Veterinary students Vanessa Chen and Matt Hille are studying diagnostic veterinary medicine at the Wyoming State Veterinary Lab (WSVL) in Laramie this summer through the University of Wyoming’s Diagnostic Externship Program.

Called externships, they are available to third or fourth-year veterinary students and offered by the Department of Veterinary Sciences.

“It exposes the students to the realities of diagnostic veterinary medicine as a career,” says Donal O’Toole, professor in the department and diagnostic externship mentor. “We need more students — ideally, of the right type: curious, outgoing, broadly educated, compassionate, problem-solving — looking at this career option.”

Chen, a native of Canton, China, and who grew up in Temple City, California, is on a four-week externship from the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of California, Davis. She has an undergraduate degree in neuroscience and plans to pursue a career in pathology.

“The defining feature of this veterinary lab to students is the learning environment the lab engenders,” says Chen. “Among the various labs, there are undergraduate pre-vet students, graduate students, externs, and professors all working together. This continual pulse of new energy keeps students and professors excited.”

Hille, a native of Cheyenne who grew up in North Platte, Nebraska, holds a master’s degree in animal and veterinary science from UW; he is entering his third year of veterinary school at Iowa State University through a joint Iowa State and University of Nebraska-Lincoln collaborative program.

Hille’s externship is supported by the Kelly Palm Memorial Externship, which is only offered to UW graduates in a veterinary school anywhere in the United States.

“Ever since I found out about the opportunities available to someone with a DVM degree, I have had an interest in anatomic pathology or microbiology as a career option, and that is the main reason I pursued this externship in the first place,” says Hille. “The ability to essentially jump around different labs at the WSVL and see all the more interesting things on a daily basis throughout the laboratory has been great, and I’ve learned a lot.”

Hille says he wants to practice mixed animal medicine, including small and large animals, in one of the Rocky Mountain States upon graduating from Iowa State and may pursue anatomic

Vanessa Chen and Matt Hille are immersed in diagnostic veterinary medicine during their summer externships at the WSVL.
The dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources has been honored for his efforts to protect Wyoming’s natural resources.

The Wyoming Stock Growers Association (WSGA) presented Frank Galey the Guardian of the Grasslands award during its Wyoming cattle industry convention in Jackson.

“The college’s partnership with the Wyoming Stock Growers Association is very important,” notes Galey. “We work well together, and I feel very privileged to have been given this award.”

The award is not limited to members of the WSGA nor is it intended to be awarded annually but when a uniquely qualified candidate emerges, according to the WSGA.

Galey has demonstrated outstanding efforts through strong leadership of the governor’s brucellosis task force, his commitment to brucellosis research as well as his contribution to the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources for the past 13 years, according to the WSGA.

“While working in the dean’s office, I saw on a daily basis how important agriculture and natural resources are to Galey,” says Brittany Schaneman, WSGA intern and recent College of Agriculture and Natural Resources graduate.

“He strives to encourage students to enhance the image of agriculture and natural resources in Wyoming,” Galey received his Ph.D. in veterinary biosciences and holds a specialty certification in toxicology. His research interests include the fields of diagnostic and forensic medicine, plant and other natural product poisonings, and analytical pharmacology and toxicology.
Add an “A” to those four H’s. A smartphone app developed by the Wyoming 4-H Program appeals to younger members as a way to keep them in the communications loop and is a key component of the program’s communication strategy.

“I started using it about the end of March after we got back from the national conference in Washington, D.C.,” says Olivia Roybal, a 4-H’er in Carbon County. “My favorites about the app are that it gives us the information you may need or to remember a date that you didn’t write down — you can just look it up on the app. Things for the county are nice, too, because it really is specific to our county.”

Wyoming 4-H has more than 8,000 members, and 4-H educators have contact with more than 25,000 youth through the schools or other venues, according to the state program office.

The app is designed for iPhones and phones with Droid-based software and is free for anyone to download; it was the first 4-H-specific smartphone app in the United States available for free, according to Johnathan Despain, state 4-H program coordinator.

“Any organization that serves people must be able to provide resources to their volunteers and clientele in a convenient way,” says Despain. “Constant communications about opportunities for young people in 4-H to them, their parents, our volunteers, and the general public is imperative to thriving. The use of contemporary means like Facebook, smartphone apps, and texting to communicate about 4-H events, activities, and opportunities has become an expectation of people rather than a bonus. We’ve simply been trying to meet those communications needs.”

Weston County 4-H educator Stacy Madden has created one of the most progressive communication strategies in Wyoming, according to Despain. Madden integrated a county 4-H website, email list, Facebook page, the 4-H News and Events smartphone app, and The Chatter, a print newsletter, which she also posts on the website.

Madden said many 4-H’ers and volunteers are comfortable with the newsletter and rarely or never use digital technology or social media for communication while others solely rely on their smartphones or Facebook.

“My first goal was to try and bridge the communication gap,” says Madden, who joined extension in January. “I knew I would have to provide a range of methods to keep everyone in the loop. I have to communicate with folks ages 8 to 80 and, as a result, differing levels of comfort with technology.”

Madden regularly posts Facebook updates and maintains separate Web pages she created for each club that include a comments section for members to interact and post their own information.

Madden has received positive feedback on the all-inclusive communications strategy.

“I feel a general excitement about 4-H as a whole and the integration of these communication tools,” she says. “Over time, I think it will be important for the program in Weston County and for its youth to utilize the technology available, adapt with its evolution and find creative ways to integrate technology so the program stays relevant and its youth are prepared with the life skills they need to succeed.”

4-H members are spread across Wyoming, the second least-densely populated state next to Alaska, according to the United States Census Bureau. About 30 percent of residents live on farms and ranches while 40 percent live in small towns (under 10,000) or rural, non-farm areas. The other 30 percent live in Wyoming’s larger towns like Cheyenne, Casper, and Jackson.

“The way we communicate has changed significantly in just the last three years,” says Stan Skrabut, extension instructional technology educational specialist. “Technologies like Facebook and smartphone apps augment the traditional media sources. We are increasingly becoming a mobile information society, and if we don’t use these tools, we will fall behind.”

Digital technologies and social media have significantly streamlined the communications process for Wyoming 4-H staff members, says the state 4-H events coordinator.

“These tools are beneficial because they provide different avenues to reach a large audience,” says Lindsey Moniz. “Information is timely, and it’s available at the reader’s convenience. I also think it’s essential to use as many tools as possible to keep up with ever-changing demographics and deliver our message the best way possible.”

For more information, contact Despain at JDespain@uwyo.edu or at 307-766-5170. Wyoming 4-H’ers can download the 4-H News and Events smartphone application at http://www.uwyo.edu/4-h/_files/4happ3.13.12.pdf.
University of Wyoming Extension magazines received gold and silver awards and publications for the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources received bronze awards from the international Association for Communication Excellence (ACE).

The awards were presented during the organization’s annual meeting June 11-14 in Annapolis, Maryland. The Office of Communications and Technology in UW Extension produces all the publications.

Barnyards & Backyards magazine, published quarterly, received the gold award for magazines and periodicals. Barnyards & Backyards provides information from land resource professionals to be of help to small-acreage landowners in Wyoming.

CONNECT, published annually, received a silver award in the same category. The magazine showcases examples of UW Extension educators working with the people of Wyoming.

Ag News, published every four months, received a bronze award in Newsletters. Ag News highlights the activities of staff and faculty members and the research, educational, and outreach programs in the college.

Reflections, published yearly, received a bronze award in electronic publications. The magazine highlights the teaching, research, and outreach efforts of faculty and staff members in the college.

The Association for Communication Excellence in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Life and Human Sciences is an international association of communicators, educators, and information technologists.

Landowners can reduce wildfire risks to houses, cabins, and outbuildings by creating defensible spaces around them, according to wildfire experts.

Information about how to create defensible spaces and reduce wildfire risks to property is at barnyardsandbackyards.com.

“With this spring’s unusually dry conditions, we are asking people to be especially careful with all types of fires around their property, and we urge them to implement defensible space practices around their homes and outbuildings,” says Bill Crapser, state forester with the Wyoming State Forestry Division (WSFD).

The website is part of Barnyards & Backyards, Rural Living in Wyoming by the Small Acreage Issue Team, which is a collaborative effort of the University of Wyoming Extension, WSFD, and other land resource organizations in Wyoming.

Subjects in how-to articles and videos include creating defensible space around a house, cabin, or outbuilding, firewise plants that can be used in landscapes, and other steps to prepare for wildfire. There is also information about what to do after a wildfire, such as rehabilitating the fire line, burned and stressed tree danger, whether to salvage fire-damaged trees and water quality and erosion following fires.

Go to barnyardsandbackyards.com, click on Resources on the left-hand side of the page, then Wildfire.

Other resource information is also available.

“The Barnyards & Backyards website is one of the best sites out there for practical information of interest to rural residents in our state,” notes Jennifer Thompson, small-acreage outreach coordinator with UW Extension.

“Visitors can find information on a whole host of subjects including vegetable gardening, weed control, water-wise landscaping, tree care, windbreaks, pine beetle management, grazing management, and more. The rich and useful content is the result of the efforts of resource professionals across the state.”
Proposals Submitted:

Franc, Gary: $24,000 to Kansas State University for “Great Plains Plant Diagnostic Network—Wyoming FY2012.”


Galey, Francis: $6,600 to Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA) for “Wyoming Ag Potato Certification.”

Jarvis, Donald: $1,415,000 to National Institutes of Health (NIH) for “Protein Glycosylation in Insect Cells,” and $696,301 for “Glycoengineering Insect Cells.”

Levy, Daniel, and Ana Houseal: $1,064,039 to National Science Foundation (NSF) for “Mechanisms of Steady-state Nuclear Size Regulation in Xenopus.”

Mealor, Brian: $10,000 to USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) for “Pesticide Safety Education Program.”


Yao, Chaoqun: $375,849 to NIH for “Attenuation of Leishmania Protozoa by Sterol Depletion.”

Monies Awarded:

Beck, Jeffrey, and Anna Lisa Chalfoun: $38,000 from Wyoming Game and Fish for “Response of Greater Sage-grouse to Treatments in Wyoming Big Sagebrush.”

Collier, Timothy: $33,494 from USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service for “Biological Control of Wyoming Weeds and Gypsy Moth Surveillance Activities.”

Despain, Jonathan, Brittany Johnson, and Eloise Riley: $44,522 from Kansas State University for “Military Families Camp.”

Ford, Stephen: $5,220 from various sponsors for “Fetal Programming.”

Gomelsky, Mark: $182,130 from NIH for “Near-infrared Light Activated Protein Photoswitches.”

Hess, Bret, and Paul Ludden: $1,371 from Pioneer Livestock Nutrition Center for “Analysis of Feed and Fecal Samples for Titanium Dioxide 05-06.”

Jarvis, Donald: $208,005 from University of Georgia for “Research Resource for Integrated Glycotechnology Year 2.”

Kniss, Andrew: $12,500 from Syngenta Crop Protection, LLC for “Agronomic Crop Research.”

Mealmor, Brian: $15,000 from Dow AgroSciences for “Biology and Management of Invasive Weeds in Rangelands.”

Murphy, Melanie: $37,922 from Wyoming Game and Fish for “Identifying Restoration and Land-use Priorities for Sage-grouse,” $42,000 from NSF for “Effects of Ecosystem Engineering on Species Distributions across Stress Gradients,” $64,899 from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for “Wetland Hydroperiod and Climate Change: Implications for Biodiversity and Water Availability,” and $890 from Sigma Xi for “Spatial and Temporal Effects of Beaver on Amphibian Distributions.”


Calendar

July 4: Independence Day, UW offices closed

July 5: Savvy Parenting Webinar Series – Summer Jobs for Kids, online webinar, 12:10 p.m.

July 11-12: Wyoming 2012 Regional Reclamation Schools, The Ranch at Ucross

For a statewide calendar, please access the ag college Web site at www.uwyo.edu/UWAG/

Changing Faces, Changing Places
(effective date in parentheses)

Welcome:

Hopp, Hannah: Campbell County Extension, horticulture program coordinator (5/14)
Schamber, Robin: $7,000 from various sponsors for “Sublette County Extension Program.”

Schell, Scott: $6,546 from WDA for “2012 Mosquito Larval Control Workshop and West Nile Virus Prevention Training.”

Tanaka, John: $80,000 from USDA Forest Service for “Sustainable Rangelands Roundtable FY12,” and $5,000 from USDA NIFA for “Teaching to Learn and Learning to Teach: Education in Rangeland Ecology and Management, Special Issue of Rangelands.”

Presentations:

Boggs, Christine, N., Karen C. Williams, and Meg Van Baalen-Wood. “Game On!,” presented at the Wyoming Distance Education Consortium Conference: Do You Want to Play a Game?, Powell, May 22.


Williams, Karen C., Bruce A. Cameron, Kari Morgan, and Christine W. Wade. “Facilitation of Online Group Projects: Insights from Experienced Faculty Members,” presented at the 28th Annual Conference on Distance Teaching and Learning, Madison, Wisconsin, August 9.