WILDLAND RESOURCES

MEET OUR GRADUATE STUDENT MENTORS

RYAN CHOI  LACY SMITH  ANDREW FELTON
LIZ BAILEY  TATUM DEL BOSCO  COLE BLEKE
Ryan Choi
PhD Student

Contact me!
choir@gmail.com

ABOUT ME

I have a BA in Biology from Whitman College and an MS in Ecology from Utah State. I am currently pursuing my PhD in Dr. Karen Beard’s lab, studying the impacts of climate change on ecosystem function in the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. My research is focused on how phenology of sub-arctic tundra plants and the seasonal arrival of migratory geese affect nutrient cycling and storage in a sedge-dominated ecosystem. Prior to graduate school, I spent three years working as a field technician on an array of different ecology projects including endangered species conservation, sustainable fisheries management, and wildlife surveys. I would be a suitable tutor for students looking to pursue graduate school or interested in post-graduate careers in the field.

RYAN'S AREAS OF SPECIALTY

1. Advice on looking for graduate programs
2. Help with editing personal statements for graduate programs
   3. Advice on picking a graduate program
   4. Help with contacting potential advisors
5. Alternatives to seeking graduate position announcements (NSF and other fellowships)
6. Advice on how to prepare for and what to expect from grad school
   7. Help with preparing and editing CVs and resumes
8. Advice on looking for summer/post-graduation internships
Lacy Smith
PhD Student

Contact me!
lacymsmith@aggiemail.usu.edu

ABOUT ME

I am a second-year PhD student in Wildland Resources/Ecology. Currently, I am working with Dr. Dan MacNulty on the population dynamics and predator-prey interactions of elk in northern Yellowstone National Park. My research is quantitative, not field-based, and I am using new modeling techniques to understand the role of wolves and other predators in changes to the elk population. I have a strong interest in statistics and GIS. Prior to starting my PhD, I worked for the USGS for over seven years researching waterbird populations and wetland habitat management. I completed my BS in wildlife biology at the University of California, Davis as well as an AS degree in GIS at American River College, California.

LACY’S AREAS OF SPECIALTY

1. Advice on looking for graduate programs
2. Help with editing personal statements for graduate programs
3. Advice on picking a graduate program
4. Help with contacting potential advisors
5. Alternatives to seeking graduate position announcements (NSF and other fellowships)
6. Advice on how to prepare for and what to expect from grad school
7. Help preparing and editing CVs and resumes
8. Advice on interview skills
9. Help with mock presentations or interviews
10. Advice on seeking alternative careers (Americorps, Peace Corps, etc.)
11. Advice on looking for summer/post-graduation internships
Andrew Felton
Postdoctoral research associate

Contact me!
andrew.felton@usu.edu

ABOUT ME

I am a Minnesota native who has increasingly moved westward. I enjoy playing guitar, reading, yoga, and being near mountains. I completed my PhD in ecology in 2018 at Colorado State University and am now a postdoctoral researcher in the Wildand Resources Department. My research focuses on predicting how future changes in the variability and extremity of weather patterns (e.g. drought) associated with climate change will impact the functioning and services of ecosystems, from leaf to continental scales. To this end, I combine experiments, observations, and modeling that leverage multiple data streams that range from plant ecophysiology to remote sensing.

ANDREW'S AREAS OF SPECIALTY

1. Advice on looking for graduate programs
2. Help editing personal statements for graduate programs
3. General advice on picking a graduate program
4. Help with first contacting potential advisors
5. Advice on how to prepare for and what to expect from grad school
6. Help preparing and editing CVs
7. Mock presentations or interviews
8. Advice on seeking alternative careers
Liz Bailey
Masters student

Contact me!
lizbailey@aggiemail.usu.edu

ABOUT ME

I graduated from Elon University in North Carolina with a B.A. in Public Health and a minor in Environmental Studies. Post-college I travelled to Peru where I worked as a conservation research intern with a non-profit research organization in the Amazon. While in Peru, I ran the butterfly monitoring research and assisted in developing their botanical program. After returning state-side I was hired as an Americorps intern through the Great Basin Institute working with the US Geological Survey on common garden and restoration research in the Mojave Desert. After a six-month internship I was hired by the USGS as a technician and continued similar ecological and restoration research. I worked with the USGS for two and a half years before being accepted to USU where I am doing research on restoration/rehabilitation of previously converted agricultural land back into sage-grouse habitat. My research interests include restoration ecology, conservation biology, native plant ecology, ecological monitoring, community ecology, post-disturbance succession, ecosystem services, and plant-herbivore interactions.

LIZ’S AREAS OF SPECIALTY

1. Help preparing and editing CVs
2. Mock presentations or interviews
3. Advice on seeking alternative careers
4. Advice on looking for graduate programs
5. Help editing personal statements for graduate programs
6. General advice on picking a graduate program
7. Help with first contacting potential advisors
Tatum Del Bosco
Masters Student

Contact me!
delboscotatum@gmail.com

ABOUT ME

I’m originally from California but ventured up to Canada complete my BS in Wildlife Biology & Conservation at the University of Guelph. In my free time, I love to ski, run, and climb. My interests lie in movement ecology and animal space use. My research examines the drivers of mule deer migration in Utah, and how changes in forage quality and abundance affect ungulate density through space and time.

TATUM’S AREAS OF SPECIALTY

1. Help editing personal statements for graduate programs
2. General advice on picking a graduate program
3. Help with first contacting potential advisors
4. Advice on how to prepare for and what to expect from grad school
5. Help preparing and editing CVs and resumes
ABOUT ME

Born and raised in Indiana where I attended Purdue University to receive my Bachelor’s in Wildlife Biology in 2014. From then until fall 2017 I traveled across the U.S. taking on various seasonal jobs (primarily with big game animals).

My research is focused on investigating the vital rates of adult female pronghorn antelope that influence fawn : doe ratios. To conduct this I am utilizing non-invasive sampling of fecal from adult females (i.e., does) throughout spring to fall. I’m investigating physiological measures such as stress, diet, nutrition, and pregnancy in hopes to determine any relationships across populations in Idaho.

My interests include: hiking, camping, hunting, fishing, and snowboarding. Like most folks that get into this field, you get me outdoors and I’m happy.

COLE’S AREAS OF SPECIALTY

1. Advice on looking for graduate programs
2. Help editing personal statements for graduate programs
3. General advice on picking a graduate program
4. Help with first contacting potential advisors
5. Advice on how to prepare for and what to expect from grad school
6. Help preparing and editing resumes.
7. Mock presentations or interviews
8. Advice on looking for summer/post-graduation internships