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## Scott Miller earns NACTA Teaching Award of Merit

By Robert Waggener

*Editor, Office of Ag Communications  
and Technology*

Scott Miller, an assistant professor in the Department of Renewable Resources, has received a North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) Teaching Award of Merit.

He was recognized in May during an informal ceremony in the College of Agriculture. Jim Wangberg, associate dean and director of the Office of Academic and Student Programs, and Rich Olson, professor and head of the Department of Renewable Resources, presented the honor to Miller.

“Scott takes pride in his teaching, and his student evaluations are improving each year,” says Olson, who nominated Miller for the award. “He can relate to students not only in the classroom but in their personal lives. He is very passionate about his teaching and his students. He’s a complete package for a young teacher.”

During the ceremony, Miller said there are many



*Scott Miller, an assistant professor in the Department of Renewable Resources, center, was presented a national teaching award in May from Rich Olson, left, professor and head of the department, and Jim Wangberg, associate dean and director of the Office of Academic and Student Programs.*

other deserving faculty members in the college.

“I still have a long way to go. There is always room for improvement and betterment,” he said of his teaching.

Miller earned a doctorate in watershed management from the University of Arizona, in Tucson, Arizona, and then joined the University of Wyoming renewable resources faculty in 2003 as a spatial processes ecologist. He spends about 60 percent of his time researching surface water hydrology and the other 40 percent teaching classes relating to wildland hydrology and water resources.

“I truly enjoy the engagement with students, the information exchange,” Miller says. “I really treat teaching as an exchange versus one-directional content delivery. I try to cultivate an arena where students can establish a dialog with each other and me. That leads to a richer learning environment, and the exchange also benefits me.”

Miller says he stops frequently during class to ask open-ended questions, in part to determine if the students have questions.

“My goal is to hit as many different learning styles as possible, including work on the chalkboard, PowerPoint, and open dialog,” he says. “I try to do the same with testing and homework – accessing the different modes of learning.”

Miller is director of the Spatial Analysis of Watershed & Landscape Systems group in the department. Several graduate students under his leadership are working on a variety of remote sensing and Geographic Information Systems applications related to hydrologic modeling, remote sensing for land cover change,

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## NACTA graduate teaching award presented to Amy Kelly

**By Robert Waggener**

*Editor, Office of Ag Communications and Technology*

Amy Kelly, who graduated this spring with a master's degree in family and consumer sciences, received a North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) Graduate Student Teaching Award in May.

Sonya Meyer, an associate professor in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS); Karen Williams, FCS department head and professor; and Jim Wangberg, associate dean and director of the Office of Academic and Student Programs, presented the award to Kelly.

Meyer was Kelly's adviser, and Williams nominated her for the award.

Kelly, of Torrington, was recognized for her outstanding work to teach FCS undergraduate students, Williams says.

"I nominated Amy because of all the assistance she provided to the undergraduates as part of her teaching assistantship, her mentoring in our design labs, and her work with students to organize and carry out the fashion show in Reno," Williams says.

Kelly, Meyer, Professor Donna Brown, and several FCS undergraduate students presented Academic of Design, a fashion show in August 2006 for PCM Expo's Sew, Quilt, and Embroidery Festival in Reno, Nevada.



*Amy Kelly, right, who graduated this spring with a master's degree in family and consumer sciences, received a North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Graduate Student Teaching Award in May. Kelly was advised by Sonya Meyer, left, an associate professor in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences.*

Kelly is planning a career in visual merchandizing, fashion promotion, and marketing.

"I am a very visual person, and I would like to be that person who draws customers into a store and then keeps them in the store," Kelly says.

This is the second consecutive year a graduate student in FCS received a NACTA Graduate Student Teaching Award. Katelyn Holloway was recognized last year.

One of the central purposes of NACTA is to recognize graduate student teachers and college instructors whose efforts represent the "very best in agricultural higher education," according to NACTA.

**On the Web:** <http://www.nactateachers.org/>.

## Miller earns teaching award

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and sustainable watershed management.

The research is in areas undergoing altered land management activities in Wyoming, Colorado, Arizona, Georgia, and the East Africa country of Kenya.

### Changing Faces, Changing Places

*(effective date in parentheses)*

#### Farewell:

Puls, Kim: office associate, State 4-H office, Cooperative Extension Service, (4/30)

### Applying for a grant? Consider this

A university-wide competitive grants program is being conducted by the Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station (AES) in the College of Agriculture.

The federal Fiscal Year 2008 (October 1, 2007-September 30, 2008) request for proposals is available on the AES Web site <http://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/uwexpstn/> under Links as PDF, Word, or html files, and the deadline for proposals is 5 p.m. Friday, September 14.