
Aug 31:
Fall Classes Begin

Oct 16:
Fall Break Cancelled

Nov 25-27:
Thanksgiving Holiday

Dec 18:
Last Day of the Semester

For details on these and other upcoming events please visit:

Photo credit: Mark Gocke WGFD
Uncertainty reigns as we prepare for the 2020 Fall Semester. Enrollments in our majors are up, but we are not sure if students will arrive in late August. Classrooms are ready for social distancing, but we fear a virus outbreak. Budget adjustments have been made, but we may have continued cuts if the economy slips. Against this background we remain thankful that our faculty and staff are healthy, that fire conditions remain manageable, and that our carbon emissions remain low.

We report on our continued efforts to educate the next generation of natural resource scientists and managers, on the state of ecosystems and wildlands throughout the world, and on our prospects for the future. We welcome new faculty in water quality management, fish ecology, geographic information science, and recreation resources. It’s a testament to our university’s statewide educational network that three of our five new faculty hires will be stationed at campuses in Moab, Price, and Blanding. We are looking forward to working more closely with students on all of our campuses.

In the meantime, we are getting COVID ready for the return of students, and their enthusiastic embrace of life and learning in the mountains surrounding Logan. We wish all of you a healthy and happy autumn.

Chris Luecke

We are either prepared for COVID-19... or we have adopted new professions as bank robbers... The QCNR Dean’s Office Staff: (L) Emily Blake, Traci Hillyard, Janelle Perry, Brian Kartchner, and Bank-Robber-In-Chief Chris Luecke
The financial picture for the Quinney College for FY 2020 (July 2019-June 2020) looks similar to previous years. Most of these dollars were in place prior to the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus. Schedules, budgets, and lives have continuously changed since then. Consequently, our financial situation may also change as we move forward. As I write this message, we are in the process of reworking the budgets for the coming academic year. We greatly appreciate the continuing support of our alumni, donors, agency sponsors, and partners as we navigate the coming times.

Funding in the Quinney College this past year has been good. The amount of external research funding has been stable for the past few years at approximately $12M annually.

Increases in private donations from alumni, supporters, and friends have been overwhelming and allows us to continue to support students, to initiate new research ventures, and increase public awareness of the urgent national concerns for natural resources sustainability.

Our faculty continue to diversify their research funding. New funding from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Bureau of Land Management allowed us to continue projects on the conservation of desert fishes and the management of wild horses and burros. Kudos to Drs. Phaedra Budy and Terry Messmer for shepherding these projects through several years of budget turmoil.

**Major Research Funding**

- **Dr. Peter Adler**, National Science Foundation, Rules of Life Program. “Using reaction norms to link genomic and phenotypic variation with regional-scale population responses to environmental change”, $1.8 million.
- **Dr. Trisha Atwood, Dr. Karen Beard, and Dr. Bonnie Waring**, National Science Foundation award to assess carbon cycling dynamics in arctic costal wetlands, $1.4 million.
- **Dr.Chuck Hawkins**, Department of Defense grant to identify optimal land use options for protecting sensitive species, $1.57 million.
- **Dr. Roslynn McCann**, USDA Grant to connect low-income, at-risk populations to Utah farmers and farmer’s markets, $494,000.
- **Dr. Chris Monz** received an $830,000 grant from the Natural Communities Coalition to study the socio-ecological implications of outdoor recreation on natural areas in Orange County, California.
- **Dr. Larissa Yocom, Dr. Brendan Murphy** and **Dr. Patrick Belmont** received $445,159 from the U.S. Joint Fire Science Program to predict the impacts of post-wildfire sedimentation on Utah’s reservoirs and critical fish populations.
Graduation

The Quinney College of Natural Resources acknowledges the hard work and resilience of the 2020 graduating class. Despite the challenges of our spring semester, this cohort of graduates demonstrated the ability to adapt quickly to a changing environment and meet the challenge head on. The intrinsic motivation of our graduates will allow them to move successfully into the work force. In total, 99 undergraduates and 52 graduate students completed their degrees during the 2019-2020 academic year. We wish them all the best as they move into their professional careers.

Graduate Student Highlights

Gavin Cotterill received his Ph.D. in Ecology from the Department of Wildland Resources in January of 2020. During the preceding four years he was an S.J. and Jessie E. Quinney doctoral research fellow working with Dr. Johan du Toit. Gavin studied a globally-important zoonotic bacterial disease, Brucellosis, and how the disease is able to persist and spread among wild elk herds. He published three chapters of his dissertation in peer-reviewed journals, with another publication forthcoming. Gavin now has the position of Bighorn Sheep Biologist with the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife. His job involves the analysis and modelling of epidemiological data on pulmonary disease in bighorn sheep.

2020 Graduate Degrees

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MNR:</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENVS MS:</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>WILD MS:</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>WILD PhD:</td>
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Undergraduate Student Highlights

Stetson West graduated with a degree in Wildlife Ecology and Management. During his last two years with the Quinney College of Natural Resources, Stetson played a major leadership role in the establishment of the Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BHA) student chapter. The club has seen tremendous success and has allowed many of our hunting and public land advocates to connect with like-minded students. Stetson spent five months this fall completing the rigorous conservation officer employment process. He was one of six individuals to receive a position in Utah out of hundreds of applicants. Stetson is now working for the Fillmore District.

In 2018, Ryan West spent his summer completing an REU experience at the Toolik Field Station in Alaska. This experience set the stage for a successful and exciting career in fisheries. Ryan graduated in spring 2020 with a degree in Fisheries and Aquatic Science with a minor in Geographic Information Science and Unarmed Aerial Vehicles. This summer Ryan is the Lead Stream Technician for the USFS PIBO program based out of Logan.

Tim Woodruff graduated with a BS in Environmental Studies in December. Last fall, he entered Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs - Master of Public Administration Program with an emphasis in environmental science and policy. His internship with the Utah Legislature during their 2020 general session cemented his interest in public policy work. After graduating from Columbia he plans to work in public policy in Washington, DC, focusing on climate and environmental policy. “My time at the QCNR gave me an incredible education, direction for my career, and life-long friends. I will always be a proud Aggie!”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2020 Degrees by Area</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Environmental studies: 19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geography: 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recreation Resource Management: 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fisheries: 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aquatic Ecosystems: 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conservation &amp; Restoration: 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forestry: 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Range: 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wildlife Ecology: 24</td>
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<td>General Studies: 6</td>
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WILD | ENVS | WATS

Graduation Trends
Undergraduate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>WILD</th>
<th>ENVS</th>
<th>WATS</th>
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<td>2016</td>
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<td>2020</td>
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Department of Wildland Resources

Department Head Changes

After 8 years as the Wild Department Head, Dr. Mike Kuhns stepped down and back into his faculty position on July 10 and moved to S.L.C. Mike enjoyed and was very effective in his role as Department Head, helping faculty, students, and staff with their important work and study.

Dr. Karen Mock, a WILD faculty member since 2002, is the new WILD Department Head. She will be the first female to serve as a Department Head in QCNR history, and is looking forward to her new role. As a Department Head, her priority will be strengthening relationships with state and federal management agencies to better connect science and management.

New Appointments

Dr. Justin DeRose, Assistant Professor, started his faculty position in Fall 2019. His research focus is forest ecosystem dynamics and the interplay between climate change, disturbances, and vegetation demographics.

Dr. Eric LaMalfa, Assistant Professor, hit the ground running in Fall 2019. He has a focus on WILD undergraduate teaching, and has a background in rangeland and forest ecology.

Dr. Sunshine Brosi, Associate Professor, will be teaching WILD undergraduate courses at the USU Eastern campus in Price, Utah, starting Fall 2020. She has an extensive background in ethnobotany and forest ecology, and brings her experience working with Native American tribes.

Dr. David Stoner, Research Assistant Professor, brings to WILD his expertise in landscape ecology, which involves research on habitat fragmentation, animal movement and demographics, and resource selection. David was involved in a 2020 publication in Nature Ecology and Evolution on how “sensory pollution” impacts animal survival.

Dr. Frank Howe, an avian ecologist and research specialist with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) for over 25 years, was appointed as USU’s first Associate Professor State Cooperator. He will serve as a liaison between USU and UDWR.
Focus on Wildlife Diseases

There is nothing like a pandemic to focus public attention on disease transmission, so this is a great time to highlight the pioneering work of three WILD faculty on disease transmission in wildlife. These faculty and others in WILD are making major contributions to our understanding of wildlife diseases and how to improve management approaches to minimize transmission.

Dr. Kezia Manlove joined the WILD faculty in 2018. Her current work focuses on *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* ("M. ovi"), a respiratory pathogen that causes catastrophic die-offs and long-term population declines in bighorn sheep throughout the Intermountain West. This pathogen is introduced into bighorn herds through direct contact between herd members and infected domestic sheep nearby. Dr. Manlove’s lab works with management agencies in several states to improve strategies for separating bighorn sheep from their domestic cousins, in hopes of reducing risk of pathogen introduction. Infected herds are managed through removal of infected animals or complete depopulation in severely affected herds. We are very proud to have Dr. Manlove as a member of WILD!

Dr. Mary Conner is conducting research on chronic wasting disease in deer and elk. She is currently working on a large meta-analysis on chronic wasting disease and harvest management in a project spanning five states and provinces. Mary is also working with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife on demographic and integrated population models for mule deer, elk, bighorn sheep, pronghorn, elk, bear and lion. Her population models for ungulates will be especially valuable for understanding disease transmission and how different management strategies can be used to mitigate transmission rates.

Dr. Johan du Toit studies the ecology of large mammals in various ecosystems ranging from the rangelands of the western U.S. to the Savannas of Africa. Understanding the diseases of large mammals is important for their conservation, as well as livestock production and human health. Johan has run several projects focused on diseases including *Bovine tuberculosis* in African buffalo, rabies in African wild dogs, and recently brucellosis in Rocky Mountain elk. Brucellosis is a bacterial disease that moves between cattle and elk populations. Johan and his graduate student Gavin Cotterill have recently been working with colleagues in Montana and Wyoming to understand the impact of Brucellosis on elk reproduction, and the effectiveness of various management interventions aimed at reducing the prevalence of this costly disease.

Promotions

Dr. Jim Lutz and Dr. Andrew Kulmatiski were both tenured and promoted to Associate Professors in July 2019. Both also enjoyed sabbaticals this past year, at least until COVID hit. Congratulations to both of these researchers!

New Group: WILD Alumni and Friends

We are happy to announce the establishment of a new group for WILD graduates and natural resource professionals. This group is for alumni and professionals who want to give back by helping to mentor future WILD students. Read more and join up here, if you haven’t already: qcnr.usu.edu/wild/about/alumni_and_friends
The COVID-19 pandemic and renewed attention to racial inequities make 2020 a year of special challenges, to which ENVS is rising. Not only face-to-face, broadcast and online, but synergistic teaching methods such as “blended web-broadcast” that maximize the use of both Canvas and Zoom. They are the means through which the necessity to adapt to the pandemic is being seized as an opportunity to modernize our pedagogy for the new technological era that is upon us. This will make ENVS even better able to serve our students—all students, from all backgrounds as ENVS faculty unanimously committed in our statement on diversity.

Meeting the challenges of 2020

In early 2020, the Department of Environment and Society conducted an external review, performed every seven years. This presented an opportunity to showcase how far we’ve come since 2013. Majors and student credit hours climbed about 30 percent from 2014 to 2019. The esteemed review team (Billie Lee Turner of Arizona State, Lynn Huntsinger of UC-Berkeley and Paul Jakus of Applied Economics at USU) concluded that “ENVS has taken major steps to reorganize and strengthen its capacity to serve its degree granting role and its national standing among environment and society programs nationwide.” Even more markedly, research funding, publications and citations are all on the rise.

ENVS passed the million-dollar mark for grants for the first time in fiscal year 2017, and then again in 2018 and is spending about a million dollars per year on research projects. Peer-reviewed publications passed 50 for the first time in 2018 and then again in 2019. Citations to articles by ENVS faculty doubled from 1800 in 2014 to 3600 in 2019. The review team concluded “Analysis of the number and quality of departmental publications revealed strong upward trends. Contributors include both senior and junior faculty members, and members of all research groups. ENVS has achieved an unmistakable improvement in this output measure.” The credit goes all around.
ENVS Faculty Highlights

In August, Dr. Mariya Shcheglovitova will join the ENVS faculty as a tenure-track assistant professor in Geographic Information Science (GIS), the area in which she will be teaching. Hailing from Ukraine, then Brooklyn, and completing her PhD in Geography at the University of Maryland-Baltimore in 2020, Dr. Shcheglovitova is a convert from the biological to the social sciences. Her dissertation uses GIS to study issues of urban political ecology, of unequal access to nature’s gifts.

Dr. Gustavo Ovando-Montejo joins the ENVS faculty in August at the USU-Blanding Campus as a tenure-track assistant professor. A Mexican immigrant who identifies as Mayan, Dr. Ovando-Montejo is also a geospatial analyst interested in land management and land tenure. He earned his PhD in Geography from Oklahoma State University in 2018 and is currently completing a post-doc at the Logan Campus. Gustavo will be teaching courses in land and range management as well as GIS and quantitative methods, both face-to-face for the majority Navajo student population in Blanding, and on-line, where his experience and skills could not be timelier.

Coming to us from Clemson University, Dr. Wayne Freimund joined ENVS at the USU-Moab Campus on April 1 as a tenured Professor, bolstering both that campus and the Recreation Resources Management (RRM) program. A prominent name in outdoor recreation and visitor use management, Dr. Freimund is perfectly positioned in Moab to conduct research on managing the ever-increasing numbers of visitors to our public lands. He will also be teaching in our burgeoning RRM program.

Congratulations go to Dr. Jordan Smith, Director of the Institute of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism (IORT), for achieving tenure and promotion to Associate Professor. In 2019, IORT was granted additional funding through the Public Lands Initiative, and in 2020 hired Dr. Anna Miller as Assistant Director of Research and Operations and Mr. Chase Lamborn as Assistant Director of Outreach and Education. IORT’s rapid progress, combined with the addition of Drs. Zach Miller and Wayne Freimund to a faculty that retains Professor Chris Monz, makes the Recreation Resources Management team in ENVS unsurpassed in the U.S. The starry night skies, unpolluted by unnatural light, and the soundscapes of wild landscapes are the limit.
Dr. Peter Wilcock stepped down as Head of the Department of Watershed Sciences in June this past year. Peter served well in his 6-year term establishing a new Bachelor of Science degree program Management and Restoration of Aquatic Ecosystems, and a new graduate certificate in Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration. Dr. Wilcock was hoping to begin a sabbatical year in New Zealand this summer, but COVID-19 has delayed these plans.

Dr. Patrick Belmont was selected as the new Department Head this spring. Patrick will be working to improve workforce development training for the WATS undergrad programs, introducing professional development opportunities in the WATS graduate program, and bolstering USU’s Restoration Consortium. Patrick continues in his role on the Faculty Senate leadership team, where he successfully shepherded an initiative on USU’s response to climate change, has worked to develop USU Covid-19 policies and has negotiated numerous changes to faculty policies.

New Faculty

Dr. Erin Rivers is an ecohydrologist and biogeochemist focused on addressing runoff and nonpoint source pollution concerns in urban landscapes. Born and raised in the Midwest, Erin spent much of her life on the lake which motivated her pursuits in water resource conservation. She’s since split her time between the east and west coasts, receiving an MS in Earth Sciences from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, a PhD in Environmental Sciences from Portland State University, and completing a postdoc in Soil Sciences at North Carolina State University. Erin’s research investigates interactions between water, plants, and soil/sediment to inform watershed best management practices in soils, streams, and green stormwater infrastructure.

Dr. Timothy Walsworth has been fascinated by fish and their habitats ever since he first caught a trout on a family camping trip to Colorado. He followed his passion for fish through his B.S. in Zoology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and M.S. in Ecology at Utah State University. He earned his Ph.D. at the University of Washington, where he explored how predator-prey interactions and the economic constraints of multiple stakeholder groups affect the optimal harvest strategy in Alaskan salmon fisheries. Tim’s research program focuses on how fish populations respond to environmental and management changes, and how stakeholders can best manage aquatic ecosystems in the face of unavoidable uncertainty. In his spare time, he enjoys fishing, hunting, playing music and evenings spent around a campfire.
In the semi-arid Intermountain West, the Great Salt Lake and its wetlands are an oasis for wildlife including millions of birds on the Pacific and Central Flyways. Dr. Karin Kettenring and graduate students in the Wetland Ecology and Restoration Lab (WERL) are focused on deepening understanding of this globally renowned ecosystem and, in turn, improving wetland management and restoration.

Plant communities form the foundation of Great Salt Lake wetland habitat. Unfortunately, this vegetation is being negatively impacted by the invasive grass *Phragmites australis* (common reed), an interloper from Eurasia that has come to dominate wetlands across North America. WERL researchers have spent many years deciphering what makes invasive phragmites so successful (seeds, nutrients, and disturbances) and how to get rid of it (largely through strategically timed herbicide, mowing, and grazing). Now they’re turning their attention to reestablishing lost native vegetation and the habitat it supports using seed-based wetland revegetation approaches.

Given the scale of restoration need, seeding native plants (as opposed to planting them individually) is the most cost-effective approach for managers. However, seeds and seedlings of plants are extremely vulnerable to small changes in temperature, light, salinity, and moisture; mortality of seeds and seedlings can exceed 95-99% in the field. WERL researchers are focused on how to overcome this demographic bottleneck through increased understanding of the seed and seedling needs of native wetland plants. On-going research projects are addressing questions such as: What is the optimal time to sow native seeds into restoration to maximize seedling establishment? At what density should seeds be sown to best compete against returning invasive phragmites? Can we predict which native species will thrive under different environmental conditions to inform which species should be included in restoration seed mixes? By addressing these questions, we will be one step closer to restoring Great Salt Lake wetlands to their former majestic state.

**Microplastics in Rain**

Dr. Janice Brahney’s research on the microplastic rain that falls on our forests, rangelands, lakes and streams was published in Science this July (*Brahney et al. 2020. Plastic Rain in Protected Areas of the United States. Science, DOI: 10.1126/science.aaz5819*). This report was the first of its kind to document the ubiquitous nature of plastic deposition from the atmosphere. Janice’s research was highlighted in a number of major media outlets, resulting in the NY Times asking Janice to write an editorial for their opinion page ([www.nytimes.com/2020/06/25/opinion/plastic-air-pollution.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/25/opinion/plastic-air-pollution.html)). Brahney comments, “We’re breathing in microplastics. That can’t be good.” It’s great to see QCNR research highlighted in the national and international news. Congratulations Janice.
SU Ecology Center Faculty Researchers Dr. Trisha Atwood, Dr. Bonnie Waring, and Dr. Karen Beard received a National Science Foundation grant this year to study the impact of migrating, herbaceous birds on the carbon cycle. Plant eating birds can affect the carbon cycle both through herbivory and by changing microbial communities, but little is known about how waterfowl affect the carbon-cycle in one of the world’s largest river deltas, the Yukon-Kushkowim Delta in Alaska. Atwood and her fellow researchers chose this research topic because they wanted to challenge the assumption that animals don’t matter in carbon cycling. Additionally, the team is partnering with local Alaskan school districts to involve underrepresented students in STEM. Their hope is that this grant will not only allow them to contribute meaningful research to the field of global change ecology, but also promote a more diverse future STEM workforce.

Society of Professional Journalism Recognitions

Two Ecology doctoral students, Ashley Rhode and Leslie Forero, received recognition from the Utah Headliners chapter of the Society of Professional Journalism for their work as interns at Utah Public Radio. Rhode received First Place in Education for her coverage of the annual Greenpower Utah race. Forero received Second Place in Business and Consumer for her article explaining the economics of recycling contaminated plastics. To read these and other award winning articles from 2019-2020 follow this link: https://www.upr.org/post/utah-public-radio-receives-13-spj-awards-former-usu-journalism-professor-honored. You can also listen to more great stories from Ecology Center Interns by listening to the live stream of Morning Addition (6am-9pm MST) and All Things Considered (3pm-6pm MST) on www.upr.org.
The Navajo Nation, located in the four-corners region of Utah, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico, has been devastated by the global Coronavirus Pandemic. The Ecology Center is proud that among the volunteers in the relief efforts were Ecology doctoral students Elizabeth Simpson, Megan Kepas, and Hannah Wilson. All three were facilitators in USU’s 2020 Native American Summer Mentorship Program (NASMP), a summer research program for Native American students studying at USU’s Blanding campus. In addition to directing the 2020 NASMP research program remotely, these Ecology Grads sewed masks and collected cleaning supplies, food, and baby care items to be sent to the Navajo Nation. Anyone interested in making a monetary donation to assist in COVID-19 relief for the Navajo Nation can do so at www.navajostrong.com.

Climate Adaptation Science Program

USU’s Climate Adaptation Science program, which is funded by a National Research Traineeship grant from the National Science Foundation, wrapped up a great academic year and accomplished much despite the difficulties associated with COVID-19. Our 4th cohort was the first group of students to start the program under the newly-revised curriculum and are well on their way in developing a great research project on wildfire perceptions in the western U.S. Cohort 3 completed CAS Studio was split into three groups, each of which developed research projects. Those projects involving, goshawks, water regimes associated with cannabis growth in the Emerald Triangle, and the development of a sustainable restoration plan for the Boa Ogoi Bear River Massacre site in southern Idaho. Our new cohort will consist of 8 to 9 students, which is a great improvement in enrollment, and is reflective of the program’s success over this past year. We look forward to seeing the program succeed again this year with the great contributions of our faculty and new and current students. Learn more at: climateadaptation.usu.edu
The 2019-2020 fundraising year has continued to remind us how grateful we are for the alumni, foundations, friends, faculty, and staff that provide unwavering support for the S.J. and Jessie E. Quinney College of Natural Resources. A total of 268 gifts from 191 distinct donors totaling $1,463,000 was received in FY20. Because of donors like you, 77 QCNR students received scholarships totaling $125,500 for the 2020-21 academic year and 8 students were placed in paid summer internships through agency and NGO partnerships. Additionally, QCNR faculty continue to produce innovative and cutting-edge natural resources research with the help of endowed chair positions. Whether you contributed to a scholarship fund, internship fund, faculty research, or the student emergency hardship fund, we appreciate your help in supporting students and research in the College.

Foundation Support

The S.J. and Jessie E. Quinney and Janet Quinney Lawson Foundation continues to have a profound impact on QCNR students and faculty through their generous donations. In 2020, the foundation surpassed a huge milestone of providing scholarship funding to over 200 students as Quinney Scholars over the past 30 years. The College is grateful for the transformational funding these Foundations continue to invest in the QCNR and its students. To see a full impact report on foundation funding, visit the QCNR website.

36 Loyal Years of Giving - James Yearwood

Yearwood, a '81 Forestry alumnus, has been giving back to the College of Natural Resources for 36 years. This lasting commitment is one that makes James one of a handful of QCNR donors that have given for more than 30 years. He began donating only a few years after he graduated in 1981.

“I made a donation to the USU Development Fund of a whole $25 in November of 1984. Even that surprised me because I know that I was really broke in those days. When I was attending USU, I always felt that they (USU) were very supportive of the students and provided an outstanding educational experience. To this day, it is something I have always deeply appreciated. It obviously left an impression on me because, even when I was dead broke in the 1980’s, I felt it was important enough to make small donations to show my support to the University that I know was, and is, providing much needed support to the students. It’s just my little way of saying thank you USU and College of Natural Resources.”

Between contributions to the student emergency hardship fund, deans fund, and the Quinney Research Library, James has been nothing short of dedicated to the success of the Quinney College of Natural Resources. The College appreciates James’ stalwart commitment to the QCNR’s continued success.
Robert ‘79 Forestry alumni and Andrea Weyand have generously included the Quinney College of Natural Resources in their estate plan to establish an endowed student scholarship in forestry. After successful and impactful careers in the oil and gas industry, environmental management, and the insurance industry, Robert is now enjoying retirement in Denver Colorado. “The knowledge and lasting friendships made during my years at Utah State gave me the ability to move forward with my career choices, and have been an integral part of my life ever since. Hopefully, future students who receive financial support will do something meaningful in their careers. And with that in mind, I am just paying it forward.”

Merilyn B. Reeves Research Fund

Merilyn and the late Milt Reeves, USU College of Humanities and Social Sciences and Natural Resource alumni respectively, have been very generous supporters of the Quinney College of Natural Resources and Quinney Library for many years.

Merilyn recently established the Merilyn B. Reeves Research fund to provide funding for QCNR undergraduate research. These projects are often a student’s first exposure to research experience. Funds like those Merilyn provides helps students obtain real world experience that further their pursuit of employment once they graduate. We are grateful for the Reeves’ support and dedication to educating today’s students to create tomorrow’s leaders.

Daniel M. Lien Endowed Scholarship

Daniel Lien an ’78 Outdoor Recreation (now Recreation Resource Management) alumni, established an endowed scholarship for students majoring in Recreation Resource Management. The College is grateful for Dan’s generosity and looks forward to awarding students for many years to come. After graduating from USU, Dan became a U.S. Navy Officer where he enjoyed a 20-year career, spending most of his time on the West Coast. He earned a Master’s of Science degree in Financial Management while in the Navy, which led to a second 20-year career in financial services.

Dan finally followed his passion for the great outdoors and applied his USU degree as a Park Ranger at Mount Rainier National Park during the summer months of 2019. He intends to work in our National Parks in the years ahead. A student of life, he understands the value of a good education. The first recipient of the Daniel M. Lien Endowed scholarship is Mary Santangelo, a Recreation Resource Management major studying at USU’s Moab campus. Upon being awarded, Mary wrote, “The financial aid of the scholarship award alleviates an enormous weight off of my shoulders, and the scholastic recognition has been tremendously encouraging. I sincerely thank you for your generosity, and hope you recognize the positive difference you have made in my life.”

Robert and Andrea Weyand Planned Gift

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Merilyn Reeves

Milt Reeves

Daniel Lien

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