

College of
Natural Resources
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New Dean for CNR

- Nat B. Frazer
Dean
- Terry Sharik
Department of
Environment and
Society
- Chris Luecke
Department of
Watershed
Sciences
- Johan du Toit
Department of
Wildland Resources

Dr. Nat B. Frazer assumed his position as Dean of the College of Natural Resources on January 1, 2006. He relocated to Utah from his previous position as professor and chair of the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation at the University of Florida-Gainesville.

After serving as dean for 18 months Dean Frazer is very enthusiastic about the College of Natural Resources. "Our bright students will change the world in positive ways we can't even imagine today."

In a recent statement posted on the College of Natural Resources website, Dean Frazer states, "Can today's society satisfy our needs without diminishing the prospects of future generations to satisfy theirs?"

At the College of Natural Resources, we believe the answer is 'Yes!' Our goal is to provide the scientific information necessary for society to make sound decisions in managing and conserving natural resources to ensure that future generations can anticipate both economic prosperity and a healthy environment. There will be thousands of natural resources jobs coming open due to retirements in non-governmental organizations; the private sector; and local, state, and federal natural resources agencies over the next 10 years. We believe that our graduates will be the preferred candidates to fill those positions. We also envision our graduates having the ability to not only generate new knowledge but also synthesize knowledge from diverse



disciplines in solving complex natural resources problems facing Utah, the Intermountain West, the nation and the world. Our College is a place where people are excited about their work because we are convinced we can and do make a real difference – both in advancing science and in benefiting society."

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Graduation 2007

On Saturday, May 5, 2007, the College of Natural Resources held their annual graduation ceremony at the USU Morgan Theater and welcomed 71 undergraduates into the ranks of CNR alumni.

The graduates were presented diplomas and congratulated by Dean Nat Frazer, and special guests, Provost Ray Coward, and the Very Reverend Frederick Quinney Lawson.



Heather Phillips, Mark Brunson, Isaac Ashby, Sarah Redd, Angie Cannon



Collin Covington, Ashley Champlin, James Brower

Father Rick was the USU commencement speaker and was presented with an honorary doctorate of divinity from Utah State.

Angie Cannon, Environmental Studies major in the Department of Environment and Society, is the spring 2007 CNR valedictorian. In her address she admonished her fellow graduates to be teachable, real, compassionate, and in other words, be HUMBLES.



USU Fisheries Science Doctoral Program Ranked 3rd in Nation

A new standard for measuring university faculty members' productivity ranks Utah State University's doctoral program in fisheries science and management No. 3 in the nation. USU tied with the University of Montana at Missoula for the third-place position behind No. 1 University of Washington and No. 2 University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. ... "It reflects well on the faculty we have here," department head Chris Luecke said of the placement. "We have a very good group of researchers. Our faculty members have been extremely productive at competing for research funding." (Herald Journal, 02/07/2007)

CNR Honors Top Scholars

Utah State University's College of Natural Resources recognized graduating seniors and scholarship recipients for the 2007-08 academic year at an awards banquet held April 14. More than \$145,000 in scholarships were awarded.

"We're proud of these outstanding scholars and applaud their achievements," said Dean Frazer.



Back row, left, Clark Giles, Herb Livsey and Charles Livsey of the Quinney Foundation with Quinney Scholarship recipients.



Nancy Mesner Named Associate Dean

Utah State University associate professor Nancy Mesner was recently named associate dean for the College of Natural Resources and program leader for USU Natural Resources Extension. Her new appointments were announced by College of Natural Resources Dean Nat Frazer and Noelle Cockett, Vice President of USU Extension.

"Nancy brings a well-rounded background in teaching, research and extension to her new position in the college, as well as energy, intelligence and concern for students," said Frazer. "We're pleased to have her providing leadership in this capacity."

Mesner joined USU in 1989 as a research technician in the university's Utah Water Research Laboratory and became project manager of USU's Ecosystems Research Institute the following year. She began teaching in the College of Natural Resources and serving as an Extension water quality specialist in 1998.

"The College of Natural Resources has been a great academic home for me and I'm excited about this new opportunity to serve the students and faculty of the college," said Mesner. (Utah State Today, 02/02/2007)

CNR Range Students Take Honors

Students representing Utah State University's College of Natural Resources proved that they're very much at home on the range at the 60th Annual International Society for Range Management meeting held Feb. 10-16 in Reno, Nevada.

Aggies from USU's Range Club, the SRM student chapter, captured the society's Rangeland Cup in an undergraduate team problem-solving competition that debuted at the 2007 meeting. USU students also performed well in individual and other team events.

"Our undergraduate students are wonderful ambassadors for our department, college and USU as a whole," said Johandu Toit, head of USU's Department of Wildland Resources. "They presented an excellent example of what graduates at a great institution should do:

work hard, excel, take pride in excelling, help others along and have a really good time doing it."

USU undergrads Kody Menghini and Katie Santini, mentored by Wildland Resources professor John Malechek, took first place in the inaugural Rangeland Cup, besting teams from throughout the United States, Mexico and Canada. The team received a traveling trophy that will reside in USU's College of Natural Resources – for at least the next year.

"It's a beauty," said CNR Dean Nat Frazer. "We've already decided we're not giving it up next year." (Utah State Today, 02/22/07)



From left, Katie Santini, Johandu Toit, Kody Menghini and John Malechek

Society of Range Management National Competition Participants

- Jenny M. Christiansen
- Mark N. Ewell
- Trisha A. Finlayson
- Shaylan R. Franc
- Mark R. Hendrix
- Gilbert R. Jackson
- Jamin K. Johanson
- Kody A. Menghini
- Sarah M. Redd
- John C. Reese
- Katie M. Santini
- Trent I. Staheli
- James A. Stuart
- S. Jade Sumsion
- Makeda J. Trujillo



New Faculty in CNR Peter Adler

Peter Adler is a plant community ecologist in the Department of Wild-land Resources who is interested in coexistence, patterns of diversity and plant-animal interactions. Most of his field experience is in arid and semiarid ecosystems, but he also relies heavily on statistical and simulation modeling techniques that apply to many ecosystems.

From an article featured in USU 2007 *Research Matters*, Peter's research is highlighted. . .

"Imagine your garden, lawn or perhaps a nearby meadow. Why do tomatoes grow in abundance one year but don't do so well the next? What helps dandelions destroy your lawn in some years but not others? And what determines which plant species pop up and persist in a rural grassland when no direct human intervention is involved? Is it weather? Competition for resources with other plants? Peter believes it's probably both. Using decades of historical

data, he is teasing apart the interacting effects of climate and competition on plant populations.

Peter says, 'Range scientists have been trying to sort out the importance of competition and climate for years. I use long-term datasets to build computer models. Thanks to some new statistical techniques, we can better explain why plant populations grow in some years and shrink in others.

We now have the tools to extract amazing information out of the historical data. We can use the past to learn about the future."

Welcome to CNR, Peter!



CNR Advancement Advisory Board

In March, Utah State University President Stan Albrecht announced the kickoff of the 2007 Capital Campaign for Utah State University, the university's first comprehensive capital campaign in its history. The campaign seeks to raise \$200 million in funds for student and faculty support, buildings and grounds and most importantly for the enlargement of the university's endowment. As of this writing, USU has raised 55% of this goal, or \$109,991,268.

As a vital part of this campaign, the College of Natural Resources has established a goal to raise \$12 million to strengthen the college and to provide increased support for students and faculty. To date, CNR has raised \$7,819,183 towards this goal.

In an effort to increase CNR's ability to raise funds, Dean Frazer has launched an advancement advisory board. We are in the initial stages of recruiting board members, and are very pleased to announce that Val Grant, '78 PhD in Fisheries and Wildlife has agreed to chair the committee. In this role, Val

Continued Page 4

2007 Graduation Valedictorian Address (continued)

BE TEACHABLE. Be a sponge. Soak up knowledge! Value other people's opinions and advice. Ask questions! Accept constructive criticism and be better because of it. Never go into a situation thinking that you have all the answers...that you know it all. Learn from those who are more experienced. And when you are the one who has the most experience, realize that you *still* don't have all the answers. Gandhi teaches us that "it is unwise to be too sure of one's own wisdom. It is healthy to be reminded that the strongest might weaken and the wisest might err."

BE REAL. Be the wonderful person you are inside. Don't focus on trying to be cool or popular or brilliant. Just be yourself! When you need help with something, ask for help. When you've made a mistake, admit that you were wrong. When you don't know something, admit that you don't know. It wasn't until quite late in life that I discovered how easy it is to say "I don't know!" ~Somerset Maugham (English playwright and short story writer). Recognize your weaknesses and strive to overcome them.

BE COMPASSIONATE. We are all equal. All of us have our certain weaknesses and strengths. Never harbor the foolish thought that you're better than someone else. When this idea of equality is instilled in our minds and hearts, we will be more inclined to treat others with respect, kindness, and genuine love. We will be quick to forgive and quick to say sorry. We will seek to understand others' viewpoints and backgrounds. We will listen with empathy. Such compassion is so desperately needed in today's world. Thich Nhat Hahn, Zen Buddhist monk from Vietnam, was invited to address members of Congress in 2003. In his talk, entitled, "Leading with courage and compassion," he stated, "In Congress, in city halls, in statehouses, and schools, we need people capable of practicing deep listening and loving speech. Unfortunately, many of us have lost this capacity. To have peace, we must first have understanding, and understanding is not possible without gentle, loving communication."

There is enough arrogance and pride in this world, we need more humility. So, my fellow graduates, BE TEACHABLE, BE REAL, BE COMPASSIONATE. Or in other words, BE HUMBLE . . . I wish all of you a bright and happy future. Congratulations and thank you. Angie Cannon



Angie Cannon

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See the newsletter on line <http://www.cnr.usu.edu/alumni>

Alumni Profile - Paul Whalen 1983 B.S. in Watershed Science

* Note: In an effort to profile the many exciting and innovative careers our alumni are involved with, we are starting a regular alumni profile column. In future issues we will profile alumni from all of the departments and major areas.

Dean Frazer and Jon Paulding, Director of Development, had the opportunity to visit with Paul Whalen, '83 in Jupiter, Florida. Paul came to Utah State to experience the west and to take advantage of the College of Natural Resources' excellent program in Watershed Sciences. Upon graduating, Paul found himself working with the State of Florida as a hydrologist. He left the state with the title of Director of the Kissimmee River Restoration project. He now owns his own consulting firm; TAC Environmental Water Resources Consulting, Inc. The firm's specialty is representing large agricultural landowners in an effort to help them optimize drainage and water retention for irrigation on their lands. Improving water quality and wetlands preservation and protection are two cornerstones of the firm's practice.

Paul is also the Chair of the Loxahatchee River District Board of Governors. In this role, he represents citizens of the Loxahatchee River watershed to help improve the environmental quality of the watershed. The Loxahatchee River is the first in the nation to receive the federal designation of Wild and Scenic River. Paul led a very successful project to design, fund and build the Loxahatchee River Environmental Center. This will be a showcase center for environmental stewardship and problem solving for the citizens of Florida.

Paul attributes much of his professional success to the quality experience and rigorous professional preparation he received at Utah State in the College of Natural Resources.



Paul Whalen, '83

Advancement Council (continued)

Natural Resources' representative to the USU campaign committee. The committee will start small and its purpose will be to identify potential funding sources and partnerships for the college to approach during the campaign. We have made a goal to substantially increase the private support to the college in the campaign and need the help of alumni, business leaders and friends to achieve this goal. For more information, please contact Jon Paulding, Director of Development at 801-961-1347.

In Memory

1935, Robert D. Nielson, Agronomy
1936, Lewis Clark, Forestry
1938, Everett Doman, Ecology
1941, William Murray, Forestry
1949, William Price, Forestry
1950, Lyle Klubben, Forestry.
1950, George Val Simpson, Range Science
1955, Eugene Hoffman, Range Science
1957, Stuart L. Murrell, Wildlife Management
1959, John Robert Glenn, Forest Management
1970, Glen M. Secrist, Range Science
1995, Lynne M. Slade, Environmental Studies
1998, Spencer Koyle, Forestry
2003, Trina Tennille Flint, Fisheries & Wildlife
2004, Andrew Smith, Environmental Studies
2007, Jessica Clark Tayon, Wildlife Science