Changes Proposed in CNR Curriculum

By Christy Shumway

The College of Natural Resources’ new curriculum proposal became public last Wednesday night during a professor review and is now available both in the atrium and on the CNR student web page at www.cnr.usu.edu/student/academicmeeting.pdf

The proposed changes are aimed at creating a curriculum that is simpler to understand, with more emphasis placed on interdisciplinary learning, problem solving and critical thinking skills.

Although similar to the current programs in its general requirements, the new curriculum allows students to graduate with a major of natural resources and specialize within this major by choosing an area of emphasis.

Changes could begin with replacement of the current half-year capstone with a one-year program. In a fall class, students from different specializations would identify issues in a management area and take data. During the spring they would analyze the data and plan management strategies.

Natural resource core classes would be reorganized as well. Emphasis in these three core classes would be placed on critical thinking. Hands-on experience and collaborative discussions would replace the typical lecture format.

No date has been set for the proposed curriculum to take effect, but Dr. Sharik, co-chair of the curriculum committee, said that changes could begin as soon as fall 2001. He has stressed that this proposal is only a draft that may or may not be put into practice.

Dr. Sharik has encouraged student ideas and questions about the proposed curriculum. A student forum will be held on Thursday, April 27th to incorporate student ideas into the proposal. If students have questions or comments they can e-mail Dr. Sharik at tlsharik@cc.usu.edu.

“Fee” Addresses College of Natural Resources

Dear Fellow Learners:

I started to address you as fellow students, but decided that was not fully appropriate. I decided on fellow “learners” to emphasize how much all of us in the College of Natural Resources have in common.

We are all seeking to learn more about the natural resources that we care so much about. We are seeking to learn how to interact with each other in ways that create the most productive learning environment possible in the College as well as to prepare ourselves for a lifetime of interactions that will affect our success as natural resource stewards, managers, scientists, and administrators.

While we have different roles -- undergraduate and graduate students, teachers, and administrators -- I know that we must all work together to make everyone’s experience in the College the best possible.

I think this has been a great year for the College. I congratulate all of you for your efforts and your successes. I encourage you to look at any efforts that came up short as opportunities for enhanced learning (I have much experience learning from my mistakes and failures). For those of you graduating, I wish you great success in life. Please stay in touch. For those of you who will be back next year, I wish you a great summer. I look forward to working with you next year.

I wish all of you the very best.

F. E. “Fee” Busby, Dean
Watch Out, Here She Comes!

By Dominic Bachman

Recently during a “grueling” election campaign where she ran unopposed, Sandra Keil barely edged out the competition and became our new CNR senator. So who is this girl?

Sandra is a sophomore majoring in Environmental Studies. She comes to USU all the way from Grand Canyon, Arizona. She started working for the park service during her junior year of high school. In high school she was an officer in student government. She also played volleyball, basketball, softball, ran track, and was on her school’s Go-Go dancing team. Sandra graduated as valedictorian.

Sandra can usually be found within a few steps of the NR building at any time, day or night. She decided to come to USU because so many influential people in her life have come here and because USU is known for having a good environmental studies program.

Sandra is currently the Forestry Club president. She just got back from logger’s conclave where she acquired a very large bruise and a sixth place finish during the log running competition.

Sandra has also been an active member of ECOS and has been working with the recycling program. She currently plays on an intramural soccer team. During the summer Sandra works for the National Park Service on a fire crew.

Sandra plans to strengthen the on campus recycling program and set up an active group of CNR council members. “I want to increase awareness of activities and get more involvement from students, grads and faculty,” she relates.

Sandra is currently looking for six to eight new CNR student council members. Anyone interested in NR issues is eligible and there are some good perks like free food and college credit. If you’re interested or if you have further questions, please e-mail Sandra at slsnm@cc.usu.edu

Outstanding Senior - Jenny Neyme

By Angie Burke

In the process of seeking the outstanding senior, faculty in all natural resource departments are asked to nominate seniors who they feel deserve recognition. One student is chosen from each department to be the outstanding senior of that department. Then one student is chosen from these as Outstanding Senior of the College of Natural Resources.

A native of Sandy, Utah, Jenny Neyme grew up loving animals as early as she can remember. She had pets growing up, dogs and cats, but her dream was to work with wildlife in Africa.

Jenny finally realized this dream the summer of 1996 before she started attending Utah State. She enlisted in the Boston University School for Field Studies program and went to Africa for 5 weeks. Jenny took part in a study of different plant communities affected by browsing of native vs. non-native ungulates, like the oryx and the giraffe. She stayed in a thatch and mud hut called a “banda.”

She says one of the advantages of studying abroad is that one acquires a variety of perspectives and ideas on how to manage environmental problems.

During the summers, Jenny worked doing Bull trout surveys in Idaho and cavity nesting bird surveys in the Uinta Mountains. Last spring and summer, she participated in a study-abroad program in Australia where she assisted in an aquatic science research project with Gallaxiid fish. This summer, Jenny plans to work in Alaska doing salmon studies at Prince Williams Sound.

While at USU, Jenny has worked in the genetics lab, competed on the Wildlife Conclave team, worked as peer advisor in Maureen’s office, and acted as treasurer in the USU Chapter of the Wildlife Society.

This fall Jenny plans to join the Peace Corps. She then plans to go for a Master’s degree at another university. She would like to end up working for a non-profit agency assisting in “sustainable-development” of non-developed countries, using traditional methods.

If she could give advice to students, it would be to do it all. Students should take advantage of every opportunity to get involved, whether in clubs, in the lab, in the field, or in study abroad programs.
The Year at a Glance...

By Tricia Ashby

This year marked the return of the CNR newsletter. Part-way through the fall semester the newsletter was given a name, Paul's Word. The year's CNR week has a lot of great memories like the "Squash the Engineers" theme (see the T-shirts). The logger's breakfast and range cookout had great food and company, and let's not forget the soccer game against those engineers. The engineers did steal Paul again this year, but he was found during engineering week, fighting the Bull. The Wildlife conclave was at USU this year and the wildlife department did an excellent job in hosting this event. -By Andrew Kelher

CNR Web Page Short on Pictures
If you have any natural resource related photographs (animals, pretty scenes, people in natural resources) take them to Alexis in the Quinny Library. She will scan them then give them back. Thanks!

Ushers Needed for CNR Graduation
Saturday, May 6 at 12:00 Ushers need to be available from 10:45 - 1:00
Farewell Letter From Marnie

Fellow students, faculty and staff-

It is that time of year again to roll out the red carpet and send another handful of students on their way to tame the wild world of Natural Resources. I am lucky to be one of those students that will be leaving the College (pending the appropriate grade in a few classes I will refrain from mentioning). I want to wish all the graduates good luck in the years to come. I hope you find success in all you choose to do. For all of you that get to stay a year, or two, or three longer, good luck. I hope everyone has as much fun in the College of Natural Resources as I did (which is evident by my GPA).

I said it before and I will say it again, we are the best College on this campus. Our small size gives each student a name and a personality instead of just a number. Our students are here because they really love their field, and want to learn, not because they heard they could make a lot of money. Our professors are the best, they get to know us and they care about why we are in their classes. Our Dean’s office is open and friendly to us, and really cares about the experience the College of Natural Resources is providing. I know this because I spent a year as the student senator, working with our faculty and staff and I truly feel the students had the support of these people in all our endeavors this year.

I want to send a special thanks to the CNR Council and clubs. You guys are awesome!! I could not have made it through the year with out all your help and support. Good luck to next year’s Senator Sandra Keil and next year’s College Council. Another special thanks to the students. Without your support and presence at our activities, we all would have been out of a job. Let your College Council know what you want and how we can help improve your education. That is, after all, what we are here for. To the faculty and staff, you better keep your fingers crossed that I graduate or you’re going to be stuck with me hanging around for another year. You guys are the best, thank you so much for your support and advice throughout the year.

If I could give advice to all the remaining students it would be these few things: take a break from academics now and again and do something fun. Do not let opportunities to expand your horizons pass you by. Get to know your professors; most of them have been out in the “real world” for awhile and they may be a great source of guidance and advice. Lastly, be very nice to Maureen, because she is one of those people in the College that can make your college world turn.

Thanks for a great year and good luck next year!!!

-Marni Goodridge

Do you want to get involved, have fun and enjoy the occasional free food item? Do you want to mingle more with your professors, plan activities and make the engineers pay? Do you want to build your resume with leadership and volunteer experience?

Then........JOIN YOUR COLLEGE COUNCIL

-applications are on the club office door, please take one and fill it out with your interests by Friday, April 28th.
-if you have any questions about the positions or the council and its groovy benefits, contact Marni @ sl825 or Sandra @ slsnm
Council

CNR closing social will be held this Friday, April 21 at 5:30. The barbeque is at Willow Park, located by the zoo in south-west Logan. Sandra would like people to help set up, cook food or clean up for the social.

Those interested in being on the CNR Student Council need to apply. Applications are available in the club office. For more information email Sandra at slsnm@cc.usu.edu.

Wildlife Society

The Wildlife closing social is on Thursday, April 27 in the atrium. We'll have sandwiches and drinks. Bring soccer balls and frisbees.

Officers for next year:
President: Tennille Flint
Vice President: Dominic Bachman..............dom
Conclave and Executive Officer: Olivia Lester..............olester
Treasurer: Maria Torres..................mariat
Secretary: Josh Rydalch....................joshrydalch

GTU Geography Club

GTU closing social is April 27 at Adams Park, 500 North 500 East. It will start at 5:30. Pizza & Games and lots of fun.

Range Club

Help needed mapping Mudusahead. Meet today at 4:30 in the atrium to drive to Hyrum.

Department closing social is Wednesday the 26th at Elk Ridge Park. Faculty, staff and their families are invited to attend. Bring your bat and glove for an evening of softball, good food and fun.

Those interested in going to Red Canyon Ranch on the 28-29 need to contact any of the officers. Officers for next year:
Co-Presidents: Cindy Heaton..............................sl9s1
               Eric Thacker..............................sl7cg
Secretary: Christy Shumway...................christyjean
Public Relations: Ada Williamson...............sl7z7
               Richard Utt..........................richutt

Forestry Club

This coming Friday between 10:00 and 3:00 the forestry club needs help selling tree seedlings on the quad for Arbor Day. Come to the quad to pick up trees to plant in your yard.

Officers for next year:
President: Leslie McLachlan.....................s1jry
Woodcut Chair: Matt McRay....................sldww
Logging Sport Chair: Eston Janes
Winter Sport Chair: Justin Derose
Arbor Day Chair: Alvin Whitehair..............whitehair
CSGO/Loggers Breakfast Chair: Claudia Anderson
Donut Day: Bill Bower

SCEP Deadline Extended

Until Friday, April 21.
Working in a SCEP almost guarantees a permanent position with the USFS after graduation.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>19 Last Issue Paul's Word available Mapping Medusahead 3:30 Atrium</td>
<td>20 Arbor Day Forestry Club seedling sale 10:30-3:00 Quad</td>
<td>21 CNR Closing Social Willow Park 5:30</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26 Range Club Closing Social Elk Ridge Park Senior Sendoff TSC Ballroom 7:00</td>
<td>27 Wildlife Closing Social 5:30 Atrium Student Curriculum Meeting 6:30 Atrium</td>
<td>28 Range Club goes to Red Canyon Ranch</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information about club activities, check Club Update, page 3.