



CNR NEWSLETTER

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Natural Resources
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Message from the Dean

"A crisis is a terrible thing to waste." Paul Romer



As this issue goes to press, we are preparing for the 2010 fiscal year (starting 1 July 2009), with additional state budget reductions after having taken three mid-year cuts in FY 2009 already. In addition to reduced state funds, we will receive less in private foundation support this year – cuts of 60 to 90 percent. We face a very challenging year.

The outlook is far from grim, however. We've hired excellent new faculty this fall and we'll hire more next year, including one at Moab! We've strengthened our Geography degree and recently received reaccreditation of our Range program. Faculty and students continue to win scholarly awards.

In times of hardship, it's easy to get discouraged. But it has never been CNR's tradition to preach gloom and doom. Our friends and alumni should know we're moving forward aggressively to chart a path that will enable CNR not only to survive,

but to prosper! We may do things differently in the future, and we may do some different things!

For example, reductions in staff and budgets are forcing us to give up the Forestry Camp in Logan Canyon. But we're expanding real-world internship opportunities for our students in the state, federal, private, and NGO sectors. As USU considers consolidating programs or reducing the number of administrative units, there will be opportunities to enhance interdisciplinary training of our students and by incorporating personnel and programs from other USU colleges into CNR.

CNR won't use the economy as an excuse to "hunker down" or resist change. Instead, we'll embrace a challenge filled with opportunities to build the future we want. I'm confident that CNR will emerge stronger, finer, and more valuable than ever.

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

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CLASS OF 2009

On Saturday, May 2, the CNR class of 2009 included 57 undergraduates. An earlier ceremony, on Friday, May 1, bestowed advanced degrees on 28 master's students and four Ph.D. students.

Another generation of alumni are now ready to take on the world of natural resources management, research, and teaching.

Kelly J. Sivy, Department of Wildland Resources, is the Spring 2009 Valedictorian. Kelly suggested to her fellow graduates that "maximizing your potential will only come by applying yourself wholeheartedly to your life's goal. Today's graduating

class is a testament to the positive outcome of setting aside initial reservations, acting on dreams, and following them through despite adversity. We're here because each of us has successfully overcome challenges in the pursuit of our dreams," said Sivy.

Congratulations to all the graduates and best wishes in everyone's future endeavors!



Utah State University Robins Award Recipients

Fee Busby Advisor of the Year



Fee's advising philosophy reaches beyond meeting with students; it involves doing whatever it takes to make every student successful.

In the 1970's, a rangeland resources orientation course was started in response to freshmen and sophomores losing interest. Fee became the instructor for that course, which turned into a quarter-long process of intensive advising.

Thirty years later, Fee again teaches the orientation class for incoming students. Fee recognizes that each new student will need individualized help and has thus organized the course so no student is left without the help they need. For the first week of every semester, you'll find Fee stationed at a table in the CNR atrium, meeting with a continuous stream of students.

A fellow advisor, Maureen Wagner, said, "Students can always count on Fee to support their activities, whether by attending an event during Natural Resources Week or dancing at the annual Loggers' Ball."

Ashley Walker Workman Val R. Christensen Service Award

Ashley Walker received the *Val R. Christensen Service Award*. The award was established in honor of former Vice President for Student Services Val R. Christensen's outstanding lifetime contribution to volunteering.

Ashley will graduate with a dual major in environmental studies and international studies. She is involved with both on and off-campus organizations grounded in service, sustainability, and community outreach, including the CNR student council, Sustainability Council, Engineers Without Borders, Aggie Cat Services, Cache Valley Humane Society, and Common Ground. She is well-known as the director of the USU Aggie Recycler Program. "I truly believe that one can make a difference in the lives of others because it is through service that we make our communities safer, stronger, and make relationships more meaningful," Walker said.



Brooke Evans Woman of the Year

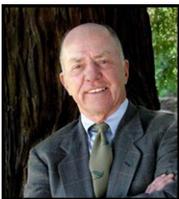
Brooke Evans is Utah State's *Woman of the Year*. She was chosen for making exceptional contributions to the university and for exemplifying traits that set her above her classmates.

Brooke is a junior studying geography, with an emphasis in sustainability in West Africa. She is a member of the USU Sustainability Council, French Club, Aggie Recyclers Club, Fair Trade and Human Rights Club, Invisible Children Club, Polyneesian Student Union, Aggies for Africa, and STAB. After graduation, she plans to work with the Peace Corps, serving the people of West Africa.



"Learning is so much more than reading books and sitting in a classroom," she said. "It is about learning from other people through life experiences. The relationships and memories that are made in college are the ones that last."

HUEY D. JOHNSON, '66 USU Honorary Degree Recipient Doctor of Natural Resources Conservation



"Honorary degrees are one of the most important ways we have to recognize people for the commitment and the sacrifices they have made to make this world a better place," said USU President Stan L. Albrecht.

Huey D. Johnson is an environmental and practical visionary, widely recognized throughout a career that spans the globe. He is founder and president of the Resource Renewal Institute, an incubator for transformational ideas about how natural resources should be managed. He is founder of many organizations, including the Aldo Leopold Society, the Grand Canyon Trust, the Trust for Public Land, and the Green Belt Movement International. He served as president of The Nature Conservancy and was its Western Regional Director for nine years. He is active in environmental affairs worldwide, serving on boards, advising political leaders, writing, and lecturing. Johnson has received numerous awards, including the President's Award for Sustainable Development in 1996 and the Sasakawa Prize, awarded by the United Nations in 2001 to honor his outstanding contributions to the environment. He received a master's degree in Wildlife Management from USU.

(Utah State Today)



Dr. Johnson speaking to the students at the CNR graduation

Other Happenings . . .

Retiring Faculty and Staff

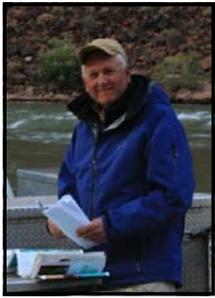
Ted Alsop, Environment and Society
Ray Dueser, Wildland Resources
Jim Kennedy, Environment and Society
Fred Provenza, Wildland Resources
Maureen Wagner, Academic Advisor
Michael Wolfe, Wildland Resources

New Books

Barbara Bentz, adjunct associate professor in Wildland Resources, and Hannah Nordhaus recently compiled a 44-page booklet, *Bark Beetle Outbreaks in North America: Causes and Consequences* as a result of the 2005 Bark Beetle Symposium.

Best Research Practices by Charles Romesburg, Professor, Department of Environment and Society, is a book for students and practitioners in the natural resources and environmental sciences.

Fred Wagner's new book, *Climate Warming in Western North America*, offers an array of scientific evidence on climate change during the 20th century. Dr. Wagner is an emeritus professor in CNR.



Undergraduate Research Mentor, Eugene Schupp

Researcher of the Year, John C. "Jack" Schmidt



Teacher of the Year, Wayne A. Wurtsbaugh

Undergraduate Teaching Fellow of the Year, Scholar of the Year, and Spring 2009 Valedictorian, Kelly J. Sivy



Undergraduate Researcher of the Year, Richard Gardner



Outstanding Senior, Dustin Ranglack

Employee of the Year, Jeff Burnham



Graduate Teaching Assistant of the Year, Tracy Bowerman



Legacy of Utah Award, Corrie Wallace

Graduate Research Assistant of the Year, David K. Dahlgren



Jardine Juniper Award, Shannon Moore



... following graduation

Anamarie Lamb, a graduate in environmental studies with minors in Portuguese, Business and Latin American studies, is planning a service adventure to Mozambique this summer with an interdisciplinary team of USU faculty and students, including Wildland Resources Department Head, Johan du Toit.

This project is the beginning step in the formation of a long-term partnership between Utah State, the Carr Foundation, and Mozambican partners to involve USU students and faculty in a variety of efforts to advance sustainable development in an area ravaged by decades of civil war, economic instability, environmental havoc, and disease.

The team will meet with USU alum and philanthropist Greg Carr, who is conducting an ambitious 20-year project to restore the 1,500-square mile wildlife reserve and surrounding communities.

"We want to give people an incentive to manage their resources. I felt I could make a difference and help people have better lives," Anamarie said.

While attending USU, Anamarie received several scholarships and served as a CNR ambassador.



Natural Resources Associate Dean Honored for Water Quality Work

Nancy Mesner, Associate Dean in Utah State University's College of Natural Resources, was honored by the Utah Division of Water Quality for her efforts in raising awareness of water quality issues among residents throughout the state.

Mesner received the division's 2009 *Calvin K. Sudweeks Water Quality Award* in an April 1 ceremony at the Utah Water Environmental Association's annual meeting in St. George.

"Nancy has developed this exemplary extension program, while also maintaining an active research program in the influence of land use on water quality and in teaching courses on oceanography, water quality and pollution," said Walt Baker, UDWQ director. "As part of the Western Regional Water Quality Extension Team, she has become well known for her expertise, good humor, and high energy in both the regional and national water quality programs."

(Utah State Today)



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Campus Memorial Tree Planting and Service Honors Beloved USU Alum

Longtime Utah State University and Cache Valley community supporter Alice Stokes was remembered with two campus ceremonies. A tree planting ceremony was held on May 8 in the courtyard on the east side of the Biology-Natural Resources building. A memorial service was held Saturday, May 9 in the International Lounge of the Taggart Student Center. A reception in the Natural Resources building atrium followed the service.

Alice died March 19, 2009, at the age of 93. She and her husband, the late Allen Stokes, moved to Cache Valley in 1952, when Allen joined the USU faculty as a professor of wildlife science. Alice earned a master's degree in communicative disorders from Utah State and helped to coordinate some of the first deaf education classes in Cache Valley.

Nature lovers and stalwart proponents of nature education, Alice and Allen were instrumental in establishing Logan Canyon's Stokes Nature Center, which was dedicated in their honor in 1997.

Donations for the tree to be planted in memory of Alice or to the Allen and Alice Stokes Memorial Scholarship can be made to the College of Natural Resources. For information contact the College of Natural Resources, (435) 797-2452 or maryann.love@usu.edu.

The maple tree honoring Alice is similar to another tree in the courtyard planted in memory of Allen following his death in 1996.

(Utah State Today)

Alice and Allen Stokes in 1990.
Photo by Pete Schropp, courtesy The Herald Journal.



Logan Canyon's Stokes Nature Center, named in honor of Alice and Allen, provides year-round opportunities for students of all ages to explore, learn about, and develop appreciation for nature. Courtesy Stokes Nature Center.

In Memory

- 1936 Frederick R. Baugh, Forestry
- 1938 Gilbert Egan, Forestry
- 1939 James Blaisdell, Range Management
- 1940 Lynn A. Griner, Ecology, Fisheries and Wildlife
- 1950 Robert N. Latzy, Forestry
- 1951 William L. Kramer, Timber Management
- 1953 Morton F. Brann, Forest Management
- 1958 Martell Applegate, General Range Management
- 1961 James K. Wright, Game Management
- 1969 William Babcock, Game Management
- 1974 John U. Johnson, Natural Resources
- 1984 Lawrence Sipprell, Recreation Resource Mgt.
- 1987 Phillip C. Morse, Natural Resources
- 2007 Brian Cardall, Ecology

Cyrus McKell, former faculty member and department head, Rangeland Resources