The College of Natural Resources is rich in traditions and opportunities for student involvement. For students new to the college, some of these traditions may seem foreign, and student involvement a daunting task. Take Paul for instance. To the first year students of the college who perhaps have only heard the name, Paul is the Natural Resource College mascot. He was introduced decades ago when the college dealt primarily with forestry. Our mascot is Paul Bunyan's visage carved into a twelve-foot chunk of pine, stored away in the depths of the Natural Resource... (no one knows or do they?). He typically makes an appearance every year during NR week to accept his annual abuse by the engineers.

The College of Natural Resources and the College of Engineering are in a long-lived debate much like a good natured Hatfield vs. McCoy. To date, the engineers have kidnapped, burned, hung, and encased Paul in cement. Like Elizabeth Taylor, the wear and tear are really starting to show, and Paul was strangely absent from this year's NR week. Everybody needs a break, I suppose. Though the statue of Paul may be physically showing its age; the traditions and students activities of the college are still alive and well.

There are many events and clubs to be involved in adding variety and substance to the college experience. For those who want to become more familiar with fellow students then simply recognizing them as a blur tromping through the atrium on the way to class; student clubs are an excellent way to do so. The Wildlife Society, Forestry club, Range club, and the Geography club are run by students. They are also a superb opportunity to gain hands on experience to complement your classes. The activities are educational, enjoyable and provide the chance to acquaint yourself with students in the college.

Joining the student club of your choice is an easy and very much worthwhile endeavor. To receive information on the clubs listed here and others not mentioned, contact Maureen Wagner's office (NR 112). Be put on a club's email list to learn about upcoming events and projects or check out the club bulletin boards in the northwest corner of the atrium. You don't have to sign away your firstborn or hand over obscene amounts of cash (you can if you want to) to become part of a club. Also, you may participate as much as you desire in your chosen club.

For those of you with nightmares of schedules, who would simply like to meet students in the college without having to commit valuable time. We have you covered. With events like 'Logger's ball', which was held on March 2nd and 'NR week' held every fall semester. All you have to do is show up and enjoy yourself. Perhaps most appealing of all, no research is required. Notices of these events, are usually posted on bulletin boards in the Natural Resource building, several weeks in advance. Do you proud. Get involved with the college and keep these traditions alive.

What's In This Issue:
Paul Who? By Phil Brown
A Life with Wildlife By Luke J. Smith
'Fee' Facts By Dean Busby and Kyle Peterson
It is hard to explain my problem. I just tell people I was born with an uncommon disease. My grandfather told me that when I was four years old, he asked me why I kept bringing so many snakes, lizards, and scorpions home. I replied, “I have to, animals are my life”. Now sixteen years later, things are even worse.

I grew up raising exotic my back yard, thanks to my dad. Newts and lizards; besides a gopher for a few months, before I got him turtle when I was five; amazingly he is back for the loan though.

All this was only a slight was thirteen my dad and I were look- Gorge Reservoir. As we were taking tain we saw three falcons sitting near we rounded the next bend we realized campsite. Wow falconers!

My dad and I had always fortunately it was impossible. Federal sponsor you and we never managed to were friendly to us, but explained the it at that. They did ask us if we knew because they were having a hard time finding game. Fortunately, we had just seen a flock about a mile away. That evening, one of the falcons’ peregrines had caught its first sge grouse. One thing led to another and he agreed to sponsor my dad for falconry. As soon as I was fourteen, the age required by federal law, I also become licensed.

Falconry has changed my life. I finally found a way to combine my love for birds with my love for pursuing game. Seeing a falcon stoop must have caused some chemical change in my body, because now I am addicted. Things don’t end there.

After becoming a falconer, people started bringing injured raptors and other animals to our home. We were not licensed at the time to do migratory bird rehab. However, we were the only people in the area with the proper equipment; so we decided to go through all the federal red tape to become official. Shortly thereafter, we received many requests to do presentations. Once again, we went through more red tape and become licensed to do educational programs with live birds. Since that time I have done presentations for more than 50,000 people.

My home became like a wildlife zoo with the neighbors visiting often. One day I decided to count the animals in our possession. We had 22 raptors of 8 species, a Clark’s Grebe, 75 pigeons of ten breeds, a pair each of silver and lady Amherst pheasants, 13 prairie dogs being held for the black footed ferret recovery program, my pet scorpion, my turtle, and my mother’s cat. Many other wildlife species were brought to us for rehab. The most humorous was a two-week-old beaver that would cry just like a human baby. Until finally I would drag myself out of bed at 3:00 AM and give the little girl her bottle. I swore to never have children after that.

My dad always stressed the importance of meeting people and getting experience in the wildlife profession. I began volunteering for the Fish and Wildlife Service when I was twelve. Since I was sixteen I have been employed working with wildlife. I have experience with several species of raptors, willow flycatchers, yellow-billed cuckoos, wild turkeys, deer, moose, black bears, elk, beaver, several species of reptiles and amphibians, along with several species of small mammals. If any of you think you might suffer from this or a similar disease, join me and the others here at USU in the Student Wildlife Society, stop by NR 219 or email me: LJS@cc.usu.edu.

HAVE A HAPPY ST. PATRICKS DAY
Q: What should students know about the college re-organization?

A: What we have done is re-organize from the four departments to three departments. Students should know two things: first, we are maintaining the existing majors, so that no student that is here now should worry about not being able to finish his or her degree program. The reason we re-organized was because it gives the college the opportunity to create new majors. The three new majors are; First, Aquatic Watershed and Earth Resources, which is a very significant strength as it relates to water resources. I like to say from the bottom of the stream to the top of the mountain, and everything in between. Second, is the Forest, Range and Wildlife department. Without question in my mind it is the strongest land, management, and science department in the western United State's. And my goal, as well as the departments' goal, is to find ways that the disciplines that were represented in wildlife, range, and forestry are able to work together in a more holistic manner; In such a way that we can really bring new science and management approaches to bear on the system. The third department is the Environment and Society department. For the first time in the history of the world, there is an inter-disciplinary group of scientist, economist, political scientist, recreation specialist, social scientist, and anthropologist in one department. This department, I believe, has the chance to really define and help us understand the role of humans in Natural Resources. The goal then of the three new departments is, to create new degree programs. Programs where both undergraduate and graduates can capitalize on the tremendous strengths that are represented in this college. This will prepare students beyond the traditional discipline lines of watershed, fisheries and wildlife, range, forestry, and recreation. To really be able to be prepared for the future issues that we have to face.

Q: What should graduate students be aware of, and how will this re-organization affect them?

A: I believe, that there will be greater opportunities for faculty to represent diversity of interest on a graduate students' committee. Every graduate student needs to have five faculty members for their committee. This re-organization definitely will allow graduate students to pick a committee that will have potential beyond what was available through the traditional departments. Another big benefit is the Environment and Society department. This department will, quite frankly, have the opportunity to re-invent the degree program at the graduate student level. This is something that has not been possible before, creating absolute new opportunities for graduate students.

Q: What do you think the future of Natural Resources is?

A: To me, the future lies in more and more inter-disciplinary work. The issues we face are almost never single disciplines anymore; and while a person may still specialize in range or forestry, the new departments will better prepare them to work with people from other disciplines. In the final analysis people will have the potential of being every bit as strong in the discipline as they were before the re-organization.

Now, the other thing that is happening to us is; we will continue to have a strong presence in the rural landscape. Range and forestry, in particular have been oriented more to grazing and the interactions between livestock and wildlife. The growth of the Wasatch front is just putting a humongous amount of pressure on the resources in/on the Wasatch front. In an area I call the ‘back side’ of the Wasatch front, Heber valley, Coalville, Strawberry reservoir amongst other areas. These are some of the places people go to recreate. That is around two million people going there. We have to figure out new models of resource management with this onslaught of humans.

Then you have , what I call urban-rural interface. Where the people and the land are constantly coming together. What do we do with Mule Deer that simply follow the I-80 corridor down to State Street? These are huge problems that people here are going to have to address. So preparing to address these issues is a critical part of what we have to do within this college.
It was a motley crew of individuals that met at the Bullen Center this past Saturday at 11:00 a.m. We were there to start decorating for the entertainment event of the year. As we made the last minute preparations, it became obvious that our club presidents and committees were right on the ball. Nobody was running around with a look of sheer panic on their faces. Olivia and Justin showed up; (to see our club presidents getting their ‘hands dirty’ so to speak), was a refreshing change from past years.

A small decorating list was made and Trevor, Rich and Bill headed off to find some animal décor for the event. They showed up a bit later with a large grizzly bear amongst other things, which they still need to take back to the Hunter Education Center by today, before 7:30!

Bill with his particular fondness of desserts, went to the cake supplier and gave his tacit approval of a cake. He arrived at the Bullen Center around 6:00, with the cake, which was not quite in its 3-D format as in years past (I guess Zoe didn’t jump on it this year). Things were going well. The committee was hard at work preparing turkeys for the big bash. This all went fairly smooth. Oh, by the way, Rich—when that little thing pops out of the turkey, its done; and Kyle no matter if your turkey says it fully cooked; you still need to unthaw it. The food was then placed on the buffet table. Dr. Baker brought numerous dishes, including his famous Wild Rice. There also were several unrecognizable dishes, at least to this writer. Several people asked what Bill had brought. (As if they were concerned.) A sigh of relief was heard at his reply of “dessert.” After dinner, the band Wild Pig began to play. They had an eclectic blend of music, which was very easy to dance to, at least for the CNR women. Apparently CNR men cannot, will not, or are unwilling to dance. Maybe that’s due to the fact that they kept sneaking off to the back room for “I don’t know what?”

There also was a lively competition for the silent auction. Kara Jorgensen, I’m going to win next year!! It also was noted that two tables won a disproportionate number of raffle prizes. This would be the tables at which Dr. Dueser and Wes were sitting. I would have thought the raffle was rigged except for the fact that two people at the table’s didn’t win anything, until the later rounds. As the night progressed, it became obvious that the CNR men became better dancer, with every trip to the back room. The CNR women did not find it necessary to make any trips to the back room, to enhance their ability. It was decided that Britney Freeman had the best moves of the CNR women. In a small talent committee formed at one table. Danielle won the prize for the best ‘perpetual motion’ dancer.

All in all it went great. However, I’m just wondering where the Grizzly bear is and where did all those left over brownies go?

Upcoming Events!!

MARCH 4-7 VERTEBRATE PEST CONFERENCE, RENO
MARCH 11-15 WILDLIFE CONCLAVE IN COLORADO
MARCH 13-15 UTAH TWS MEETING IN CEDAR CITY
MARCH 29-31 BOOKCLIFFS PROJECT WITH OUR STUDENT CHAPTER OF THE TWS
APRIL???? REPTILE, AMPHIBIAN AND SMALL MAMMAL PROJECT AT OURAY, UT WITH USFWS
APRIL???? GOOSE TRAPPING AND BANDING WITH WILDLIFE SERVICES IN RENO, NV