



# CNR NEWSLETTER

College of  
Natural Resources  
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## STUDENTS FIRST!

- Nat B. Frazer  
Dean
- Joseph Tainter  
Department of  
Environment and  
Society
- Chris Luecke  
Department of  
Watershed  
Sciences
- Johan du Toit  
Department of  
Wildland  
Resources

You may have heard about USU's first Capital Campaign, *Honoring Tradition, Securing Our Future*. President Albrecht set a goal of \$200 million to be reached by December 2010. In August (2008), he reported that USU already had raised \$225 million, extended the campaign through 2012, and set a new goal of \$400 million. Most of the money secured during the first phase of the Campaign was one-time funding for buildings or programs. The second phase will focus on raising the University's permanent endowment.



I can think of no better way for alumni and friends of CNR to honor tradition and secure our future than to support students.

We plan to solicit endowment

contributions to increase student support in two ways.

The college has a number of scholarships that currently award only a few hundred dollars to the recipient each year. While that may have been a generous amount when these scholarships were first endowed, the rising cost of books, housing, food, gasoline, tuition, and everything else (i.e., inflation!) has eroded the value of many of our scholarships over the years. The only way to increase the amounts we can award annually is to increase the endowments that stand behind these scholarships. Therefore, we have established a goal of raising the endowment of each of CNR's scholarships to a level that will make possible an annual payment to the scholarship holder of at least \$1,000. We will be asking friends and alumni this year to make their contributions to the CNR "Scholarship Enhancement Fund." No contribution to this fund is too small. Each

contribution of \$25, \$50, or \$100 can help us raise our scholarship endowments permanently, thus increasing the amount paid out to the recipients in perpetuity.

Our second campaign target is to establish an endowment to support student travel. As you know from reading our newsletter, CNR students are successful at winning competitions at annual meetings. For example, CNR students won the Range Cup at the national meetings of the Society for Range Management both last year and the year before. [In fact, the Cup was inaugurated two years ago and no other university has ever carried it home!] But students can win competitions only if they participate. Although the department heads and I can provide some travel funding to students, and the student clubs work hard to raise additional funds, sometimes they are not

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## FALL 2008 OPENING SOCIAL

The CNR Opening Social was held on Monday, September 8th in the Natural Resources building. The goal for the event this year was to integrate new students of the College with continuing students, faculty, and staff, provide information of ways to become involved in the College, and to strengthen bonds between all members of the CNR community.

Student hosts from CNR clubs, CNR student council, and Quinney Scholars made a

special effort to invite new students to attend the Dean's Welcome at the beginning of the event. Dean Frazer welcomed new students and presented highlights of exciting research that is on-going in the College. He encouraged all new students to "get involved!"



**Meet a New Aggie 2008**  
**Jared Wight, wildlife science**

Life as an Army brat has prepared freshman Jared Wight well for college life. Born in New York, he's moved from coast to coast and many destinations in between.

"Having lived all over the place, I've developed the ability to adapt easily to change," said Wight, who recently graduated from Fort Campbell High School in Kentucky. "I've seen a lot of neat places and made a lot of friends. I can't wait to jump right in and get involved."



A Quinney Scholar, Wight is a wildlife science major in the College of Natural Resources' Department of Wildland Resources.

"Living in Alaska made me realize my love of the outdoors and animals," he said. "One day I'd like to work for fish and wildlife management. I would love to give back to the environment."

Utah State attracted Wight for two main reasons: snow and mountains. Beyond the classroom, Wight enjoys nature photography and hanging out with friends. (Mary-Ann Muffoletto)

**Congratulations Steve Burr**

Dr. Steve Burr recently received both a western regional and national award from the National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals (NACDEP) at the Galaxy III Conference, held in Indianapolis. This was a Communicator Award-Educational Piece-Team for a project titled "Agritourism in the U.S.," a collaborative, multi-state effort involving team members Lisa Chase and Varna Ramaswamy, University of Vermont, and Gary P. Green, University of Wisconsin. This project identified the needs of farmers and ranchers throughout the U.S. regarding information and resources to support agritourism development.

**Scientists Gather at USU to Discuss Aspen Decline**



About a hundred scientists and land managers from the western United States and Canada gathered at Utah State University's Restoring the West Conference this month to discuss an alarming trend in western forests. Aspen trees, iconic fixtures of the Rocky Mountain West and key elements of western ecosystems, are declining in large numbers; scientists want to know why.

A phenomenon called Sudden Aspen Decline or "SAD" is one concern, said Paul Rogers, director of the USU-based Western Aspen Alliance and a conference organizer.

SAD refers to widespread, severe and rapid dieback and mortality of aspen stands. The problem has increased rapidly in recent years – especially in western Colorado and the Four Corners region. Scientists believe SAD could be triggered by drought but say the phenomenon is only one component of what could be part of a much larger trend.

"Many factors are influencing contemporary aspen stands," said Rogers, who serves as an adjunct faculty member in USU's College of Natural Resources. "Climate change, insects, disease, wildfire, wildlife, livestock, genetic make-up, human actions and other factors have a direct impact on aspen stand health."

During the conference, participants gathered for an open meeting of the newly formed Western Aspen Alliance. Supported by a gift from the S.J. and Jessie E. Quinney Foundation, WAA (pronounced "way") is a partnership between USU's College of Natural Resources and the USDA-Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station. The alliance is intended to facilitate effective and appropriate management of aspen ecosystems in the western United States through coordinated scientific efforts and shared information.

"We welcome input from state and federal agencies, other universities, individuals and private entities," Rogers said. "We want to develop a cross-disciplinary network of researchers willing to take on pertinent aspen topics including SAD, aspen physiology, disturbance ecology, water yield, genetics, biodiversity issues and more." (Mary-Ann Muffoletto)

(Dean's Message . . . Continued)

able to attend annual meetings due to a lack of funding. For example, last year members of our student chapter of The Wildlife Society had to cancel their travel plans due to lack of success in raising sufficient funds to cover their costs. Students have better things to do (such as studying, conducting research, and participating in internships) than trying to raise travel funds, and it is unreasonable to expect them to pay the total cost of their travel to professional meetings. However, at present, CNR has no funding specifically targeted to support student travel. Therefore, we also will be asking alumni and friends to help us establish this endowment to support student travel. If you are not interested in helping us to raise the endowments behind our scholarships, I hope you will consider helping us set up an endowment for a "Student Travel Fund." Again, no contribution is too small to help us reach our initial endowment goal of \$25,000.

As you think about *Honoring Tradition, Securing Our Future* I hope you agree that securing the future for our students involves much more than the \$25 million in gifts that two of USU's other colleges have received to build new buildings. Although these very large one-time gifts enhance the educational experiences for students in those colleges, such large gifts are not necessary to increase a scholarship that might enable a student to attend college who otherwise might not have been able to come to USU. Neither are million dollar gifts necessary to enrich our

students' college experience by enabling them to attend professional meetings. So please consider contributing to one of CNR's two new funds. No matter how small a contribution you can make, it *will* make a difference to our students and it will continue to pay out in perpetuity.

On the other hand, if you DO have a few million dollars molding under your mattress, please don't hesitate to contact us. . . . Nat

**Making a contribution is simple:**

1. Go to the USU website [www.usu.edu](http://www.usu.edu)
2. Under "Featured Links," click on Make a Gift
3. Choose College of Natural Resources on the scroll-down menu under "I would like to support the following area"
4. Choose "Other" on the "Select an Area" scroll-down menu
5. Type in "Scholarship Enhancement Fund" or "Student Travel Fund" in the box under "Please Specify"
6. Enter the amount you wish to contribute and follow the prompts!

Or, you can mail a check to: Mary Ann Lowe, 5200 Old Main Hill, Logan, UT 84322-5200. Be sure to make the check out to "College of Natural Resources" and indicate on the check whether it is for the Student Travel Fund or the Scholarship Enhancement Fund.

## NEW FACES

### Ann Laudati Environment & Society

Ann is a broadly trained human-environmental geographer with specializations in political ecology, conservation and development, and sub-Saharan Africa. She received her undergraduate degree from Ohio University and continued on at Athens to complete a Masters degree in Geography.



In 2007 she finished her PhD in Geography at the University of Oregon. Her work was based on a year of ethnographic fieldwork examining the effects of integrated conservation and development projects on communities living adjacent to Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Uganda.

Prior to coming to Utah, she worked as a postdoctoral fellow in the Sustainability Science Program at Harvard's Center for International Development.

Her current work builds upon contemporary theoretical work linking natural resources and violent conflict to investigate how the environment has been implicated in the continuing conflicts in South Sudan, Northern Uganda, and Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

When playing hooky from academe she enjoys backpacking, loves traveling, and is always looking for a good Boston thin crust.

Welcome Ann!

### Karin Kettenring Watershed Sciences

Karin received a BA in biology from Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio, and a PhD in applied plant sciences from the University of Minnesota. Prior to coming to USU, she was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in Edgewater, MD. Her research interests include the restoration of plant communities in wetlands and the ecology and management of invasive plants. Her PhD research focused on the seed ecology and revegetation of sedges (*Carex* species) in prairie pothole wetlands. During her postdoctoral research, she studied the genetics and spread of the non-native plant *Phragmites australis* (common reed), that is invading wetlands across North America. At USU, she will continue to develop her research program in wetland plant ecology and teach a course in wetland ecology and management. In her free time, Karin enjoys running, hiking, ultimate Frisbee, vegetarian cooking, and playing her violin.



Welcome Karin!

### Upcoming Events

Society of American Foresters  
2008 National Convention  
November 5-9, 2008  
Reno, Nevada

The Wildlife Society  
Annual Conference  
November 8-12, 2008  
Miami, Florida

Fall 2008 Commencement  
Saturday, December 13, 2008  
Dee Glen Spectrum  
10:30 a.m.  
<http://www.usu.edu/provost/commencement/>

Society for Range Management  
SRM 62nd Annual Meeting  
February 8-12, 2009  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

## In Memory

- 1937 Weldon Shepherd, Forestry
- 1938 Victor Surface, Range Management
- 1940 Frank Bringham, Fisheries & Wildlife
- 1943 Lewis Rogers, Game Management
- 1948 Ernest McIlvain, Range Management
- 1950 Donald Holl, Fisheries & Wildlife
- 1959 Kendall Nelson, Game Management
- 1961 Jon L. Gates, Fisheries & Wildlife
- 1965 Leroy Zeller, Fisheries Management

## Aggies Help State with Fall Salmon Count

Along with flame-hued leaves illuminating northern Utah's mountains and valleys with a blast of fall color are scores of red kokanee salmon making the last leg of their life's journey through local streams and rivers.

"You don't usually think of salmon when you think of Utah," said Joe Crawford, an undergraduate fisheries and aquatic science major at Utah State University, who counted hundreds of the fish within minutes in a small stretch of the Little Bear River.

With nine classmates, Crawford joined Ben Nadolski, aquatic biologist with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Sept. 23 to conduct an official kokanee count along the river's east fork near Cache County's Porcupine Reservoir. The undergrads are students in faculty researcher Phaedra Budy's *Fish Diversity and Conservation* class.

"The data we collect today will determine how we manage the fish tomorrow," said Nadolski, a USU alum who tracks population dynamics of various fish species and manages the reservoir's fishery.

In teams of two, the students, dressed in waders and armed with mechanical counters and GPS units, tallied several thousand kokanee, at the peak of their autumn spawning run.

The trip to count kokanee is among a number of field activities Budy is conducting with her students during the semester. The class has also visited Fossil Butte National Monument and Bear Lake and will conduct trout sampling on the Logan River.

"This is a hands-on class to introduce students to fisheries management," Budy said. "We acquaint students with varied types of aquatic research and offer opportunities to work alongside professionals in the field."

(Mary-Ann Muffoletto)



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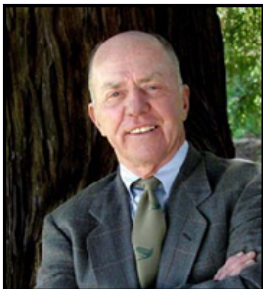
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See the newsletter online <http://www.cnr.usu.edu/alumni>

## Alumni Profile - Huey D. Johnson, '66

After receiving a bachelor's degree from Western Michigan University in 1956, Huey Johnson came to Utah State University to study wildlife management in the College of Natural Resources. He received a Masters of Science degree in Wildlife Management in 1966 and has since become one of the nation's most well respected environmentalists, founding some of the most influential conservation organizations in the country. Huey is known



as the leading U.S. proponent of green plans which have been used extensively in many European countries. He is also widely respected for his pioneering work in land conservation and environmental policy.

His career experience includes being an innovator who transforms ideas that promise to benefit society

into established working institutions. Huey's career has been based on the idea that in a free society one can take environmentally relevant ideas and establish them as working organizations. Organizations he has founded include: the Resource Renewal Institute (RRI), the Trust for Public Land (TPL), the Grand Canyon Trust, the Environmental Liaison Center in Nairobi, Defense of Place, and the Aldo Leopold Society. In addition, Huey was also responsible for building The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in the western United States, serving for eight years as its Western Regional Director and a year as its president.

Huey believes that environmental issues facing states and nations are questions of effective, science-based management that must be dealt with on a large scale rather than being broken down into fragmented pieces. His work experience includes corporate affairs, teaching, performing salmon research in California and Alaska, and

overseeing California's environment as Secretary of the Resources Agency under Governor Jerry Brown.

Successful programs he established there include water and energy conservation programs for cities and industries, doubling salmon numbers in California coastal fisheries, strengthening forestry policy and preserving wilderness. He led an effort that preserved 1200 miles of wild rivers and another that preserved several million acres of wilderness in California and the West that would have been lost otherwise. His challenges at that time included guiding policy while overseeing a major drought followed by catastrophic floods.

Huey has been active in U.S. and global environmental affairs, serving on boards, writing, advising political leaders, and presenting papers and lectures on the environment around the world. He is the author of several successful textbooks.

Huey's career recognition includes the President's Award for Sustainable Development in 1996. The pinnacle of his career came when he was awarded the prestigious Sasakawa Prize in 2001, the annual environmental award given by the United Nations to honor an individual somewhere in the world who has made outstanding contributions to the management and protection of the environment. Emeritus faculty member Dr. Fred Wagner, Huey's major professor, believes that his remarkable career is indicative of the impact CNR alumni have had on their chosen disciplines. In Fred's words, "Huey has incredible initiative and imagination and has one of the most distinguished careers of any College of Natural Resources alum that I know of." Dean Frazer recently met with Huey in San Francisco and experienced firsthand the energy and vision that has propelled Huey to such success. According to Dean Frazer, Huey is a shining example of the impact CNR alumni can have on the world and we are proud of his contributions to conservation and the environment.