



CNR NEWSLETTER

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Longtime CNR Supporter Janet Quinney Lawson Dies

Champion of environmental education, preservation leaves lasting legacy.



Characterized by friends and family as a champion of environmental education and conservation, longtime Utah State University supporter Janet Quinney Lawson died Dec. 25 at her home in Salt Lake City. She was 86.

"Janet was a fine individual who loved the outdoors and who touched many lives in very positive ways," said Dean Frazer.

Lawson was recognized by USU in 2004 during the dedication of a building named in her honor. The

Janet Quinney Lawson building houses USU's Utah Climate Center and Remote Sensing/ Geographic Information Systems Laboratory along with other services.

Lawson received USU's Distinguished Service Award in 1998 and an honorary Doctorate of Natural Resources degree from the university in 2000.

Wildland Resources professor Fee Busby called Lawson a "remarkable person with the courage and willingness to invest heavily in programs and projects she believed important."

"Almost all of her philanthropy was associated with the development of young people, their character and their education," he said.

The daughter of S.J. "Joe" and Jessie Quinney, Lawson was instrumental in developing relationships between the foundation that bears her parents' names and USU's

College of Natural Resources. In February 2008, the foundation gifted the college with \$5 million to support ongoing student scholar programs, the S.J. and Jessie E. Quinney Natural Resources Library and new research programs.

"My wife, Faye, and I have warm memories of sitting with Janet on the porch of her Bear Lake cabin and listening to stories of how her parents drove from Logan to Bear Lake in a horse-drawn wagon – a two-day trip in those days," Frazer said.

In addition to her support of USU, Lawson offered time and financial support to many organizations including the Utah Girl Scout Council, the Hogle Zoo, the Nature Conservancy and the Utah Symphony.

Lawson is survived by her two sons, Frederick Q. Lawson and Peter Q. Lawson, as well as nine grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her daughter, Joanne.

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Department of
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Graduating Senior First in State at Range Management Competition

Rangeland resources student Jamin Johanson placed first in a statewide plant identification competition. Just looking at the scientific names of the plants — *Panicum virgatum*, *Larrea tridentata* — would have most people scratching their heads in bewilderment. But Jamin, allowed one minute to view dried samples of these and a slew of others, correctly identified the range plants and quickly supplied their scientific names, family, genus, species, life history and origin.



"The judges had about 200 plant samples to choose from," says Johanson, who graduated from Natural Resources in December with a bachelor's degree

Aggie Foresters Number One in National Competition

Utah State University scholars proved they're a force to be reckoned with at the 2008 student quiz bowl at the Society of American Foresters national convention held Nov. 5-9 in Reno, Nevada. The Aggie team bested competitors from 31 schools in single-elimination rounds of competition designed to test students' knowledge of theory and practice in varied disciplines of forestry.

Back row:
Jim Long, Matt Lewis, Rachel Pyles, Jeremiah Armentrout, Terry Sharik
Front Row:
Seth Ex, Richie Gardner, Peter Howard, Crest Simeon



Welcome to CNR

NICK ALLMENDINGER,

Department of Watershed Sciences, joined the CNR faculty in October 2008 and is working at the Uintah Basin Regional Campus, in Vernal.



Nick is a fluvial geomorphologist with degrees from the University of Delaware. His graduate research projects were field-based investigations of watershed processes. He concentrated on the influence of vegetation and land use on stream channel form and rates of erosion and sediment deposition. His published research includes a model for predicting the impact of urbanization on stream erosion, a way to determine how changes in land use may have changed historical rates of erosion and deposition in small watersheds, and an explanation of how deforestation can decrease stream channel width and increase rates of erosion simultaneously.

He spent three years working as a visiting assistant professor at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, North Carolina. While at Western Carolina, Dr. Allmendinger taught numerous courses about surficial processes on a watershed scale for undergraduate and graduate student audiences.

Nick spent two years working for an engineering and architectural firm in the Pacific Northwest where he consulted as a professional geologist. He consulted on a variety of projects in Washington and Oregon pertaining to storm water and culvert design, flood reduction, stream bank stabilization, and stream habitat improvement.

Welcome, Nick!

Graduating Senior First in State at Range Management Competition (continued)

in rangeland resources. "In one case, we were allowed to view only the seeds of a particular plant; in another, we saw only the branch without its leaves."

In team competition, Johanson and fellow USU Range Club members Lowell Gardner, Tren Hagman and Garth Nelson took second place in plant identification.

"We missed first place by only one percentage point, so I like to think of it as a virtual tie," says faculty mentor Leila Schultz, who coached the team with Wildland Resources professor Fee Busby.

Also at the gathering, College of Natural Resources student Janessa Chew received a SRM academic scholarship and Tom Monaco, research ecologist with the USDA-ARS Forage and Range Research Laboratory on the USU campus, was elected Utah Section president.

Johanson, immediate past president of the USU Range Club, says his participation in club activities has been a highlight of his undergraduate career. The Morgan, Utah native and aspiring ranch manager organized many of the details of the group's participation in the 2008 national SRM meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, where the Aggies placed first in the society's nationwide Rangeland Cup competition for the second consecutive year.

"It was exciting for us and a great opportunity to network with professionals," Johanson says. "Participating in the club has been a great experience." (Mary-Ann Muffoletto)

USU Watershed Sciences Student Excels at Geomorphology Gathering



Utah State University graduate student David Dean placed first in the student poster competition at the 39th annual Binghamton Geomorphology Symposium. One of the world's largest and oldest annual gatherings of geomorphologists and physical geographers, the 2008 symposium was held Oct. 8-11 in Austin, Texas.

Dean, a master's student in Watershed Sciences, presented "*From Channel to Floodplain: Geomorphic Transformation of the Rio Grande in the Big Bend Region of Texas, Chihuahua and Coahuila.*"

With faculty mentor Jack Schmidt, Dean has studied a stretch of the river within Texas' Big Bend National Park since fall 2006. Their work, funded by the National Park Service, was prompted by comparisons of recent photos with images taken more than a century ago.



CNR Student Leads the Way

Quinney Scholar Danielle "Dani" Babel is leading efforts to save higher education funds in Utah. With the help of the social networking site "Facebook," the 22-year-old senior created an Internet site to rally thousands of college students and faculty around the state to take action by writing legislators and attending demonstrations.

"It grew really fast," says Babel of her Facebook group Save Higher Education in Utah. "It's bi-partisan and multi-generational."



Babel, a dual geography and anthropology major who was named a 2006 Governor's Scholar, has suddenly found herself in the media spotlight. Between classes, study and research she's fielded interviews with statewide newspapers, radio and television. On Jan. 30, she and fellow Aggies boarded a bus to join several thousand college students from around Utah for a rally at the state capitol.

Babel says the campaign is not a protest, but a way for students to show support for their schools and programs.

"We're encouraging students to demonstrate their concerns for this issue in a respectful way," says the Oregon native.

A USU Undergraduate Research Fellow, Babel received an honorable mention in 2007 from the Morris K. Udall Scholarship Foundation. Working with CNR faculty mentor Claudia Radel, Babel traveled to southern Mexico to study the impact on remaining members of Mexican households when breadwinners migrate to the United States

(Mary-Ann Muffoletto)

Land of Lucy: Aggies Explore Impact of Globalization on Ethiopia



USU students, from left, Kelly Sivy, Annie Wilson and, third from right, Ashley Champlin and Leah Hazlett, far right, meet with leaders from a USU-mentored collective action group in Ethiopia's southern rangelands.

Before embarking on a study abroad trip to the Horn of Africa this past summer [2008], Utah State University undergraduate Leah Hazlett says she didn't know what to expect.

"For me, going to Ethiopia was a phenomenal, life-changing experience," says Hazlett, a junior environmental studies major. "It's really shaped, and reinforced, the way I now look at the world, myself and American culture."

Her travel companions Ashley Champlin, Kelly Sivy and Annie Wilson concur. The quartet, all undergraduates in the College of Natural Resources, visited a variety of sites throughout Ethiopia as students in a special topics Environment and Society class. Entitled

"Globalization: Human and Environmental Linkages in Ethiopia," the class was coordinated by faculty members Layne Coppock and Claudia Radel and a USU team of Ethiopian nationals.

During the course of their nearly month-long visit, the four students evaluated the effects of globalization on four sectors of Ethiopia's economy: livestock production, wildlife management, cut-flower production and coffee production.

The students agreed that access to education is key to Ethiopia's economic success and could be the most important determinant in how globalization ultimately impacts Ethiopian peoples and environments. (Mary-Ann Muffoletto)



Aggies Kelly Sivy and Ashley Champlin join an impromptu soccer game while visiting a village in a coffee-producing region of Ethiopia's highlands.

Aggie Foresters Number One in National Competition (continued)

Team members were undergraduate students Matt Lewis, captain; Jeremiah Armentrout, Seth Ex, Richie Gardner, Peter Howard, Rachel Pyles and Crest Simeon.

"To my knowledge, this is the first time USU has participated in the competition," says faculty mentor Terry Sharik, professor in the Department of Wildland Resources. "And our team absolutely blew the other teams away. No one expected 'the newcomers' to dominate the tournament."

Preparation, team members say, made the difference. "We started weekly training for the competition at the start of fall semester," says team member Seth Ex, a senior forestry major and president of USU's SAF chapter.

At training sessions, Sharik and colleague Jim Long, professor in the Department of Wildland Resources, grilled the team, in timed trials, on silviculture, forest and range ecology, fire management, remote sensing, entomology, ethics, forest pathology, the history of forestry and more.

Placing first in the nation was a thrilling experience, the students say, but just attending the convention was a worthwhile opportunity. "I can't underscore enough how valuable this experience was," says Ex, who plans to pursue graduate studies in silviculture. "We met with researchers, grad students and professors from around the country. We also met and talked with U.S. Forest Service chief Abigail Kimball."

Armentrout, an environmental studies major, says he appreciated the opportunity to network with forestry professionals and learn about graduate programs offered at varied universities. A native of West Virginia, Armentrout plans to pursue a career in mine reclamation.

The convention's theme, *"Forestry in a Climate of Change,"* offered lively discussion sessions and a rich range of research presentations, the students say.

"Foresters are not only dealing with the impact of climate change and its implications for forests," Howard says. "They're also dealing with a changing political climate, changes in the profession, the impact of new technology and, of course, an economic crisis."

The U.S. Forest Service and the forest industry, the students note, is also facing a generational turnover. Many current agency and industry positions are held by baby boomers who will soon retire and pass the reins to a new crop of forestry professionals.

(Mary-Ann Muffoletto)

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

Alumni Profile MICHAEL SUTTON, '78

In August 2008 Dean Frazer had the opportunity to visit with Mike Sutton and learn more about his impressive career since leaving campus in 1978. Mike is vice president of the Monterey Bay Aquarium, Monterey, California. He was a wildlife biology major and credits his experience at USU with propelling him into a career in wildlife and marine conservation.



Mike directs a program known as the Center for the Future of the Oceans. The mission of the Center is to inspire

action for conservation of the oceans. Previously, Mike headed the Marine Fisheries Program at the David and Lucile Packard Foundation in Los Altos, California, the largest private funder of ocean conservation efforts in North America. Earlier, he founded and directed World Wildlife Fund's (WWF) Endangered Seas Campaign, a global effort to promote the conservation and sustainable use of marine fisheries.

Mike joined WWF in 1990 to work on international wildlife policy issues. In 1992, he was appointed vice president responsible for the U.S. Land & Wildlife Program. In 1995, he accepted a temporary assignment with WWF International to launch WWF's global Endangered Seas Campaign. In 1996, he formed a business/environment partnership with Unilever, the world's largest buyer of frozen fish. Together, WWF and Unilever co-founded the Marine Stewardship Council to harness market forces and consumer power in favor of sustainable fisheries.

Mike served as a special agent with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and as a park ranger with the National Park Service in Yosemite, Yellowstone, Biscayne, and Virgin Islands National Parks and Death Valley National Monument. Mike received his bachelor's degree in wildlife biology from Utah State University in 1978 and pursued graduate studies in marine biology at the University of Sydney, Australia. His research involved the behavioral ecology of coral reef fishes on the Great Barrier Reef. In 1992, he received a law degree in international and natural resources law from George Washington University's National Law Center in Washington, D.C.

In 2007, Governor Schwarzenegger appointed Mike to the California Fish and Game Commission, which oversees the creation of marine-protected areas in California waters. He also serves as a trustee of the Wild Salmon Center, Ocean Champions, the Sea Change Investment Fund, and LightHawk, a volunteer pilot's organization. He lives in Carmel Valley, California.

In Memory

- 1937 Vance Day, Range Management
- 1939 Earl Spendlove, Range Management
- 1940 Reid Olsen, Forestry
- 1940 Jay R. Udy, Fisheries & Wildlife
- 1941 Victor J. Rudolph, Forestry
- 1941 Harry Woodward, Forestry
- 1948 Hurlon Ray, Forest Management
- 1948 Clay Crawford, Game Management
- 1949 Thomas Madden, Forest Management
- 1950 Henry McKirdy, Ecology - Fisheries & Wildlife
- 1950 Mark Stevens, Forestry
- 1951 Harvey Cushman, Forest Management
- 1953 Delvan Hibbert, Ecology - Fisheries & Wildlife
- 1954 Donald Bolander, Forest Range Management
- 1955 Andrew Ellis, Range Management
- 1958 Blaine (Gary) Molyneaux, Forestry
- 1959 Robert Dahlen, Range Science
- 1966 Terry Heiner, Forestry
- 1967 Sammy Christiansen, Range Management
- 1978 Beth Paprocki, Forestry