

scientists in the college.

Cammack quickly established her lab upon arrival in the Department of Animal Science in 2006 and continues to develop independent and collaborative research based on her expertise in quantitative and molecular genetics, says Hixon.

Cammack's research focused on changes in gene expression induced by toxins in the diet and is now looking at feed efficiency in ruminant livestock.

She is collaborating with sci-

entists in the United States and in New Zealand, Brazil, and South Africa. She has received \$4.1 million in funding and has 23 journal articles either as the primary or collaborating author.

She is advising three master's students and has finished four master's students and one Ph.D. student.

"Kristi has proven to be an excellent graduate student mentor and teacher and was selected Top Prof by her students in two separate years," says Hixon.



*Assistant Professor Kristi Cammack received the Early Career Research Achievement Award.*

## Assistant professor receives early career undergraduate teaching award

Assistant Professor Jeff Beck in the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management was recently recognized as a top range science instructor who is in the early stages of his career.

Beck, a wildlife habitat restoration ecologist, received the Range Science Education Council's Early Career Undergraduate Teaching Award at the 2013 Society for Range Management Honor and Student Awards Ceremony in Oklahoma City February 6.

"It was an honor, absolutely an honor to be recognized by them," says Beck. "It was also equally satisfying to earn the award because the person who won the career teaching award was one of my mentors, Karen Launchbaugh, professor of rangeland ecology and management at the University of Idaho. Right after I received my award, they announced hers."

The Early Career Undergraduate Teaching Award is sponsored by the RSEC and SRM.

"Attending the SRM meeting is a highlight of my year," says Beck. "I really enjoy attending those meetings, interacting with scientists from other institutions, and keeping up to date on the whereabouts of rangeland scientists. It's also a great way to share our



*Assistant Professor Jeff Beck*

research results with other scientists from around the world."

The award recognizes exemplary contribution in teaching and advising of range management students at the undergraduate level by instructors who have taught less than 10 years.

"I think I've been highly successful at developing solid, practical courses, and my students find the courses that I teach very valuable for their future careers," says Beck.

John Tanaka, head of the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management, nominated Beck.

"Jeff is a rare find in the academic ranks these days," says Tanaka. "His course evaluations are on par with some of the best-experienced instructors that we have on our faculty, a few of which have received the RSEC Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award as well as the top University of Wyoming teaching awards."

Beck is a native of Bountiful, Utah. He received a Ph.D. in forestry wildlife and range sciences from the University of Idaho and his master's and bachelor's degrees in wildlife and rangeland resources from Brigham Young University.

He began at UW as a post-doctoral scientist in 2005 in the Department of Zoology and Physiology and worked on research started during his post-doctoral studies until joining the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management faculty in 2007.

"I teach undergraduate courses in rangeland ecosystem assessment and monitoring, rangeland vegetation management techniques, and wildlife habitat restoration ecology," says Beck. In my research "I have a particular emphasis on studying restoration efforts relative to species inhabiting sagebrush steppe ecosystems."