap when I was 5 years old using a garden hose and cement block. One week later, I released the trap onto my head. There was no apparent lasting damage.
Cheese Ball

Greg and Marsolie Kuhns, great-grandson of M.T. Kuhns

2 - 8 oz cream cheese
A little garlic powder
A little Lawry’s salt
1/2 to 3/4 cup shredded cheese

1 small jar smoked bacon
2 tsp onion
1 pkg dried beef, chopped
2 tsp Worcestershire sauce

Mix all together. I like to make mine a couple of days before & let set covered in the fridge to help “blend” the flavors.

Source: Amish Acres Recipes, Nappanee, Indiana, 2001
www.amishacres.com

“ The Genius in Enduring Success: 1% Inspiration, 99% Perspiration and Perseverance.”

-- Edison

If you have ideas, a question, discussion, story, poem, discovery, research, advertisement, recipe, quote, etc. to help keep the Almanac alive; please contact Helena Torgerson at heletorg@cc.usu.edu with your innovation.
Vegetable Oil Powered Bus

LANDER, Wyo.—As the nation’s gas prices continue to rise, the non-profit National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) has found a better way to get around. The school has a 36-foot bus fueled by French fries and other ingredients traveling the country, providing an active, environmentally conscious way to learn about the outdoors.

The bus will visit Utah State University- Logan, Utah at 7200 Old Main on Wednesday, January 25, 2006 from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The bus runs on recycled vegetable oil (RVO), a cleaner, renewable alternative to petroleum. So far, the bus has traveled more than 40,000 miles on RVO during its 490-day journey crossing the country. This approach has saved 3,000 gallons of petroleum, and eliminated sulfur dioxide (SO2) emissions while significantly reducing the release of other particulates. The specially adapted vehicle is also equipped with solar panels that power its audio-visual equipment, lights and computers.

“In just seventeen months we have saved thousands of dollars,” says Bruce Palmer, NOLS director of admission and marketing. “But more important, as a school that teaches environmental ethics, we have practiced what we teach and recycled a waste product, used a renewable resource grown by American farmers, and decreased our emissions. Good for our pocketbook and good for the environment.”

Sponsored by Silk™, the makers of organic soymilk, the bus brings NOLS’ high-quality outdoor education right into communities. Activities include a climbing wall on the side of the bus, fly-fishing clinics and Wilderness Medicine Institute of NOLS (WMI) clinics.

Evenings feature the bus’ solar-powered outdoor theatre showing the NOLS movie “The Expedition,” NOLS alumni expedition slide shows and sneak previews of the NOLS TV series. High-quality outdoor gear is also raffled on college campuses.

Founded in 1965 by legendary mountaineer Paul Petzoldt, the National Outdoor Leadership School is the leader in wilderness education and sets the industry standard for responsible, high quality educational expeditions. A private non-profit school, NOLS operates wilderness expeditions on four continents and boasts more than 75,000 alumni worldwide. The school runs 10-day to semester-length courses for people aged 14 to over 70 in the Rocky Mountains, Tetons, Pacific Northwest, Southwest, Alaska, Western Canada, Mexico, Patagonia (Chile), India, Australia, New Zealand, Baffin Island and the Amazon. College credit and scholarships are available. For more information, call NOLS at (800) 710-NOLS (6657) or visit the web site at www.nols.edu.

White Wave, Inc. (www.SILKisSOY.com), a wholly owned subsidiary of Dean Foods (NYSE: DF), was established in Boulder, Colo. in 1977. In 1996, White Wave introduced Silk, America’s first refrigerated soymilk. Today, Silk is available in 11 flavors and is the No. 1 selling organic consumer packaged goods brand in the nation. White Wave’s product offerings include Silk® Soymilk, SunSoy® Soymilk and the new TofuTown™ Tofu Tenders™ line of ready-to-eat tofu.

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Meet the Dean

Nat B. Frazer
Dean and Professor, College of Natural Resources

Where did you grow up?
“I grew up running around barefoot in the woods of south Georgia. No, I wasn’t a feral child. We lived in a small town and the woods were right next to our back yard. There were pitcher plants there and we used to tear them open to see what insects we could find. We were children and it was the 1950’s. We saw these plants every day. It would never have occurred to us that they might be rare or need to be protected.”

Where did you get your degrees?
“I got my undergraduate degree in history from the University of Georgia, my M.A. in history and public affairs from the University of Illinois in Springfield, IL, and my Ph.D. in ecology at the Institute of Ecology at the University of Georgia.”

Why did you go back to Georgia for your Ph.D.?
“After my master’s degree I worked for several years and read widely in ecology and environmental science. One of the authors I read was Gene Odum, who wrote one of the first ecology textbooks in the USA. He also founded the Institute of Ecology and UGA. I went to him and asked if he thought someone with two degrees in history could become an ecologist.”

What did he say?
“Well, the only thing I remember him asking me was what my GRE scores were! Odum was a synthesist who thought the physical sciences, the life sciences, the social sciences and the humanities all had relevance to understanding ecology. He was very encouraging.”

What brought you to Utah State University?
“I was asked to consider applying for the dean position, but wasn’t really looking to leave the University of Florida, where I was chair of the Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Department. Fortunately, I had a chance to meet President Albrecht when he was visiting our campus and was impressed by his vision for the University. After visiting USU, my wife and I decided that CNR, USU and the Cache Valley were ideal for us.”

Did you have any interesting jobs before your academic career?
“Yes, in high school I used to get up at 4:00 AM and go to work at the donut factory. My job was to glaze all the donuts by hand! I think the three most beautiful words in the English language are: Hot Donuts Now!”

Favorite music:
Coming from a musical family, I like almost all kinds of music. My favorite changes with my mood and surroundings. Classical, folk, C&W, blue-grass, blues, jazz, Celtic, native American, etc.”

Advice to students:
“The most successful people are those who are paid to do what they would do if they were independently wealthy. Find your passion and pursue it enthusiastically.”
Jobs, Jobs, & More Jobs

It’s that time of year again, back to school spring semester as a poor student out of money. Spring semester is a rather busy time, one of heavy coursework (which may I remind you that you signed up for), February 1st deadlines for scholarships and various other applications such a graduate school and not to mention jobs.

Among our busy lives, we students (whether undergrad or grad) must also do mad searches to find a means for survival for the following school year or future who-knows-what-next lives. That is to say, we need a summer job, and we have to find them quickly. January through March is the hot time, and early time to find apply for and hopefully get hired on as seasonal or perhaps we’re graduating and have a nice job all lined up (good for you and good luck!). So to all of my fellow students (both undergrad and grad) I wish us all the best and happy job hunting! Remember, don’t underestimate yourself, apply for a job, even if you think you’re not fully qualified; or ask if they have need for technicians or have other openings. Don’t be shy, apply!

For more information regarding job hunting, visit the Academic Service Center in NR 120. Also check the bulletin boards by the stairs, departments and clipboards by NR 112. Also talk to your Advisor, Professors, and fellow students.

Possible sites:
www.usajobs.opm.gov
www.fs.fed.us/fsjobs
www.blm.gov/careers

http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov
http://firstgov.gov
www.tehabi.org

Employment Opportunity
Fish and Wildlife Biologist 4
Salary: $3571 - $4570 monthly

Bulletin #448
Opens: January 9, 2006
Closes: February 15, 2006

Location: The position is stationed in Yakima and works in the Science Division of the Habitat Program. Duty station may be flexible, but will have major duties centered in central Washington, as well as elsewhere statewide.

Duties: The purpose of this position is to restore flow and fish habitat where human use of water has reduced fish habitat. This position seeks opportunities to maintain water use where needed while managing the water use to restore fish habitat, using expert level knowledge of water uses, water laws, and fish habitat requirements. Assists the Science Division Water Team in studies to further their ability to predict impacts of water use on fish and to mitigate such impacts. Supervises a Fish and Wildlife Biologist 3.

Required Qualifications: A Bachelor’s degree in fisheries or related field (ecology, biology, limnology) or hydrology or engineering AND five years of professional experience in fish management or fish research, or habitat management or habitat research. OR A Master’s degree in the applicable science will substitute for one year of the required experience. A Ph.D. in the applicable science will substitute for two years of the required experience. OR Four years as a Fish & Wildlife Biologist 3. Experience working with water rights, water law.

Knowledge of fish life history. Membership in the Washington Association of Fish and Wildlife Professionals is a condition of employment.

Desired Qualifications: Successful experience working in situations that included multiple interests and multiple priorities.

To Apply: Please include a resume, a short statement on how you meet the required qualifications, and a completed Washington State Application. All items must be received by February 15, 2006. E-mail vancesqv@dfw.wa.gov or send information to: Sue Vance
Personnel Office
Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501-1091
Santa Clause Came to Town

By Adam Brewerton

Looking back on fall semester, a few moments stand out to us. One memorable moment was a final project in the FRWS Department. Dr. Wolfe’s Wildland Fauna course, FRWS 3610, was ending the semester with student presentations on assigned species. Presentations varied from desert animals to rainforest inhabitants, from overhead transparencies to Powerpoint shows. The biggest surprise was when two reindeer showed up, apparently on their way to the North Pole. Brandon Baron and his parents raise reindeer. They brought a male and female to show the class for a hands-on experience. These were reindeer, not to be confused with caribou. Reindeer come from the northern regions of Europe and Asia. Although almost the same as our North American caribou, they are differentiated by the name reindeer and caribou. Reindeer have an interesting diet, consisting largely of lichens. Reindeer were used by Laplanders to pull sleighs and have been raised domestically for centuries. The most famous example of this is the jolly elf that brings toys to the world on Christmas Eve. No one could deny that Brandon’s dad resembled that good-hearted saint. It was a great opportunity to see an uncommon animal and learn about its ability to survive in the arctic colds. At least the biggest surprise to me was how small they really are.
EVENTS

Do your part...
Join SNC’s efforts to recycle printer cartridges

SNC has teamed up with Laser Precision to recycle empty inkjet, laser, fax, and copier cartridges from the community. All you have to do is bring your empty cartridges to any of the following locations: Kinko’s Copy Center, Filbies Copy Center, or Stokes Nature Center. Each cartridge that you bring in will be recycled at Laser Precision in Providence and SNC will get money for programming.

Winter Fun & Safety Workshop
Saturday, January 28, 8 am - 4 pm, Grades 6 and above
Love to snowboard, ski, or just be outside in the winter? This workshop will prepare you for winter outings and assessing avalanche conditions in the backcountry. We’ll spend a day on snowshoes digging snow pits, scouting for animal tracks, studying snow crystals, and more.
*Great for Girls Scouts to get their Frosty Fun Badge.
Advanced registration is required.
$20 for non-members, $16 for SNC members.

Tales & Trails “The Mitten
Saturday, January 28, 10 am - noon, Ages 4-8
Discover how many animals can live in one child’s mitten as we read this traditional Ukrainian tale about a mitten lost in the snow. You will make your own track book and learn how to identify animal tracks in the snow.
Space is limited pre-registration is required.
$6 for non-members, $4.50 for SNC members.

Logger’s Ball
February 10, 2006
Bullen Center 7:00 PM, $7 Admission/$15 Couple
Live Bluegrass Band and Raffle

Stegner Center Eleventh Annual Symposium
Global Climate Change: The Arctic to the Rocky Mountain West
Friday & Saturday March 3-4, 2006
To register:
call: 801-585-3440,
e-mail: stegner@law.utah.edu
or visit the web at: law.utah.edu/stegner
Registration Fees:
$50 Seniors, University & College Faculty/Staff/Students (due by February 17, 2006),
$65 Seniors, University & College Faculty/Staff/Students (if paid by Feb. 18 or later).

Drop by the Club Office, NR 112, for more information on upcoming events!