Enthusiasm; The Key to Success

By Tonya Stephenson

Good leaders come in all shapes and sizes, but within each leader you will find some sort of energy source or battery that keeps them going. Now, the whole battery idea is just a metaphor. I am not literally suggesting that every good leader is some pink ball of fur that keeps going and going. I am suggesting that every good leader has an exceptional amount of enthusiasm.

The College of Natural Resources recently had their Winter Leadership Retreat. At this retreat, we discussed three primary keys to being a good leader. These three keys are organization, goals, and enthusiasm. We discovered that all three are interrelated, in that you cannot have one without the other. We also found that enthusiasm is, yes here it comes, the battery.

Webster defined enthusiasm as ‘an absorbing possession of the mind.' What a powerful definition for what seems so simple a word. It has also been defined by many local students as energetic participation, passion, optimism, spirit, drive, motivated energy.

Enthusiasm is something that is easy to achieve, but hard to maintain. At the retreat I asked the students, myself included, to write a list of people they thought defined the word enthusiasm. Students wrote down everyone from parents to historical figures. I was very surprised at how often Richard Simmons came up. Although this may be disturbing to some of you, I bet you cannot deny that this man has sincere passion for what he does. The key to enthusiasm in these figures is not short-term bursts of excitement every now or then, but a constant effort to maintain the energy that drives themselves and the people they in contact with.

There is a quote that comes from our current Student Council President, Kyle Peterson, that was handed out at the retreat. It reads, “We need to have a contagious enthusiasm in all parts of our jobs! That enthusiasm does not just mean being a constant bundle of energy. It simply means doing what you HAVE to do with the same passion you would do something you WANT to do!” Be examples of enthusiasm, it is contagious. Just think how neat it would be if someday someone you have associated with was asked to write down whom they thought described the word enthusiasm and you were one of the first people they thought of. Do not let enthusiasm be just a fleeting passion---live it!

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It’s Official! SOSNR Ratifies Constitution.

By Diana Glenn

On March 21, 2003, the Student Organization for Society and Natural Resources (SOSNR) ratified its Constitution. The officers, Kent G. Andersen, President; Meghan Wereley, Vice President; Kevin D. Campbell, Treasurer; Diana T. Glenn, Secretary; and other society and natural resource club members, have been working hard on this document for weeks. President Kermit L. Hall, who was a witness to the Constitution signing and addressed the gathering, commented that it is a well crafted document that expresses ideas an organization can be guided by. Dean Fee Busby offered congratulations to the students for a job well done. Kent shared our brief history, which was reported in the last issue of the Almanac, and expressed our goal that the organization provide students with opportunities to develop skills necessary to be effective natural resource managers and mitigators. We have submitted a proposal to the International Association for Society and Natural Resources (IASNR) to become their first student chapter. Meghan read a statement of congratulations from Donald R. Field, IASNR Executive Director, and Richard S. Krannich, IASNR Executive Director-Designate. They stated, “The creation of this student organization is indicative of the growing realization that 'human dimension' factors are of central importance in understanding and addressing environmental and natural resource management and policy issues. We commend you for being at the forefront of these efforts. Terry L. Sharik, Environment and Society Dept. Head, commented on the synchronicity of the events leading to the formation of this group - the IASNR recently relocated its headquarters to USU, the IASNR Executive Director-Designate is also the Sociology Dept. Head, and students in his first year seminar were interested in his proposal to form an environment and society based group. He commended the SOSNR membership for our work.

We would like to offer special thanks to President Hall for taking time out of his busy schedule to address our group, the Forestry Club for their donation of $100.00 to help us get started, the EnvS faculty for their donation of $100.00, Tonya Stephenson for her photography skills, and CNR staff members Mary Ann Low, Kathy Earley, Tracy Jones, Maureen Wagner and Stephanie Hamblin for their assistance in organizing the ceremony.

Kent Andersen, President of the SOSNR club, gives a speech at the club’s constitution signing event.

Signing the SOSNR constitution, President Hall demonstrates his support for this newly formed organization.
A human dimension in natural resources is a topic that is becoming more and more evident in the lives of community members. As more studies are being done, it is obvious that one of the most important roles in natural resource related issues is the human aspect and how it plays out in the decision making process. It is our job, as potential natural resource managers, to be aware of these increasingly polar issues. But how can you effectively make decisions about an issue that you feel passionate about?

I am currently enrolled in ENVS 6350, Wildlife Damage Management Policy. Our topic is the increasingly hotly debated wolf issue. It is our job to effectively represent the biological, ecological, economical and sociological views of this topic, regardless if we feel the information represents our views and feelings. For a wolf advocate in our class, it is disappointing to say that among elk and deer that are depredated, so are cattle and sheep. On the other side, for someone who is against wolf reintroduction, it is hard to accept that wolves are not the terrorizing beasts that we have read about, and that they have an important role to play in the ecological drama. For hunters that are anti-wolf, they don’t want to hear that in most cases wolves do not dramatically decrease elk herds. Ranchers narrow their view to the cases where a wolf will repeatedly attack a single rancher’s livestock. They don’t realize the fact that out of all of Minnesota’s 2,500 wolves, the wolves kill less than an average of 10 adult cattle and yearlings per year (Paul 1999). How can you relate to all of these different sides without revealing your strong feelings on how you want the situation to turn out?

We must be able to take each of these situations and view it as a whole picture. Many individuals spend all of their time trying to prove that wolves are going to ruin life, as they know it. Others take time to show that without wolves the plant and animal interactions will cease. Wolves are here, how are we going to deal with it? Individuals need to start collaborating their ideas and find solutions, together. Utah’s Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) has taken individuals from all of the affected groups and brought them together to start accepting and reviewing ideas about the controversial topic. This is the approach that I feel would take all of the opinions on the wolf issue and come up with the best solution for Utah, whatever that may be.
The Range Club Takes Off to Wyoming

By Meghan Wereley

“We’ve finally arrived,” remarked Ryan. Eleven hours after leaving the CNR building, we had arrived safe and sound in Casper, Wyoming. “Why,” you ask, “would 8 CNR students sit in a van for 11 hours to go to Casper Wyoming?” To go to the Society for Range Management National Meeting, of course. It started out a little rocky, as we were late registering for the URME (Undergraduate Range Management Exam), but at 6:00 the next morning, that was all fixed. Kendall Nelson, Travis Mote, Ryan Fritche, Boyd Hatch, and myself, took the 120 question URME. We, as a team, placed 13th, and Kendall placed 23 overall, the highest on the team. The rest of the days were filled with meetings and symposiums ranging in topic from policy, bugs, CRM, wildlife, livestock, soils, fire, and water. For the three days that we participated in the conference, there was always something exciting going on. One evening, there was an opportunity for students to meet with agencies and private companies looking for summer employment. Also during the meetings, Aimee Harrison, Morgan Mendenhall, Garry Brown, and Ryan Fritche participated in the Plant ID contest. The team placed 7th, with Garry and Morgan scoring highest. Congrats to all the students for placing well in the tough competitions. On the last day Ryan Woodland presented his undergrad research that he did on aeration on Deseret Ranch in Summit County, UT. Overall, the meeting was a great success, and I think that we all learned a lot. I encourage students to come and participate in this multi-discipline meeting next year in Salt Lake City.

UPCOMING AND CURRENT EVENTS

Forestry Club Fishing Trip
When: Meet at the NR building at 10:30 a.m. this Saturday, March 29th.
Where: Hyrum Reservoir
*Bring your own fish bait, tackle, and pole. If you don’t have any equipment, there will be two extra poles for those who want to try fishing. Most of the food will be provided, but bring salad, chips, or desserts to feed at least 6-7 people. You may also want to bring your own drinks and watershoses.
* Contact Margaret Gray if you want to go. E-mail address: SLKLF@CC.USU.EDU

FREE CONCERT—The Ghost Mules
When: April 11th, 2003—2:00 pm till dusk
Where: East side of the NR building
Why: Proceeds go to the “Paul Bunyon” replacement fund.

Congratulations to the following:
Fred Provenza — CNR Teacher of the Year
Chris Luecke — CNR Advisor of the Year
Wes James — CNR Employee of the Year