The Corona-virus and subsequent health and social issues presented new challenges to the USU community this spring. After a calm beginning to the semester we were faced with the challenge of moving all courses to remote delivery modes in an effort to maintain student learning and skills training. QCNR faculty did a tremendous job in facilitating this conversion. Special kudos go out to the faculty who put tremendous effort into converting lectures and field exercises to video and special meetings. The students have been great, showing patience and resilience with this disruption in their academic lives, in some cases their livelihoods.

These unique situations caused us to cancel the QCNR Awards Banquet that was to be held on April 18th of 2020 and to postpone commencement ceremonies originally scheduled on April 30th. We are working to celebrate the successes of our students, staff and faculty, and honor our graduating seniors. Stay tuned for how you can participate.

Chris Luecke, Dean
Our New Quinney Scholars

The Quinney Scholars Program has been providing four-year support for incoming students for over 30 years. These students are exceptional in their academic and community pursuits.

**Anais Barrientos**
I’m graduating from Box Elder High School in Brigham City, Utah and intend to study Conservation and Restoration Ecology this fall. I love to be outdoors any chance I get doing things like snowboarding.

**Cristina Chirvasa**
I was born in Timisoara, Romania - where I had little access to nature outside of the local zoo and city parks. Perhaps this deprivation is what began my desire to enter the Natural Resources field.

**Jed Ross**
I am graduating from Skyline High School in Salt Lake City. I am excited to explore the different majors and see what the Quinney College of Natural Resources can provide for me.

**Jenna Mills**
I will be graduating from Corner Canyon High School this May. I am excited to study Management & Restoration of Aquatic Ecosystems and Environmental Engineering. One day, I would love to kayak the fjords of Norway.

**Tristan Doyle**
I am graduating from Foothill High School in Henderson, Nevada. My ultimate goal is to use my degree to become a wildlife biologist, doing predominantly fieldwork. I spend my free time tracking, researching, locating, and photographing wildlife.

**Kaylee Berry**
Kaylee will graduate from Skyridge High School in Lehi, Utah and says, “I think an important part of attending college is not only taking classes, but also having the full college experience that will help you realize what you were born to do and become the person you were meant to be.”
Christian Stewart
I will be graduating from Madison High School in Idaho. Ever since I was a kid I have always loved waterways and how they interact with the environment, so I will be studying Management and Restoration of Aquatic Ecosystems. I love hiking, camping, and exploring nature and never get tired of seeing another river, lake, or natural landscape and seeing what I can learn about it.

Logan Ballard
I will be graduating from Wells High School in Wells Nevada. I plan on studying rangeland management and ecology at the Quinney College of Natural Resources. I have lived on a ranch in rural Nevada my whole life, instilling in me a passion for the outdoors and natural resources. I chose rangeland management because I believe it will give me the opportunity to preserve one of the greatest resources in the world.

March of 2020 have been unprecedented times with the world-wide pandemic of Novel Coronavirus, and the closure of USU campus as we moved to remotely taught classes and working from home in self-isolation. On top of all that March 18, 2020 brought a 5.7 earthquake to Utah. We have had to step back and reimagine our traditional ways of recognizing the new Quinney Scholars. Please join together in welcoming the scholars who will join USU this fall.

The Quinney College of Natural Resources awarded $146,500 in scholarships to 70 students for their tuition and other expenses during the 2020-21 academic year. We thank our scholarship committee led by Claudia Radel, Associate Dean, and Shelly Kotynek, Student Service Director. This was the largest pool of funds ever awarded by the college with 62 undergraduates and eight graduate receiving funding.

We especially thank all of our donors for their support during these difficult times. The QCNR community looks forward to watching our students prosper next year with the support of the college and careful guidance of our faculty and staff.
Ten students from the USU Fire Club travelled to New Jersey over Spring Break to learn about the fire management techniques used by the New Jersey Forest Fire Service.

After taking a red-eye flight across the country, they were picked up at 6:00 a.m. and taken to a YMCA camp to check in. Each received equipment for the day, then were transported to the field sites to begin training on prescribed fires.

Jordan Hanson, Forest Ecology and Management student and former president of the Fire Club explains a typical day, “We would go to work at about 8:30 a.m., get a briefing from the supervisor and receive our assignment. Each day we received different responsibilities such as lighting the fires or helping with the engines (trucks) to put the fire out if it got out of containment. We worked until 5:00 or 6:00 p.m”.

This trip had many benefits. For students who had no previous fire management experience, it gave them the opportunity to get paid while gaining knowledge and qualifications to put on their resume. In other words, it provided skills and experience they could not get in a classroom and offered great networking opportunities. If the student decides they want firefighting as a summer job, they can now find a fire job wherever they want to work.

Hanson adds, “For those who have fire experience, such as myself, they can work on qualifications and advance their careers”.

Each of the students came away with knowledge of how the New Jersey Forest Fires Service handles the complex issues of fire management. Some are similar to the West and others are quite different.
2020 is the 150th anniversary of suffrage for Utah women and the 100th anniversary of suffrage for women throughout the United States. Utah State University declared 2020 as the Year of the Woman to celebrate the accomplishments and milestones of women. The Quinney College of Natural Resources has made a commitment to honor these women by conducting a research project focused on archival work and collection of alumnae history.

Three students, Jamie Butikofer, Maria Catalano, and Rachel Chamberlain, have been conducting this project within the Quinney College of Natural Resources with the support and guidance from Associate Dean Claudia Radel, the college’s associate dean, to collect and store the stories of QCNR alumnae to allow easy and expanded access to current and future students and faculty. The College of Natural Resources has a long and strong history of male presence and achievement. By documenting the stories of women who have positively impacted the university, their professions and their communities, we hope to share their inspirational voices with Aggies past, present and future.

The research group has received support from faculty throughout the college in contacting alumnae and past faculty members. With the help of the Patsy Palacios, the Quinney College of Natural Resources Library Director, they have accessed and read through yearbooks dating back to the 1950s and scanned images of the first recorded women to be enrolled in the College of Natural Resources. In January, the College sent out an email to all alumnae requesting stories, artifacts, photographs, and memories from time spent engaged with the College of Natural Resources.

The research group is grateful for the participation they have received from alumnae thus far. They have successfully completed four in-person interviews and seven over-the-phone/email interviews. Rachel Chamberlain, a senior studying Conservation and Restoration Ecology, shared that this project has, “helped [her] to see a future for [her]self in the field of natural resources, knowing that so many women from the QCNR have gone on to do incredible things and started in the same exact place [she] did.” This is the goal of the project—to inspire women to follow in the footsteps of the pioneering women before them and to give recognition to the women who have transformed the College.

The researchers anticipated presenting their findings at the QCNR Banquet in April. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic the banquet has been cancelled. While the group will not be able to formally present their project, they are planning on creating a video presentation which will be linked on the College’s official webpage and played on the TV screens in the NR atrium.
Our 2019-2020 Award Recipients

As we blaze new ways of extending our appreciation and recognition for the hard work that the faculty and staff and students of QCNR engage in. Their exceptional efforts continue to make great things happen in education, research, and extension.

Even though we may not have been able to gather together for our annual banquet this year in our current world of social distancing, we virtually can come together here and recognize their great work, dedication, and commitment.

**QCNR Employee of the Year:**
This award recognizes excellence in initiative, professional attitude, reliability, efficiency, motivation, quality/quantity of work, and cooperativeness with co-workers. Becky exemplifies all of these qualities.

Becky Hirst

**QCNR Staff Researcher of the Year:**
Brendan will be leaving us for a faculty position in June. Over the past three years Brendan has distinguished himself as an exceptionally versatile hydrologist and eco-geomorphic modeler.

Brendan Murphy

**QCNR Faculty University Service:**
The QCNR Faculty University Service Award is given each year to recognize and emphasize excellence in service to the operations and governance of the University. Layne Coppock is a prime example of service to the college, the university, and the community.

Layne Coppock

**QCNR Teacher of the Year:**
The QCNR Teacher of the Year Award is given each year to recognize and emphasize excellence in teaching with a teaching load of at least 6 credit hours per year, including one 3-credit undergraduate course. QCNR recognizes Shannon Belmont for her amazing teaching and instruction.

Shannon Belmont

**QCNR Undergraduate Research Mentor of the Year:**
This award emphasizes excellence in academic mentoring of undergraduate students and engagement outside the classroom, including as a faculty advisor, club advisor. Sarah personifies this with her work with students in the SOSNR club.

Sarah Klain

**QCNR Undergraduate Researcher of the Year:**
Lauren Tango’s work on my NSF INFEWS project has been at the level of a graduate student working on a thesis. She has also been chosen for an URCO Award and for the Utah Conference on Undergraduate Research.

Lauren Tango

**QCNR Undergraduate Research and ENVS Senior of the Year:**

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**QCNR Legacy of Utah State Award:**
Angelia exemplifies transformation of a thoughtful academic. She is focused and determined to become what a legacy of USU is. She is completely committed to her education and participates in many QCNR activities and in student groups beyond her classes.

**QCNR Master’s Student Researcher of the Year:**
Mark was awarded a prestigious NSF Graduate research fellowship. He is a co-author on a published journal article in 2019 stemming from work he did as an undergraduate, and has another peer-reviewed journal article as a co-author in revision.

**QCNR Graduate Mentor:**
Karin Kettenring has been awarded the USU Graduate Mentor of the Year Award for her unwavering dedication to supporting her graduate students and providing endless opportunities for her students to grow personally and prepare for a career beyond graduation.

**QCNR Doctoral Student Researcher of the Year:**
Gavin is an outstanding graduate student. Published multiple times in top-tier journals and a PhD dissertation that was accepted by his committee without a single change or edit. Gavin leads out as the Doctoral Student Researcher of the Year.

**QCNR Graduate Student Teacher of the Year:**
Jack took on the role of teaching our Fish Diversity class only weeks before the semester started. He not only put together a great lecture course but made this class enjoyable yet incredibly informational.

**QCNR Faculty Researcher of the Year:**
Each year the college recognizes a faculty for his or her excellence in research, scholarship or creative activity over the past 3 years. Janice Brahney has been selected for this recognition for her work in climate change, dust and micro-plastics.

**QCNR Scholar and WATS Senior of the Year, Class Valedictorian:** Kenen Goodwin

**QCNR Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Fellow:** Tyler Hatch

**Jardine Juniper:**
The Jardine Juniper Award is a special recognition in that the awardee is chosen by the students in QCNR for a graduating senior who has made the biggest impact on the college. Congratulations Rachel, and thank you for all your hard work this year.

**WILD & QCNR Senior of the Year:**
Ethan has had an extremely productive year which is evidenced by his recognition of being not only the Wildlife Resources Department Senior of the Year but also the College Senior of the Year and the Goldwater Recipient for Utah State University.
Self-isolating at "The Beav"