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COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

AG NEWS ^{UNW}

VOLUME 19 • NUMBER 3 • FALL 2010

"Leadership is action, not position."

Donald H. McGannon

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The fall season is always an exciting time in the college. Students are returning, the campus is spruced up, and faculty members are coming back from field research projects. It is also an exciting time of renewal for faculty. Each year, we welcome new faces to our teaching, research, and extension stakeholders. This year is no exception.

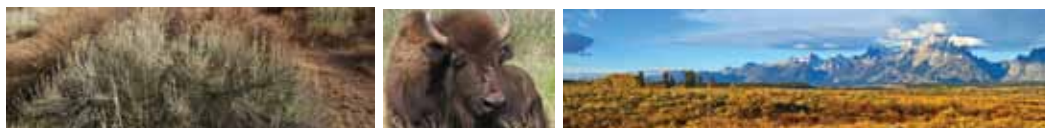
Seven faculty members will join us this year.

Three faculty members joining the team are interested in various aspects of range and water issues. Assistant Professor **Kristina Hufford** is a rangeland reclamation ecologist. She arrived in the spring from Australia, where she completed a postdoctoral training program in arid land restoration. She will be involved in the Wyoming Reclamation and Restoration Center and is a member of the range science program in the Department of Renewable Resources.

Assistant Professor **Axel Garcia y Garcia** joined our faculty members at the Powell Research and Extension Center last year. He is interested in irrigation issues and is serving the entire state in that capacity.



Dean Frank Galey



(Continued from Page 1)

“The fall season is always an exciting time in the college. Students are returning, the campus is spruced up, and faculty members are coming back from field research projects.”

Melanie Murphy is a natural resources ecologist who will teach in the range science curriculum and conduct research about the ecology and habitat issues involved in disrupted systems caused by drought, energy development, and other external activities.

Two veterinarians are or will be joining the animal health team. **Brant Schumaker** is a population medicine specialist from the University of California, Davis. He is interested in doing research about the spread and, hopefully, containment of brucellosis. Schumaker will arrive later this fall. Assistant Professor **Myrna Miller** is a veterinary virologist who joined the Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory in the spring. She will take charge of the diagnostic virology laboratory operations. She joined us from the USDA Arthropod-Borne Animal Diseases Research Laboratory.

Valtcho Jeliakov will arrive in Sheridan the end of September to direct our Sheridan Research and Extension Center. Jeliakov is an accomplished horticulture scientist with extensive experience with greenhouses in northern latitudes.

We also will have **Jay Gatlin** joining the molecular biology program. Gatlin is an outstanding molecular scientist engaged in research about the biology of how cells function. He will teach in our molecular and microbiology programs.

As you can see, these new additions to our faculty have a great deal to add and signify that the strength of our faculty will continue to grow. Please join me in welcoming these folks if you get a chance.

This September 17-18, we again will host the annual Agriculture Appreciation Weekend. We will honor two outstanding alums. **Quentin Skinner**, who many of you know well, served Wyoming's water extension needs for years after graduation and then when joining our faculty. **Alex Ogg** is an outstanding weed scientist who got his start at UW before completing a Ph.D. in Oregon. He went on to develop novel weed control strategies for decades to the benefit of many constituents here in the Western U.S.

Recognition this year for the outstanding organizational partner of the year is the **Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts (WACD)**. Faculty and staff members from this college have partnered for years with the WACD to provide protocols for water quality testing and other related projects as the WACD does its outstanding job of serving Wyoming's water issues.

Tammy Au-France of Laramie is receiving our Legacy Award. This is in recognition of years of wonderful support for our programs in textiles and merchandising.

Thank you for your continued support of your college! We wish you a productive season! We can be contacted at (307) 766-4133 or by e-mail at agrdean@uwyo.edu. Our Web site is www.uwyo.edu/UWag/.

Dean Frank Gale
College of Agriculture

Cuin, Paisley receive national ag agent honors



From left, Donna Cuin, Steve Paisley, and Kellie Chichester received national honors from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents.

National Association of County Agricultural Agents national awards were presented to a University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service horticulturist and a specialist.

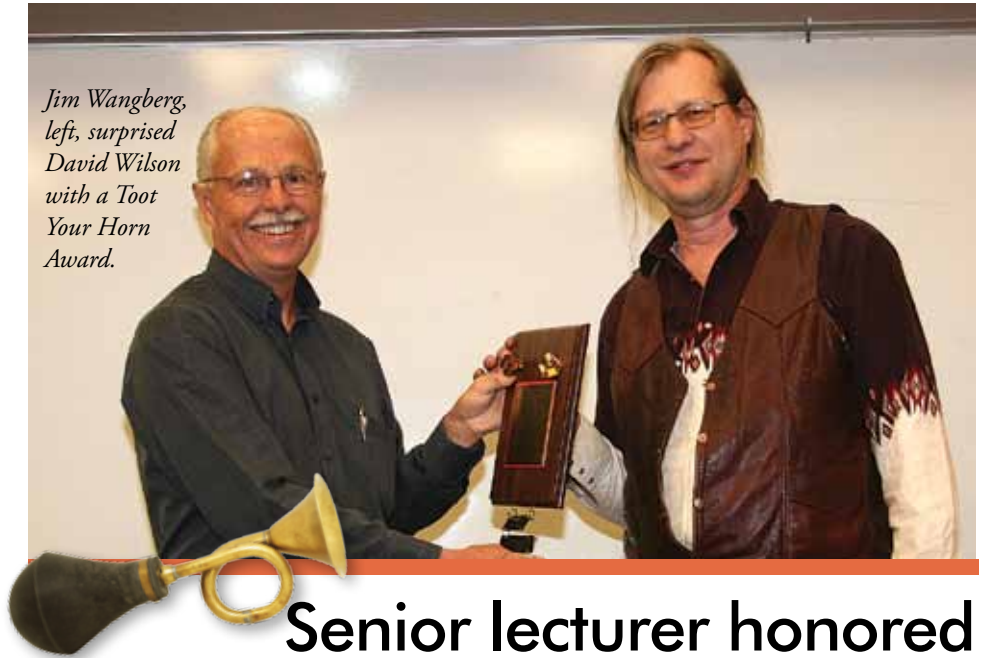
The awards were received during the association's annual conference in Tulsa, Okla., July 11-15.

Donna Cuin, horticulture program associate in Natrona County, received the Achievement Award. There were 52 others nominated for the national award.

Steve Paisley, extension beef specialist, received the Distinguished Service award. There were 70 nominated for the award. Paisley, an associate professor in the Department of Animal Science, is based at the James C. Hageman Sustainable Agriculture Research and Extension Center near Lingle.

Kellie Chichester, an educator based in Albany County, was also honored as the outgoing committee chair at the national level.

Jim Wangberg, left, surprised David Wilson with a Toot Your Horn Award.



Senior lecturer honored for teaching, student service

Senior lecturer David Wilson was presented a Toot Your Horn Award by Jim Wangberg, associate dean and director of the Office of Academic and Student Programs.

Wilson, in the Department of Plant Sciences, was beginning a lecture in his Agroecology 1000 class when Wangberg entered announcing the award by blowing a brass horn.

"The spirit of the award is to recognize an individual for what happens not only in the classroom but outside the classroom," says Wangberg. "What makes Dave exceptional is his dedication to teaching and sacrifices on behalf of the students. He's very interested in students' success and their welfare."

The first Toot Your Horn Award was presented in 2002, and Wilson is the 21st recipient.

Wilson received his bachelor's degree in agricultural production from Montana State University in 1978, and his master's (1993) and doctorate (2000) from the University

of Wyoming. He joined the University of Wyoming in 1982 as a research associate in the then-Department of Plant, Soil, and Insect Sciences and began teaching as an assistant lecturer in 1999.

Wilson is responsible for the high enrollments in the agroecology program, notes Wangberg, and is the faculty adviser for the Agroecology Club. Among his many honors and awards, Wilson was nominated for the 2006 Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service Outstanding New Teacher award.

"Dave is highly accessible," says Wangberg. "Students can always find him, and he's always generous with his time. He goes out of his way to help students in his class or students outside of class who are facing challenges. He takes students under his wing and helps them in all kinds of ways. He sincerely cares for and is dedicated to students. He would never brag or boast about his own accomplishments. That's why I chose to toot the horn for him."



Rachel Watson receives the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Teaching Award of Merit from Jim Wangberg.



Guinevere Jones receives the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Graduate Student Teaching Award from Jim Wangberg.

Watson, Jones receive teaching honors

Rachel Watson and Guinevere Jones received the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) Teaching Award of Merit and Graduate Student Teaching Award, respectively.

Watson is a lecturer in the molecular biology program, and Jones is an entomology master's student in the Department of Renewable Resources.

The awards were presented by Jim Wangberg, associate dean and director of the Office of Academic and Student Programs. The college has an institutional membership in NACTA and has the opportunity each year to recognize a faculty member and graduate student for achievement in teaching.

Watson joined the college as an instructor in 2001. She earned a bachelor's degree from Denver University in 1998 and her master's in molecular biology from UW in 2001. She is working toward a doctor of education degree in instructional technology at UW.

Jones received the Outstanding Master's Student Award in 2009 from Gamma Sigma Delta, and this spring was named the U.S. Graduate Student Award recipient from UW International Programs. She is a guest lecturer in insect biology, and her adviser is Professor Scott Shaw. She has been accepted into the Ph.D. ecology program at UW. Jones received her bachelor's degree in 2000 from Transylvania University, Lexington, Kentucky.

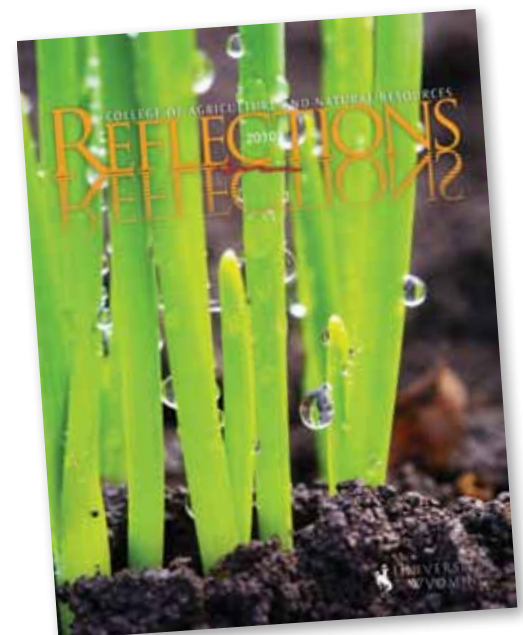
Prehistoric cuisine,

Prehistoric Wyoming cuisine and analyzing the economic choices of Wyoming agricultural producers were voted top research stories for the 2010 *Reflections* magazine.

The stories tied for first place, and each author group received \$750 from the Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station (AES). *Reflections* highlights research efforts in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. An anonymous review team of faculty members judges the articles.

Researchers analyzing the diet of prehistoric Shoshone living in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem found that a woman collecting only the highest caloric and easily gathered foods could harvest enough during a season to feed a family of four for half a year.

Richard Adams, Ph.D. candidate in anthropology in the College of Arts and Sciences, and Associate Professor Rhoda Schantz in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences in the College of Agriculture and



producer market choices voted top *Reflections* stories



Associate Professor Chris Bastian and research scientist Amy Nagler help volunteer Lynne Pulley, seated, during a market research study.



Professor Rhoda Schantz

Natural Resources report their results in “Nuts and roots: The staples of prehistoric cuisine in the Greater Yellowstone Area.”

Scientists in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics found that landlords benefit from renting to a subsidized tenant. Results reported in “Agriculture markets, policies, and economic behavior in the laboratory and beyond” show that land prices and rents respond significantly and positively to government support. Data were collected using a mobile computer laboratory taken to several Wyoming locations.

Scientists also found that results from agricultural producers and college students did not differ. Authors are assistant research scientist Amy Nagler, Assistant Professor Chris Bastian, Assistant Professor Mariah Ehmke, and Professor Dale Menkhaus.

Only one point separated the top four stories in the magazine.

“A tie for first place and only one point separating the next highest-ranking articles, which also tied, is testament to the level of interest garnered by the activities described in this issue,” notes Bret Hess, associate dean for research and director of AES.

There are 16 research stories in the magazine. *Reflections* is available at UW research and extension centers near Powell, Sheridan, and Lingle, and UW Cooperative Extension Service offices. An interactive online flip-page version with videos is at http://multimedia.uwyo.edu/UWAG_STREAM/Reflections2010/index.html/

Print copies can also be obtained via mail by calling the AES office in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at (307) 766-3667.



Richard Adams grinds Cympterus roots with a mano and metate prior to making biscuits.



Associate Professor Min Du

Min Du receives early career achievement award

Associate Professor Min Du in the Department of Animal Science received the Early Career Achievement Award from the American Society of Animal Science at its 2010 annual meeting in Denver.

Du, a muscle biologist in the meat science program, has acquired more than \$2.25 million in grants as a principal investigator since joining the faculty in August 2003. He has published more than 100 peer-reviewed manuscripts in scientific journals and has been an invited speaker at a number of national and international conferences.

UW honors professor for lifetime teaching

*By UW Media Relations
and Office of Communications and Technology*

A faculty member in the Department of Renewable Resources is the recipient of the John P. Ellbogen Lifetime Teaching Award.

The award recognizes the sustained teaching excellence over Professor Dan Rodgers' career.

Rodgers was already a respected educator when he arrived at UW in 1980 after serving 13 years as an extension educator at Texas A&M.

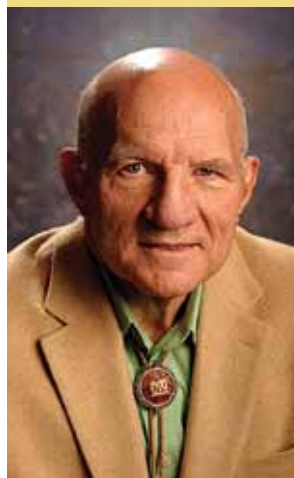
Then-department head Fee Busby, who hired Rodgers, wanted someone who could work well with ranchers and educators. He set the stage for a busy summer for his new employee.

"When I arrived on June 1, he had an extension car reserved for about six weeks along with three weeks of meetings and tasks lined up and suggested I just hit the road and spend the summer getting acquainted with everyone. That really paid off," says Rodgers.

He has sustained his enthusiasm for teaching.

"Our students here at UW have been awesome – all they seem to need is a little enthusiasm for learning and belief on both their part and mine that they can do it," he notes. "It's easy to keep my own enthusiasm at a high level just being around these young people and watching them grow and develop."

A graduate in a class of 20 at Tom Bean, Texas, he fondly remembers teachers there, and talks about extension range specialists he admired who set high expectations, had outstanding examples of how to build an effective extension program, and showed how to teach ranchers, agency personnel, and youth.



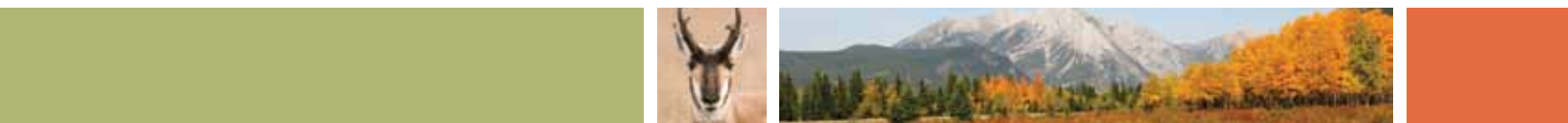
Dan Rodgers received the University of Wyoming's John P. Ellbogen Lifetime Teaching Award, which recognizes sustained teaching excellence for the length of his career. (UW Photo)

Rodgers has led student activities as adviser to the Range Club and Rodeo Club, and, since 1992, he coached and prepared the UW Plant Team for international intercollegiate competition. For 12 years, he coached UW's team for the University Range Management Exam sponsored by the Society for Range Management and advised students competing in extemporaneous speaking.

He has been involved with Wyoming Resource Education Days (WyRED) for decades, where he assisted and instructed 4-H and FFA members, their instructors, and professionals in rangeland management.

In 2005, the international Society for Range Management and Range Science Education Council presented Rodgers with its highest honor for teachers – the Outstanding Undergraduate Teacher Award.

"I owe a lot to the strong support from department heads Busby, Tom Thurow, and (current department head) John Tanaka," says Rodgers. "They have all encouraged and strongly supported my teaching efforts."



Cook coordinates brucellosis research within UW, with other universities

Walt Cook is assisting Dean Frank Galey in his role as chairman of the Wyoming Brucellosis Coordination Team and the Consortium for the Advancement of Brucellosis Science (CABS).

“My job is to coordinate brucellosis research within the University of Wyoming and among several universities across the country where research is being conducted,” says Cook. “This is being done through CABS.”

Research priorities are vaccine development (for both cattle and wildlife) and improved diagnostic tests for the bacterial disease.

There is exciting research going on at UW and elsewhere, notes Cook, but that research is hampered by lack of funding and lack of facilities for large-animal brucellosis trials.

“*Brucella abortus*, the causative agent of brucellosis, is considered a Select Agent,” says Cook, “meaning it has potential for use in bioterrorism. With this status comes severe restrictions for its use; any research done using the field strain must be conducted under very tight security. The new biosafety level 3 (BSL-3) addition to the Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory will allow research using rodent models to be completed in Laramie.”

Cook says Assistant Professor Gerry Andrews and his team in the Department of Veterinary Sciences have developed good vaccine candidates and, with the completion of the lab, will be able to try them on



Walt Cook

mouse models. If successful, the vaccines would then be tried on cattle, elk, or bison.

This work would need to be conducted elsewhere in facilities that can hold these large animals and still comply with the BSL-3 requirements of working with *B. abortus*.

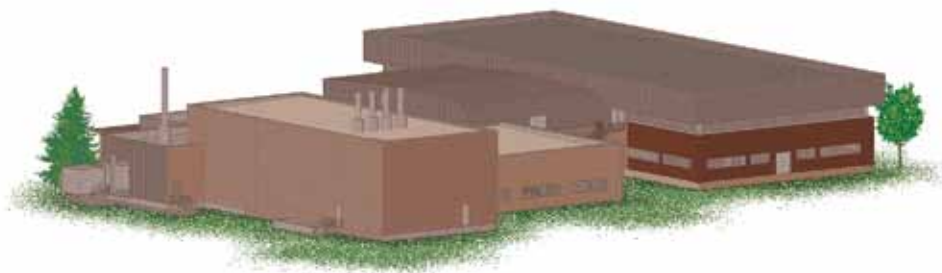
“That is where the coordination comes in,” says Cook. “The other big issue is funding. Although vaccine trials using lab

mice can be conducted relatively cheaply, studies using large animals under BSL-3 conditions are very expensive. Brucellosis is a chronic disease; this means any study must be long-term to be realistic. This also adds to the expense of the studies.”

CABS is dedicated to finding additional brucellosis funding sources and funneling those resources to the most appropriate areas, he says.

Members are a scientific team of researchers from the University of California, Davis, Texas A&M University, Louisiana State University, Virginia Tech University, UW, Montana State University, and the USDA Agricultural Research Service in Ames, Iowa, as well as a stakeholder advisory team whose members are from the federal government and from state government in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming.

Although related, the brucellosis coordination team is concentrating on reducing the risk of transmission from wildlife to cattle with currently available techniques, says Cook. For more information about the brucellosis coordination team, see www.wyomingbrucellosis.com/.



UW educators receive award for online teaching quality

A professor in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and an extension service emerita educator were honored for their online community leadership course.

Randy Weigel in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences and Rhonda Shipp of Cody, who retired from the University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service (UW CES) in 2008, received the Pearson Excellence in Online Teaching award. The award is presented to educators using the Pearson LearningStudio platform who demonstrate a significant commitment to quality in online education.

The two are teaching Understanding Community Leadership. Pearson Learning Solutions offers learning tools, resources, and support services for educators.

"In all my years as an educator, I have rarely seen an online course that has been so thoughtfully constructed," notes Professor Karen Williams in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences.

The course was developed for senior



Rhonda Shipp



Professor Randy Weigel

students and graduate students.

Shipp says her preference prior to teaching this course had been face-to-face educational experiences in real time. "I admit I wondered about online instruction," she says. "I discovered that, even online, the students' personalities became evident as we progressed through the units each week, and I felt like I knew them."

Shipp and Weigel use a variety of tools to make the course experiential and interesting.

"It was important to us that we immerse the students in the course materials

in ways that increased their level of reflection, absorption, and integration of the information," says Shipp. "I was pleased to see their online conversations about the course content demonstrated depth in original thought and analyses."

Shipp and Weigel discovered the parts that worked well and those that needed improvement. The changes are part of this fall's FCSC 4117/5117 class.

"The instructors have incorporated strong content that blends all the best of extension and outreach teaching strategies with the use of technology and online tools," notes Larry Jansen, an instructional designer and Online UW coordinator with the UW Outreach School.

Weigel is the human development specialist with the extension service, and Shipp specialized in community leadership in her educator position in Park County.

The award is a \$1,000 donation to the scholarship of the winner's choice. Weigel and Shipp selected the UW Outreach School Edelweiss Fund.

Plant sciences professor part of \$1.1 million grant eyeing

A scientist in the Department of Plant Sciences is part of a \$1.1 million grant to study birdsfoot trefoil's benefit to organic dairies.

Extension forage specialist Anowar Islam said the five-year study partners with organic dairy producers to examine the effects on milk production and milk quality of replacing grass pasture with birdsfoot trefoil (BFT).

Other research partners are Colorado State University, the University of Idaho,

and Utah State University. Each partner is required to have two dairies involved in the respective research. T-Barthel Holsteins near Lingle and Forrest Dairy near Torrington are participating in Wyoming.

The research will evaluate adapting to the U.S. the pastured livestock production system developed in New Zealand. Its goal is to determine if cows grazing BFT pasture will produce more milk per unit of dry matter intake than cows grazing grass pasture. Data from New Zealand show they will,

says Islam, an assistant professor.

Milk production of BFT fed-cows is significantly higher than grass-fed cows but BFT produces less per-acre dry matter. An economic analysis will determine potential costs and benefits of using BFT.

Organic dairies that depend the most on pastures have feed costs 25-percent less than those that depend the least on pasture; however, milk production of grazing-based dairies is 30-percent less than confinement dairies. Increasing milk production of cows



Professor Emeritus Lloyd receives lifetime achievement honor

Professor Emeritus in Entomology Jack Lloyd received a lifetime achievement award from the West Central Mosquito and Vector Control Association.

The honorary membership award was presented at the organization's annual meeting in Fort Collins, Colorado.

"This is our highest award, and Jack is one of only three persons to ever have this award bestowed upon them," says Keith Wardlaw, mosquito control crew supervisor with the city of Laramie and president of the association.

Lloyd is one of the association's founding members and served as secretary and president. "He has continued to support mosquito control throughout the region and especially in Wyoming for the past 40 years," notes Wardlaw. "Jack has been instrumental in training many of the mosquito control professionals working in the state."



Keith Wardlaw, left, of the city of Laramie received an award for service and Professor Emeritus Jack Lloyd received an honorary membership to the West Central Mosquito and Vector Control Association.

Lloyd retired from UW in 2005 after 37 years teaching and research in veterinary and medical entomology. He has conducted mosquito identification and control workshops on the Laramie campus and around the state as service to Wyoming.

"The response of state mosquito workers has been very rewarding," says Lloyd. "I think the training has greatly elevated the level of mosquito control programs around the state."

He serves as an adviser to the Wyoming Emergency Insect Management Committee and led a task force that developed monitoring protocols for mosquito control agencies that receive money from the state. The committee dispenses funds for the management of mosquito vectors of West Nile virus.

The association has membership in eight Western states and spans from Mexico to Canada.

Wardlaw presented the award at the annual conference.

"That made it extra special," says Lloyd. "Keith directs the Laramie mosquito program, which is definitely one of the region's outstanding mosquito abatement programs. His election as president of the association is evidence of the respect Keith has earned as a mosquito control professional."

organic dairies

on pasture will make pasture-based organic dairying more profitable than confinement-based dairying.

BFT offers other potential benefits to organic dairy producers, says Islam. The nutritional value of BFT is similar to alfalfa. BFT has a low concentration of tannin that cross-links with proteins and prevents bloat. The nitrogen content of milk and urine is reduced because less ammonia is absorbed from the rumen than is absorbed when cows graze grass.

Islam said researchers will use the Web-based group eOrganic Dairy, fact sheets, newsletters, pasture walks, and field days to extend information to producers.

"Outreach to producers will also be greatly facilitated by eOrganic Dairy," says Islam. "Cooperating producers willing to be identified by location can field questions posed by local producers."

Islam will hire two graduate students to assist in data collection and analyses.



Assistant Professor Anowar Islam

Wangberg receives Distinguished Educator Award

Jim Wangberg, associate dean and director of the Office of Academic and Student Programs, received the 2010 Distinguished Educator Award from the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) during its meeting at Penn State University in June.

"It came as a complete surprise when I found out," says Wangberg, who has served in his present position since 1999. "Knowing of the award and the other prior recipients, I'm very humbled to be a recipient."

Professor Karen Williams in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences nominated Wangberg. The nomination was accompanied by three letters of support.

"Jim epitomizes the best of the term 'educator,'" notes Williams. "He has been in higher education for more than 30 years, positively contributing in the classroom as an administrator, a scholar, and as a campus and national leader. I can think of no one more deserving nor anyone with such unique contributions."

Wangberg said his mentor, Joe Kunsman, who was the former associate dean of



Jim Wangberg, center, says the NACTA distinguished educator award is an honor to be shared with his office staff members Laurie Bonini, left, student recruitment and retention coordinator, Kelly Wiseman, staff assistant, and Teresa Jacobs Castano (not pictured).

academic programs in the college, attended the presentation.

"Joe was well-respected nationally and well-known in higher education," says Wangberg, who attended the ceremony with his wife, Lesley. "He and his wife, Darlene, surprised me by coming to the awards luncheon that day. It was very special to have a good friend and the person who mentored me in my current position to share in the activities that day."

Wangberg has received numerous awards over his career. He was the founding director of the University of

Wyoming's Center for Teaching Excellence in addition to being a professor of entomology and the department head of Plant, Soil and Insect Sciences from July 1986 to February 1993. He had chaired the Department of Entomology at Texas Tech University from March 1983-July 1986.

"More than any other person in the college, Jim recognizes the importance of undergraduate education," wrote Williams. "He works endlessly to provide teaching faculty members with resources

and opportunities that allow them not only to focus on students but to embark upon educational research and creative activity."

Each year, Wangberg presents the NACTA Teaching Award of Merit and Graduate Student Teaching Award to a faculty member and graduate student in the college (see page 4).

Wangberg is the first UW recipient of the award since its inception in 1976. Previous recipients are at www.nactateachers.org/distinguished-educator-award-recipients.html.



Milt Geiger, center, receives congratulations from Myron Allen, provost and vice president, Academic Affairs, left, and Rollin Abernethy, associate provost, Academic Affairs.

Extension energy coordinator receives Outstanding Master's Thesis award

Milt Geiger, University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service energy coordinator, received the Outstanding Master's Thesis Award from the University of Wyoming Graduate Council.

Geiger's thesis is "Federal Greenhouse Gas Regulation and Wyoming's Energy Derived Tax Revenue."

Geiger completed master's degrees in agricultural and applied economics and environment and natural resources at UW in August 2009.

You can take the “Cowboys” out of Wyoming, but you can’t take the “Wyoming” out of the Cowboys. The team leaves its mark at Coffs Harbor, Australia. From left, Brogan Clay, Jaymes Talbott, Wade Allnutt, Chris Kelly, Jessi Larsen, and Becky Vraspir.



Meat judging team competes in Australia

The UW Meat Judging Team earned second place at the 2010 Australian International Beef Judging Contest at the University of New England in Armidale, New South Wales, Australia, June 29-July 4.

The team was the only U.S. team selected and invited by the Australian Intercollegiate Meat Judging Association. Murdoch University in Perth, Australia, won the event.

The UW team had first-place finishes in lamb judging, primal and retail cut identification, and questions and reasons. UW also placed second in beef judging.

Team members were: Wade Allnutt, Walden, Colorado; Brogan Clay, Laramie; Chris Kelly, Longmont, Colorado; Jessi Larsen, Gardiner, Montana; Jaymes Talbott,

Laramie; and Becky Vraspir, Emerson, Nebraska.

The team was accompanied by coach Lander Nicodemus of Cheyenne and UW Meat Lab manager and assistant coach Kelcey Christensen of Wright.

For many more photos of the UW Meat Judging Team’s trip to Australia, see <http://uwmeatjudging.shutterfly.com/>

“Incredible. What more is there to say?” says Christensen of the experience. “It was such an exceptional opportunity to see these students learn so much about other cultures, Australian agriculture, and truly gain a greater understanding of international agriculture. The places we visited, the things we saw, the dinner tables we sat at, and the phenomenal people we met were such an inspiration to all of us.”

The invitation included the opportunity to attend the five-day 2010 Australian Meat Industry Conference. The conference included industry tours, Australian and international meat industry sessions led by CEOs and corporate leaders from all segments of the meat industry, and exposure to large multi-national companies such as



UW Meat Judging Team members with awards are front, from left, Becky Vraspir, Jessi Larsen, Wade Allnutt. Back: Kelcey Christensen, UW Meat Lab manager and assistant coach, Brogan Clay, Chris Kelly, Jaymes Talbott, and coach Lander Nicodemus.



UW Meat Judging Team members discuss a beef carcass class after the 2010 Australian International Beef Judging Contest at the University of New England in Armidale, New South Wales, Australia. The team placed second overall.

“This was an opportunity of a lifetime. We experienced, firsthand, the numerous facets of Australian agriculture, and, it definitely lived up to and beyond all expectations.”

Jessi Larsen

Cargill Meat Solutions and JBS Inc.

The team toured many facets of the Australian food industry, including beef, dairy, goat, sheep, cheese, and wine.

“Although the contest was an important reason for the trip, it was only a small part of the total experience,” notes Nicodemus. “The opportunity to gain insight into Australia’s agricultural production practices was an irreplaceable educational opportunity.”

Team members also saw many Australian sites including Coffs Harbor Beach and Jetty, Port Macquarie Harbor, Terrigal Beach, the Hunter Valley Wine Region, Sydney Tower, Sydney Opera House, Sydney Harbor Bridge, Manly Beach, and the Taronga Zoo in Sydney.

“This was an opportunity of a lifetime,” says Jessi Larsen. “We experienced, firsthand, the numerous facets of Australian agriculture, and, it definitely lived up to and beyond all expectations.”

The trip was made possible by support from the UW President’s Office, the UW Foundation, the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources dean’s office, and the Department of Animal Science. In addition to team fund-raising activities, the Food Science Club and numerous private donors also contributed.

AG APPRECIATION WEEKEND

Schedule of Events



The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources outstanding alumni, research/outreach partner, and legacy winners for 2010 will be honored September 17-18 as part of Ag Appreciation Weekend, a celebration of the importance of agriculture to Wyoming's history, culture, and economy.

Ag Appreciation Weekend events include:

Friday, September 17

- **Dean's Ag Appreciation Dinner** honoring College of Agriculture graduates Alex Ogg and Quentin Skinner, Legacy Award recipient Tammy Au-France, and Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts, the Research Partner of the Year. Attendance is by invitation only.

Saturday, September 18

- **28th annual Ag Appreciation Day Barbecue**, 4-5:30 p.m. at Tailgate Park. Tickets can be purchased at the event or prior to the event by contacting Laurie Bonini in the Office of Academic and Student Programs at (307) 766-4034 or lbbonini@uwyo.edu

Food for the barbecue is provided by Wyoming producers with College of Agriculture and Natural Resources student organizations preparing and serving the meal. Proceeds provide scholarships for College of Agriculture and Natural Resources students and help fund various agriculture college student organizations.

- **UW vs. Boise State football game**, 6 p.m.

The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources has reserved Ag Appreciation Weekend group football tickets for Saturday, September 18. The tickets are in section G — adults \$40, children \$16. Go to www.wyomingathletics.com and click on the tickets link to access tickets online, and then click on Click Here To Purchase Wyoming Tickets. The Group Tickets link is on the left. The sign-in is AGDAY and the password is POKES. Tickets will be available through September 10.

AG APPRECIATION

Alumni award winner cited for common sense

Alumni award recipient Quentin Skinner had intended to enter UW and become a dentist. Instead, he was instrumental in development of watershed education, grass taxonomy

If this Outstanding Alumni Award winner had continued his planned career path, the American Dental Association might be honoring him instead of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Professor Emeritus Quentin Skinner had every intention of being a dentist. If he had, he wouldn't have nomination letters like this:

"He gave us common sense science that cuts through all the political nonsense and truly shows how to manage water, soil, plants, wildlife, and the future success of mankind," wrote Jack Turnell of Turnell Cattle Company near Meeteetse. "He was very important in saving our forest permit and teaching us how to better manage our ranch."

Or this:

"As an instructor, he has mentored thousands of young people in the natural resource field," wrote long-time friend and former student Bob Budd of Lander. "His teaching style is unique, direct, and captivating. Quentin was engaging dialogue and writing skills in natural resources long before that became a standard teaching practice. Most of all, he made every student feel important, and he made every student *think*."

Moved to Georgia

Skinner and his wife, Arlene, live in Georgia now, having moved to a warmer climate and lower elevation to help combat Arlene's cancer. "I hope we have it whipped," Quentin says from his Georgia home. "It's a lot easier for her being near our son and daughter-in-law and two grandchildren here."

He adds, "It's really pleasant. For a guy who froze to death coaching skiing, it's nice to be where it's warm."

A Pinedale native, athletes ran in the Skinner family. Quentin and his brothers, Bud, Ole, Courtney, Bob, and Monte, were inducted into the Wyoming Sports Hall of Fame in 2005. He attended UW on an athletic scholarship and earned his bachelor's degree in biological sciences in 1963. He was completing a stint in the service and stationed in Alaska when he decided to return to UW and pursue advanced degrees.

"Military is good for everyone, and it was especially good for me," he now says. "I grew up a lot. I lived in the bachelor officer quarters and going back to school was what a lot of officers had in mind. I went back to be a dentist but was on the waiting list. My wife and I thought I was too old to pursue that, and I went into my chosen field."

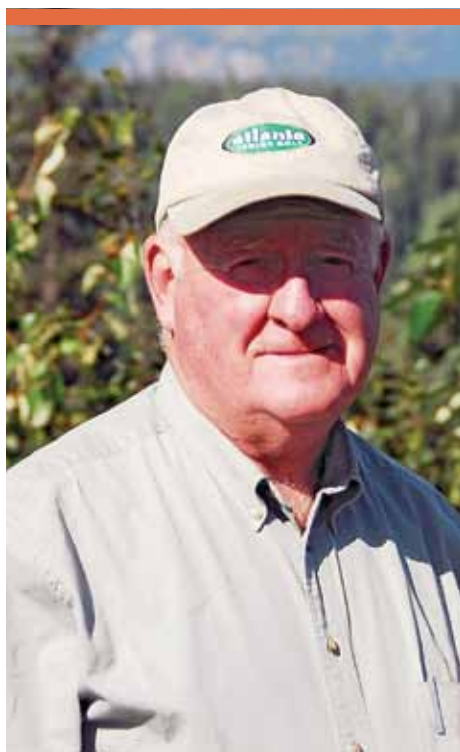
Master's in Recreation, Doctorate in Plants

He received his master's in recreation in 1970 taking part in boys and girls camps and hunting and fishing in Wyoming, and there was also the skiing. His advisers were from the colleges of engineering and agriculture, and he examined chemistry and water quality to study the effects of recreation on mountain lake systems.

He decided to study plants for his Ph.D. "I chose grasses as a group to really learn. I looked around the U.S. and found two people I wanted to study under," he notes. "One was at Texas A&M, and the other was Alan Ackerman Beetle right there at UW." Professor Beetle had earned his

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science; captivating teaching style



Professor Emeritus Quentin Skinner

Busy Wyoming visit

Skinner will have several reasons to return to the Intermountain region this fall.

He'll be honored as a College of Agriculture and Natural Resources outstanding alumnus, then be at the Wyoming Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremonies for two skiers on his UW team: Steinar Hybertsen, three-time national champion, and Stale Engen, national champion, and who also ran the steeplechase in the 1968 Mexico Olympic Games.

master's from UW in 1938, returned to UW in 1946, and taught for the next 32 years.

Skinner coached men's and women's skiing while earning his advanced degrees and, when range management was split out of plant sciences, moved over from the Water Resources Research Institute.

Thirty-one years and almost \$24 million in research awards later, he says he wouldn't change a thing.

"If I were to have things end tomorrow, I think I've had a wonderful life," he observes. "There can't be anything with more freedom and imagination than being a professor for 35 years, and I've got to meet many people."

Lengthy List of Accomplishments

His record of research, teaching, and extension would stretch several pages. His contributions to Wyoming and national agriculture tally several publications, including *Grasses of Wyoming*, *Wyoming Watersheds and Riparian Zones*, *Field Guide to the Grasses of Nevada*, *The Field Guide to Wyoming Grasses* (in press), *The Field Guide to Alaska Grasses* (near to being in press), and he's working on a field guide to the grasses of the southeastern U.S.

"The list of scientific papers describing Dr. Skinner's research has been published in many outlets," writes UW Professor Emeritus Bill Laycock. "They include a number of invited chapters in books, 35 authored or co-authored journal articles, and 65 articles in symposium proceedings, most of which were invited presentations. The list of presentations at scientific and

"No one has exemplified excellence more as a graduate of the College of Agriculture, a leader in the college, and one of the truly inspiring native sons of Wyoming."

— Bob Budd, Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust

other types of meetings is nine pages long attesting to Dr. Skinner's dedication to science and to presenting results of research to a wide range of audiences."

Research isn't his main love. That was teaching. "Research to me was a process. It paid the way to teach and do extension," Skinner says. "It was fascinating to me, but it gave me a good basis to teach."

He credits four professors for his desire to teach well: Carl Wiesen in agriculture, Robert Champlin in engineering, Rebecca Collins in organic chemistry, and George Baxter in zoology.

"All believed the student was the important commodity of a university system," he says. "I kind of wished and hoped I could be the kind of teachers they were. With extension and research, I really felt I had the knowledge I needed to compete with anybody in what I did. The teaching came from those four individuals."

Bret Moline of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation, and former extension

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Quentin Skinner catalogues grasses at Prudhoe Bay, Alaska.

educator, remembers working with Skinner. “I have found no equal to his knowledge and ability to get that knowledge in to a usable format,” he says. “He worked extremely hard to make sure the people he was working with understood and could use the information he was teaching.”

Developed Watershed Training Programs

Skinner was a principal instructor of the Watershed 101 Module, a four-day course that informed citizens of the functions and dynamics of watersheds.

“He had a unique ability to take a complicated topic and boil it down to where it came together in a four-day course,” writes Bobbie Frank, executive director of the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts. “He generated more enthusiasm

and excitement for watershed management in Wyoming at the local level than any other single individual.”

When Skinner provided recommendations on the correct way to release the produced waters of the coalbed methane development in the Powder River Basin, “He had the respect of both the gas industry and landowners,” writes Dennis Sun, rancher and publisher of the *Wyoming Livestock Roundup*.

“He never showed favoritism as he just told everyone the facts based on science. His work with the conservation districts with water quality monitoring training saved this state from overbearing regulations. We will always remember his hard work on that issue.”

LISTEN TO THE GRASSES

Every grass has a story to tell, says Quentin Skinner.

“Grasses have been studied longer than any plant on Earth,” he notes. “That’s because they include the cereal grains, and, when pollinated, groups of plants can migrate from continent to continent.”

Managers use grasses and the stories they tell to make land management decisions.

“I’ve always been fascinated by their stories and was fortunate to have Alan Beetle as one of my advisers for my Ph.D.,” says Skinner. Beetle taught at UW for more than 32 years.

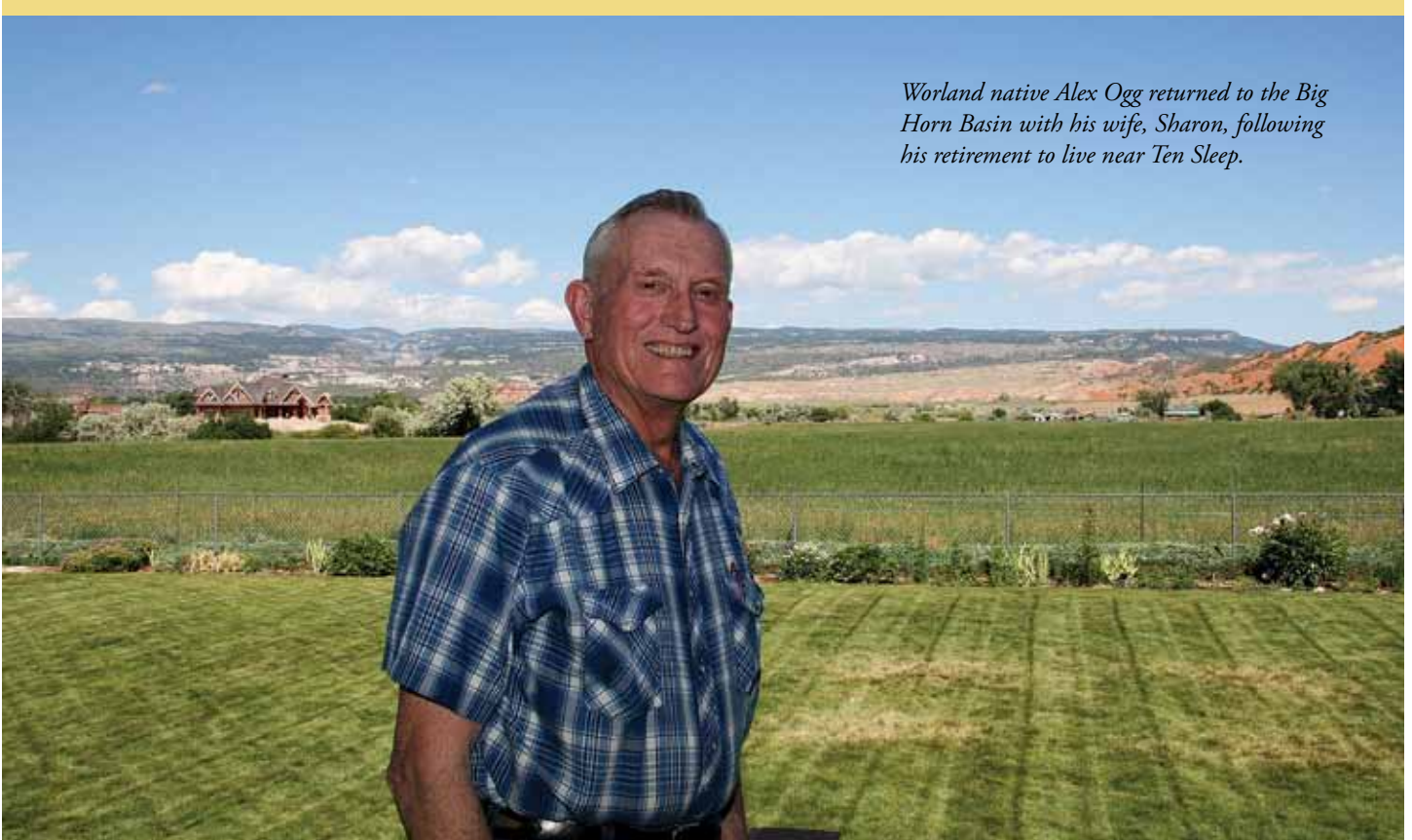
For example, Western wheatgrass, the state grass of Wyoming, is rhizomatous – it spreads by rhizomes and seed.

“Other grasses that grow with it have different growth forms, such as needle and thread, a bunchgrass,” explains Skinner. “Some say if you overgraze bunchgrasses then Western wheatgrass is able to spread and take over an area. What managers do is look at the relationship of our state grass and how much is there with how much bunchgrass is there. They make management decisions as to how to regulate livestock and wildlife grazing one way or another.”

Almost any plant can tell a story, notes Skinner. “Grasses have a lot of literature to back up those stories. They’ve been studied longer, and there are a lot more of them – 7,000 species – more than any other plant.”



WEEKEND



Worland native Alex Ogg returned to the Big Horn Basin with his wife, Sharon, following his retirement to live near Ten Sleep.

Worland native's career led him to Washington state; retirement brought him back to Big Horn Basin

Work ethic instilled by parents and outstanding research skills gained from mentors propelled Ogg through career

There was no slap upside the head that summer of 1959 for Alex Ogg.

What changed the course of the teenager's life was a good talking to a state FFA official gave the Worland High School graduate during the Wyoming state fair.

There had been signs of possible change before then. Going through high school in Worland, Ogg had every intent of farming following high school.

"By the time I got to be about a junior,

I realized how much money it would take for me to get into farming," he relates. "It would have taken \$100,000 in equipment and other costs."

His mom and dad, and sister were still on the 160-acre farm south of Worland, and there was no way the farm would support two families. "The gentleman who was the state FFA adviser really gave me a good talking to and made me really look at what I was going to do with my life," he recalls.

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He is a true professional and contributed a large amount to the success of invasive species control programs that we were involved with in the Big Horn Basin. He was always more than willing to share his knowledge with us and the groups we were working with.

— Steve Christy, Sundance; retired, Bureau of Land Management

Value of Honest Work, Doing Your Best

The adviser knew Ogg had the potential to earn advanced degrees.

“I really gave him credit for pushing me into a college education,” says Ogg. “From my folks, who were hardworking people, I learned the work ethic and to always do the best job you could. A lot of credit goes to my mom and dad. I learned the value of honest work and doing your best.”

He enrolled in the University of Wyoming the fall of 1959 knowing only he wanted to major in some phase of agriculture.

“Later that fall, I got a job working in the Department of Plant Science greenhouse,” he recalls. “I found I enjoyed working with plants as I helped care for the plants with which the professors were experimenting.”

In fall 1960, Ogg had the opportunity to work with an USDA-Agricultural Research Service scientist studying aquatic and ditch bank weeds.

Ogg was to work with this scientist while completing his sophomore, junior, and senior years at UW. “He made it exciting and interesting,” Ogg notes. “He launched me off into my weed science career.”

Ogg would graduate magna cum laude from UW in 1963 in agricultural sciences with an emphasis on plant science, would receive his master’s with honors in crop science with emphasis in weed science in 1966, and his doctorate in botany (plant physiology) in 1970 from Oregon State University.

His farm background in the Big Horn Basin would serve him well.

“I was familiar with plants and the issues weeds presented to farmers. I had spent a lot of time hoeing weeds in crops and gardens,” he quips.

Ogg worked as a plant physiologist (weed scientist) with the ARS at Prosser, Washington, from 1969-1984 conducting research on weeds and their management in horticultural and specialty crops, then as the supervisory plant physiologist and research leader for the USDA-ARS Weed Science Unit at Pullman, Washington, until 1997 where his research focused on the management of grassy weeds in dryland wheat.

From 1997 until the end of the project in 2009, he directed the National Jointed Goatgrass Research Program. The project involved 10 Western states and more than 35 state and federal scientists. From 2000-2003, he worked for his alma mater as a

OTHER OGG HONORS

- Pioneer in applying herbicides through irrigation
- USDA-ARS representative on the team of American weed scientists that traveled to China in 1984 as part of the Weed Science Society of America five-week short course on weed management for Chinese scientists and graduate students
- \$1.75 million in grants to help support his research
- Elected Weed Science Society of America Fellow in 1992; president in 1994
- One of the original associate editors for the scientific journal *Weed Technology*
- Coordinator for the Big Horn River Riparian Habitat Restoration January 2000-August 2003

WEEKEND



Presidential Award

Alex Ogg received a President's Volunteer Service Award in 2009 for more than 4,000 hours of volunteer service in his community.



half-time research scientist in the Department of Plant Sciences in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

An Outstanding Instructor

Professor Emeritus Stephen D. Miller, former director of the Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station, has known Ogg for more than 40 years.

"I found him to be an outstanding instructor doing cutting-edge research in small grains," Miller says in his nomination letter and added the jointed goatgrass project was Ogg's greatest accomplishment.

"His efforts were responsible for bringing in well over \$4 million to attack this problem. This is a model program that currently is being followed to address other critical needs for management of invasive pests in cereal grains, such as feral rye, and perennial ryegrass."

College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Professor Emeritus Tom Whitson, who also nominated Ogg, says Ogg has published more than 130 referred manuscripts on weeds and their management and received more than \$1.75 million in grants to help support his research.

He also noted Ogg's efforts to control cheatgrass on rangeland and research with the Bureau of Land Management to control Russian olives and saltcedar along the Big Horn River.

"On these two projects, I found Dr. Ogg to be one of the hardest working and thorough researchers I have ever worked with," he says. "In addition to being a good scientist, I found Alex to be a wonderful and delightful person. He is an optimist and a positive person."

Science Prowess Not by Accident

Ogg's thorough scientific habits did not happen by accident.

"I have been clearly cognizant during my career of being fortunate in the people who were my mentors," he says. "My first boss with whom I was doing ag research at UW was meticulous, thorough, and honest. I've been fortunate. Most of my colleagues shared that philosophy. If you don't have a solid research reputation, your work will not be taken seriously."

It's a message he directs to high school students anytime he's asked.

"What always comes back to me is associating or aligning yourself with people who have achieved success and have good qualities," he says. "A good work ethic, honesty, true to work, loyal to family, and church, which is a big part of my life. I stress to these kids, if you want to be successful in life, pick out someone in life who is successful and watch what they do and mimic that or at least associate with them and develop those values and traits that will allow you to be successful in life."

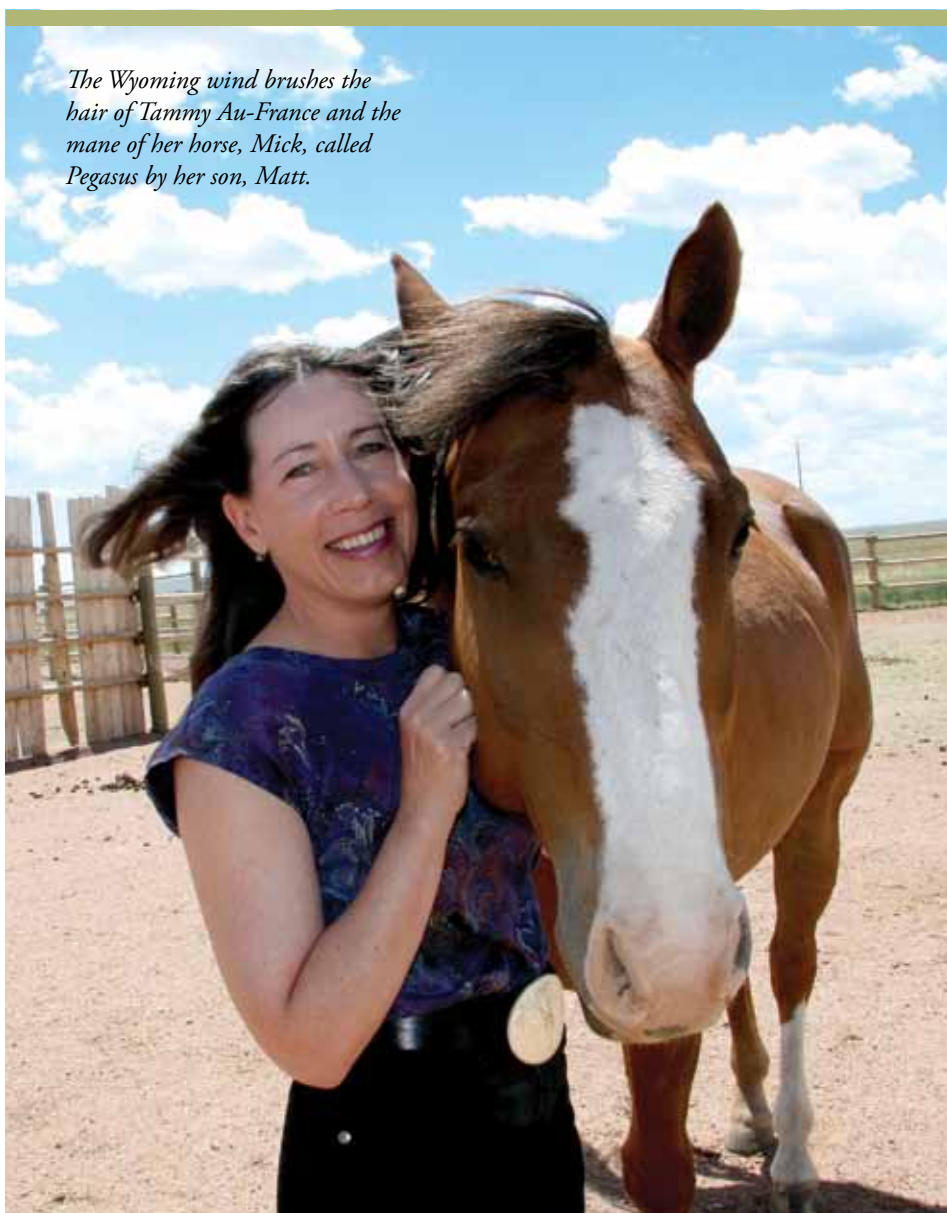
Ogg and his wife, Sharon, live in Ten Sleep next door to Sharon's mother. The Big Horn Mountains fill the vistas from their back porch.

"Both my wife and I have large extended families in the area," he says. They have two sons, Daniel, who lives in Alexandria, Virginia, and Steven and his wife, Tamara, and their two children, who live in Carlsbad, California.

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Au-France's involvement sows seeds

Legacy Award recipient maintains ties with
Department of Family and Consumer Sciences



The Wyoming wind brushes the hair of Tammy Au-France and the mane of her horse, Mick, called Pegasus by her son, Matt.

This Legacy Award winner and 1997 graduate of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences weaves her passion for fabric and design into her continued relationship with the department.

Tammy Au-France attends various department activities, travels with department student groups overseas, and has provided an endowment that assists faculty member development and better prepares students for careers.

Au-France is making the dress she'll wear to the dean's awards banquet that Friday evening of Ag Appreciation Weekend. The design of the dress is literally from the ground up. She and Professor Donna Brown, now head of the Department of Family and Consumers Sciences, were in Houston last fall when Tammy found a pair of shoes she liked.

"Then we had to go to a fabric store to buy fabric to match the shoes," she says, and laughs. "If it all works out, that's what I'll be wearing at the dinner."

Passions Include Fabric, Horses, Quilting

Don't let the talk about fabric and sewing fool you – she wears blue jeans, cowboy boots and a BIG belt buckle for another passion – her horses.

Tammy and husband, Robert, live south of Laramie. A multi-color, winged Pegasus flies across the east and west ends of their horse arena. Pegasus has become a big part of Au-France's life, but that story comes later.



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of future student success

News she had received the Legacy Award was humbling, she says.

"It's certainly not something I set out to do. I do things because they come from the heart and not because I am interested in recognition for it. I'm in awe they felt I was worthy to receive it. I know I'm not the only one helping the college out. When I see who has received it in the past, I think 'wow!'"

Quentin Skinner, who is receiving one of the outstanding alumni awards, had intended to be a dentist when he returned to UW (see page 14). He would enter plant sciences. Au-France returned seeking a degree in accounting and left with a degree in family and consumer sciences.

A Jersey girl, her family moved to Laramie when she was 11 and later moved to Durango, Colorado. She returned in 1982. "That's why I moved back, to go to UW," she says. "Laramie is much better than Durango. I had more friends in Laramie, and I wanted to go to school at UW. What they say about Wyoming is, 'If you leave, it calls you back.'"

Returned to UW to Finish Degree

Interest in accounting waned as children needed to be raised, and she left college after her junior year. Ten years later, she returned to UW and switched majors to family and consumer sciences.

Those seeds were planted early. "My mom taught me to sew when I was about 6 or 7," she says, and, when she worked at

the territorial prison in Laramie, made her own period clothing to wear. Designing and making historical clothing is a favorite.

"I wanted to get my degree by the time I was 40," she says. "You put so much time and effort to being a senior, seemed a waste not to finish with a degree."

Au-France has accompanied faculty members and students on study tours to Great Britain and Italy, regularly attends department events including the student recognition luncheon, and has been both an attendee and exhibitor at the yearly Coat Couture.

Establishes Pegasus Endowment

She has also supported the department financially each year, and, when the Legislature created the state's matching program, she approached the college to establish an endowment. Over the next four years, she created the Pegasus endowment. The fund continues to help faculty members and students.

Au-France honored
to receive award

To view Tammy Au-France's
response to receiving the 2010
Legacy Award, see
[http://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=LPT-OT3jsvE/](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LPT-OT3jsvE/)

"Her foresight has enabled us to modernize equipment in our teaching labs and support faculty members and students in their design submissions. She never fails to attend our student events. Her support is amazing!"

Professor Karen Williams

"Tammy Au-France has shown a dedication to our students and the fiber arts," says Professor Karen Williams, former head of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences. "Her foresight has enabled us to modernize equipment in our teaching labs and support faculty members and students in their design submissions. She never fails to attend our student events. Her support is amazing!"

Au-France has her reasons.

"I believe I received a really good education from them," she says, "and I wanted other students to get the same quality of education. They need to have equipment that works."

Equipment includes state-of-the-art embroidery machines, a digital fabric thickness gauge, software for the clothing con-

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struction and interior design laboratories, and a flammability tester.

The Pegasus Endowment is the largest gift received by the textile and merchandising program option.

“The Pegasus Endowment means a great deal to the textile and merchandising programs,” says Sonya Meyer, associate professor in the department. “It has allowed us to upgrade and improve our teaching and scholarship laboratory needs in a way we would not have been able to do.”

Some of the department’s teaching and research equipment had become outdated or in need of repair; the department’s budget is not always able to cover needs. The Pegasus Endowment is used for equipment upgrades and repairs and faculty development.

“The real beneficiaries in this are our students,” says Meyer. “Through the Pegasus

Endowment, students have access to textile, apparel, and design more in keeping with the industry.”

Wyoming Quilt Project Participant

Au-France is a founding member of the Wyoming Quilt Project, whose members have traveled Wyoming documenting quilts in the state.

“Quilting is popular now,” she notes, “but for awhile was dying. People didn’t value quilts. We wanted to preserve how they are made, what fabric, the different patterns used. We have found quilts that have old blankets as their batting and quilts inside quilts. A lot of people have wonderful quilts but know next to nothing about them. All that history about the women who made them is lost. So, it’s as much a women’s history issue than anything else.”

Au-France has quilts from the bicentennial era, and possibly one from pre-Civil War, but she’s not certain. Her favorite is one of the first she purchased – because of the color, she says – cheddar, or, more specific, chrome orange. The dye is toxic and the color is no longer used.

It was a child’s imagination that sparked Pegasus. Au-France was riding her horse, Mick, with her son, Matt, 14 at the time. The horse jumped high to clear a stream, and Matt named the horse Pegasus. She rode Mick – Pegasus – to the Rocky Mountain Quarter Horse Association 2005 Dressage outreach program championship.

She’s been riding since 13 and says she’s never been without a horse since (see story below).

Robert and Tammy have four children, Matt Payne, twins Christy and Carrie Payne, and Garrett Au-France.

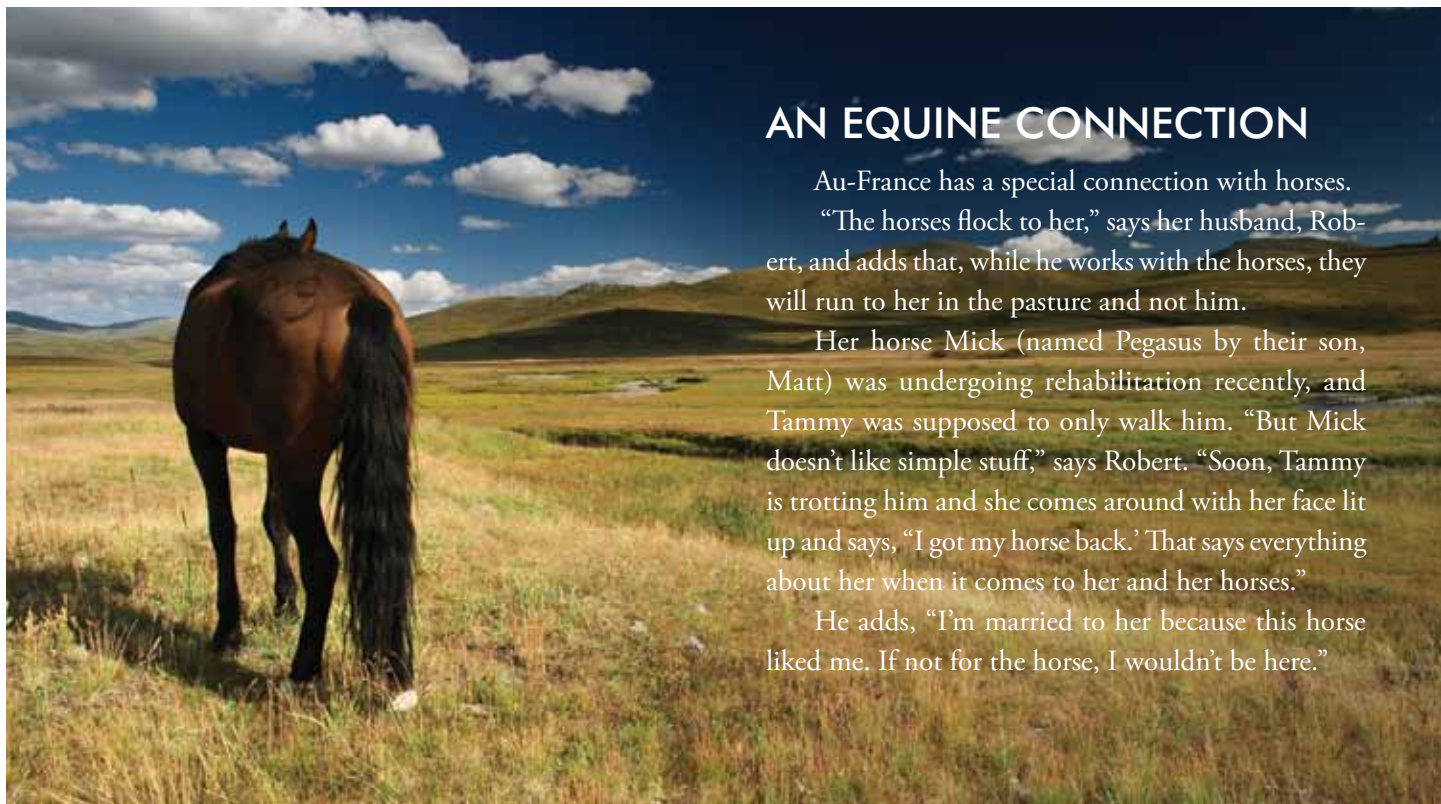
AN EQUINE CONNECTION

Au-France has a special connection with horses.

“The horses flock to her,” says her husband, Robert, and adds that, while he works with the horses, they will run to her in the pasture and not him.

Her horse Mick (named Pegasus by their son, Matt) was undergoing rehabilitation recently, and Tammy was supposed to only walk him. “But Mick doesn’t like simple stuff,” says Robert. “Soon, Tammy is trotting him and she comes around with her face lit up and says, ‘I got my horse back.’ That says everything about her when it comes to her and her horses.”

He adds, “I’m married to her because this horse liked me. If not for the horse, I wouldn’t be here.”



WEEKEND

Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts board members are front, from left, Dave Fraley, Buffalo Area I director, Kelly Brown, program specialist, Curtis Grandstaff, LaGrange Area II director, Roger Coles, Afton Area V director, Pete Jachowski, Cody Area III director, Cathy Cooper, watershed coordinator. Back, Wayne Garman, Sundance Area I director; Ralph Brokaw, McFadden, president; Shaun Sims, Evanston vice president; Jack Berger, Saratoga Area IV director; Hardy von Forell, Wheatland Area II director, and Bobbie Frank, executive director



Outreach/Research Partner of the Year members team with college to address state's resource concerns

The 2010 Outreach/Research Partner of the Year is grounded at the grassroots level but its efforts finesse landscapes state wide.

They're also pleased to receive the honor.

"Our board members are very excited and appreciative," says Bobbie Frank, executive director of the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts (WACD).

"It's a huge honor," says Shaun Sims in Uinta County, vice president of the association.

WACD's relationship with the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources spans decades. Over just the past eight years,

total grants and program support from the WACD is more than \$390,000.

A focus has been water quality and watershed management and education of producers and land managers. The influx of small-acreage property owners, federal mandates, and energy development has expanded districts' emphasis over the past two decades.

Conservation Districts Have Local Focus

Thirty-four conservation districts are represented by the WACD. Each is overseen by an elected five-member board of supervisors. On each board are three rural

members, one urban member, and one at-large member.

The local focus is vital.

"We are local people elected to the board," says Sims, who raises cattle and sheep in Uinta County with his father, Mike, and brother, Steve.

"Our constituents are our neighbor farmers and ranchers who elected us. We are volunteer-based, grassroots, and listen to our constituents," he says. "A lot of it comes from visiting with our neighbors and, if there is an issue out there, we bring it to the board meetings. On occasion, our neighbors bring issues to the meetings."

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Bobbie Frank, left, executive director, and Kelly Brown, program specialist.

Legislative approval in 1987 allowing tax levies to fund conservation districts transformed the districts. The move allowed districts to “evolve their programs to be bigger, broader, stronger, and more reflective of the priorities in their communities,” says Frank, who began as executive director in 1991.

The growth of districts and issues being confronted expanded the districts’ involvement with the university, and that relationship was strengthened through water quality and watershed management efforts.

In the late 1990s, Wyoming was trying to meet requirements of the Clean Water Act by assessing streams in the state and identifying those with pollution problems.

“At the time, we had minimum resources,” Frank says. “They did what they could with what they had. A lot of the data gathered was pretty subjective, based on opinion rather than data.”

Monitoring Program Boosts Assessment Quality

To bolster the quality of the work, the association proposed a water monitoring program that created a network with the Department of Environmental Quality and the University of Wyoming.

“The university was pivotal because they helped us develop the entire training program,” notes Frank. “That’s when we started having the university deliver all the modules of water quality training, including what we called the watershed 101 course (see story page 25). That continues today with (Associate Professor) Ginger Paige and the staff continuing to deliver that.”

Another college award recipient this year, Professor Emeritus Quentin Skinner, was integral to the effort.

“It was exciting,” she says. “You could go to Dr. Skinner’s course and you could just see the people in that class walk out almost like a changed person for having heard him. Things kind of made sense after you left in terms of what was going on in our watersheds and how you look at our watersheds. He went from people standing out looking at a spot in the ground to looking at the whole landscape and thinking about what all could be going on in that landscape to cause that spot to look the way it does.”

Skinner provided the momentum for the program. The relationship continued to develop between WACD and the college, even to using graduate students to conduct research.

Relationship Excellent

Frank says the relationship has been excellent and adds there has been “enormous, positive change” to the landscape of Wyoming.

“The university on its own has extension, the outreach,” she says. “That’s integral

because it takes the knowledge base and the research of the university and gets it out in the country where it can be applied and used rather than in a library somewhere.”

When that is added to the network of 34 districts with locally elected leaders, many in the agricultural sector, “you get all those people on the same page at the same time headed in the same direction,” she says.

“From talking to my counterparts in other areas of the country, what we are doing in this state for water quality and watershed work is extraordinarily unique. Not because other states aren’t doing water quality and watershed work, it’s how we’re doing that and that relationship we have amongst all the partners, including the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as our federal partners.”

A Changing Rural Landscape

Sims has been a supervisor with the Uinta County Conservation District since 2001. He says he became involved with conservation districts because he could see the good things that could be done “and

PARTNERSHIP HAS BEEN POSITIVE

Executive director Bobbie Frank says the partnership between the association, the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and others has had a positive effect on Wyoming landscapes.

See <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2L7Hsy57-oA>

WEEKEND

keep our resources healthy and improve what needs to be improved and help ranchers be more efficient through partnerships with the NRCS.”

The partnerships include irrigation management and tree and water quality programs.

His district now wrestles with other issues. People moved out into the county during the oil boom in the 1980s, which taxed roads and other infrastructure. Large ranches, some struggling, sold land, which became rural subdivisions.

“Once the boom died, there were a lot of industrial parks in the county, which changed our focus,” he says. “We have a lot more small-acreage workshops, education about resource management, and more confined grazing.”

Another recent influx has people buying small acreages created from several ranches.

“We have people from Salt Lake coming to buy their dream and putting an impact on the county from a change in values, uses, and some folks looking for investments,” notes Sims. “Some have bought their trophy ranch, which is changing the aspect of rural life.”

He says such changes are happening across Wyoming.

Sims foresees future government regulations steering conservation district activities.

“We’ll do our best to respond to those,” he says. “Using a crystal ball to look into the future, I think we will be faced with smaller ranches, a lot of small-acreage issues and, with energy development and a rush to wind farm development, we will have an opportunity to help landowners and help power companies, if they so desire, to address resource concerns.”

Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts and UW Partnerships

Below is a sampling of joint projects between the districts and the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. There are many more.

Range monitoring 101

- UW faculty members and cooperative extension service educators and specialists work with conservation districts and the Wyoming Section of the Society for Range Management to offer four-day Wyoming rangeland management schools. Conservation districts provide venues, refreshments, lunches, and help promote the schools. More than 300 ranchers, regulators, and conservationists have attended.



Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station

With the Agricultural Experiment Station in the college:

- Worked to develop reduced tillage production systems and extended rotation in dryland systems.
- Established shelterbelts at the James C. Hageman Sustainable Agriculture Research and Extension Center near

Lingle; created a state-of-the-art buffer zone around the SAREC feedlot to control runoff that also contains a shelterbelt designed in conjunction with the local conservation district. It is producing berries and habitat for birds and small mammals.

University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service

Conservation districts have worked with the extension service to offer, among others:

- Rangeland management programs
- Wildland watershed management
- Small-acreage owner workshops
- Riparian habitat workshops
- Invasive plant management workshops
- Symposium on grazing livestock in riparian areas
- Water quality training program

Faculty member and graduate student research examples

- Medicine Bow Drainage Basin
- Medicine Bow River water quality
- Bitter and Killpecker creeks water quality
- Study of suspended sediments on an intermittent cold-desert stream
- Graduate student research projects with Meeteetse and Little Snake River conservation districts

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Assistant Professor
Dannele Peck

Agricultural and Applied Economics

Assistant Professor **Dannele Peck** gave the welcome address at the UW McNair Scholars Research Symposium in August.

Twelve UW students presented research in areas ranging from mathematics to criminal justice and psychology. Peck, a former UW McNair Scholar, is the only McNair alumna in the nation who returned to her home university as a faculty member. She joined the department in 2006. Peck received her bachelor's and master's degrees from UW and Ph.D. from Oregon State University.

An article explaining research into whether or not landlords benefit from renting to subsidized tenants tied for first place in the 2010 *Reflections* magazine. *Reflections* highlights research in the college. Authors were assistant research scientist **Amy Nagler**, Assistant Professor **Chris Bastian**, Assistant Profes-

sor **Mariah Ehmke**, and Professor **Dale Menkhaus**.

Results reported in "Agriculture markets, policies, and economic behavior in the laboratory and beyond" show land prices and rents respond significantly and positively to government support. Data were collected using a mobile computer laboratory taken to several Wyoming locations.

An e-edition of *Reflections* in flip-page format and with videos is available at http://multimedia.uwyo.edu/UWAG_STREAM/Reflections2010/index.html.

Animal Science

The departments of Animal Science and Veterinary Sciences have had a shared Animal and Veterinary Science (ANVS) curriculum for more than 10 years. Students have the opportunity to major in one of seven ANVS options or the concurrent major with ag education.

This past academic year saw record numbers with 192 ANVS undergraduate majors, a significant increase over the previous four-year average of 152.

"We are excited to currently have the largest number of majors in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources," says Professor **Doug Hixon**, head of the Department of Animal Science. "Animal science faculty members also directed 23 graduate students, which was also the largest number in recent memory."



Associate Professor
Min Du

Min Du, associate professor of animal science, was honored July 12 by the American Society of Animal Science (ASAS) at its 2010 annual meeting in Denver, Colorado, as recipient of their Early Career Achievement Award. Min, a muscle biologist in the meat science program, has acquired more than \$2.25 million in grants as a principal investigator since joining the faculty in August 2003. He has published more than 100 peer-reviewed manuscripts in scientific journals and has been an invited speaker at a number of national and international conferences. He serves as an associate editor of the *Journal of Animal Science* and is a reviewer for more than 20 scientific journals and grant funding agencies. Min received the Young Scientist Award from the Western Section ASAS in 2008. He is also involved in teaching and advising undergraduate students and received the Outstanding Advis-

ing Award from the College of Agriculture in 2008.

Luke Lenski, an ANVS major from Monument, Colorado, who is expecting to graduate in the production option next May, received two recognitions in the spring semester. In April, he received the Student Employee of the Year Award presented by the Western Association of Student Employee Administrators. Luke has worked at the Animal Science Swine Unit and feed mill for the past 18 months and was nominated for the award by livestock manager **David Lutterman**. Luke was selected as the award recipient from the 24 student nominees from across campus. Additionally, Luke received a travel scholarship to attend the 2010 International Livestock Congress in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, August 8-11. Entitled "BEEF 2010: Raising Optimism – Global Strategies," Luke will have the opportunity to meet and hear beef industry leaders discuss pertinent issues impacting the industry on a global scale.

Kassi Bauman, a graduating senior from Cheyenne in the ANVS animal biology option, placed second and received \$5,000 in the UW College of Business' Annual Wyoming \$10K Entrepreneurship Competition in March. Kassi's Big Star Livestock Images, LLC entry also was recognized for the best business plan and for the best oral presentation. The company was established in 2008 and provides

both still and video images and Web site design services for live-stock producers using cutting-edge technologies.

Family and Consumer Sciences

Suzy Pelican, senior extension educator, received the Helen Denning Ullrich Award of Excellence at the July Society for Nutrition Education annual conference in Reno, Nevada. Suzy received this award for her record of outstanding achievement and acknowledged contributions to the field of nutrition education. The Helen Denning Ullrich Award is the most prestigious award given by the organization.

Family and consumer sciences senior office assistant **Trish Hysong** was selected as one of three university employees to receive the 2010 UW Staff Incentive Award.

Randy Weigel and **Rhonda Shipp** won the Pearson CiTE Excellence in Online Teaching Award for their team efforts in the FCSC 4117/5117 Understanding Community Leadership course.

The Cent\$ible Nutrition Program successfully completed both a fiscal and program management review of the UW SNAP-Ed Plan by the Mountain Plains Regional Office of the USDA Food and Nutrition Service. For more than 12 years, CNP has helped thousands of



*Senior extension educator
Suzy Pelican*

Wyoming families and individuals with limited resources fight hunger and malnutrition.

Associate Professor **Shane Broughton** is on sabbatical leave this fall. In addition to his sabbatical research activities, Shane will be attending /presenting at a conference in Berlin with undergraduate student **Jessica Platt**.

Family and consumer sciences senior **Natalie Ferguson's** garment design entitled "Midnight Galaxy" was selected as the Undergraduate Best of Show at the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences annual meeting in Cleveland in June. This design also received a First Place Amateur category award at the American Quilter's Society annual international meeting in Paducah, Kentucky, in April.

Professor Donna Brown has been busy in her new role as department head. June and July were spent advising new and transfer students, learning more

about fiscal year reporting and budgets, and preparing for the upcoming academic year.

Thanks to support from the college's instructional needs funds, room 237, a primary teaching classroom for the department, has been renovated. The renovated space has a dropped ceiling with new light fixtures, room darkening blinds, and a fresh coat of paint. The improvements to the room make this a significantly improved teaching/learning environment, notes Brown.

Molecular Biology

Research by postdoctoral researcher **Gagandeep Gahlay** in the laboratory of Professor Don Jarvis was published in the July 9 edition of *Science* (<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/vol329/issue5988/index.dtl>).

Gahlay is the first author of the article about egg fertilization and part of the research as a postdoctoral researcher while at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

"The significance of my study is that we changed the old hypothesis," she says. "It's basic science, which gives a clearer picture about the process of fertilization, how sperm fertilizes an egg. Maybe in the long run, having the right picture of the process may help in development of contraceptive vaccines or treating some types of infertility."



Gagandeep Gahlay

Gahlay joined the Jarvis laboratory in January, and her interest had been piqued by Jarvis' work.

"Don Jarvis was working on glycoproteins during my work at NIH and that caught my interest," says Gahlay of New Delhi, India. "I wanted to work with him in this field of research, plus, I liked the atmosphere here. It was quiet, and I wanted to get away from city life for a bit. I was sick and tired of getting stuck in traffic jams."

She and her husband, Bejoy Jacob, have two children, Adi Chacko, 5½, and Neel Chacko, 15 months.

She is currently studying protein glycosylation pathways in the insect cell system and seeks to characterize the enzymes involved.

For a more in-depth description of her research, see www.uwyo.edu/uwexpstn/Agademics/Aug10.pdf



*Associate Professor
Steve Herbert*

Plant Sciences

Plant sciences continues to fill faculty and staff positions vacated by retirement. The latest addition is **Valtcho Jeliakov**, who has accepted the position as associate professor of horticulture and director of the Sheridan Research and Extension Center.

Valtcho will begin this fall. He comes to UW from the North Mississippi Research and Extension Center operated by Mississippi State University, where he is a research associate professor. His prior institutional affiliations include Dalhousie University, the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and the Higher Institute of Agriculture Plovdiv in Bulgaria. Valtcho has extensive experience in horticulture and specialty crop research, including the production of essential oils and other natural products of medicinal plants, and the use of plants to remove pollutants from soils.

“UW is poised to redevelop the Sheridan Research and Ex-

tension Center, as it has already done for the centers at Powell and Lingle,” says department head Associate Professor **Steve Herbert**. “The first step in this process is acquiring an energetic and capable director. We are fortunate to have Valtcho in this position. He is a prolific researcher, highly organized, and very practical.”

Positions for which searches remain open include the Whitney Professorship in Horticulture, which will also be based in Sheridan; an academic professional extension educator to coordinate the state Master Gardener program; and an academic professional research scientist to support plant sciences research at the James C. Hageman Sustainable Agriculture Research and Extension Center in Lingle.

Renewable Resources

Summer has been quiet in renewable resources, notes **John Tanaka**, head of the department.

“We are gearing up for the school year. Faculty and graduate students have been mostly in the field doing their work or attending and presenting at conferences and workshops,” he says.

The department was funded through the Wyoming Legislature to conduct educational programs related to rangeland health assessments (monitoring). **Rachel Mealor** and Tanaka



*Extension specialist
Rachel Mealor*

are working with the Wyoming Department of Agriculture and several stakeholders to implement this program.

Kristina Hufford joined the department last spring. She is the new reclamation ecologist working closely with the Wyoming Reclamation and Restoration Center (WRRC) and the School of Energy Resources. Her appointment is split among teaching, research, and extension. She’s spending a lot of time traveling the region, meeting people, learning issues, and developing her program.

Joining the department this fall is **Melanie Murphy**. She is the new rangeland systems ecologist and will work with faculty members and students from across campus. Her appointment is split between teaching and research. She is finishing a post-doctoral position at Colorado State University.

Calvin Strom recently resigned his extension educator position in Carbon County



*Extension educator
Calvin Strom*

and accepted an outreach position with the WRRC. He will work out of the WRRC here in Laramie.

“We were sad to have **Shikha Sharma** leave her position as the Stable Isotope Facility (SIF) manager,” says Tanaka. “She accepted a tenure track position at West Virginia University. Their gain was our loss. David Williams and the SIF steering committee are moving quickly to fill that position.”

David Williams, **Steve Williams**, and **Ann Hild** will be on sabbaticals this coming year. Dave is headed to Australia and Steve to Australia and Mongolia. **Dustin Bronson**, a post-doctoral researcher in the department, will teach Dave’s plant ecophysiology class this year. **Andrew Allgeier** will teach Steve’s forest and range soils course. Ann’s leave will be in the spring when she will travel to Boise to work on research with collaborators. **Alex Latchinsky** returned from his sabbatical this fall.

Veterinary Sciences

Assistant Professor **Myrna Miller** joined the department May 28.

Miller moved from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service Arthropod-Borne Animal Diseases Research Laboratory (ABADRL) in the college. Miller was a veterinary medical officer conducting research on bluetongue virus and rift valley fever virus. The laboratory moved to Manhattan, Kansas, where it is part of the USDA ARS Center for Grain and Animal Health Research.

"I feel very fortunate to be able to remain in Laramie and work at the university as an assistant professor in the veterinary sciences department and to direct the virology laboratory at the Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory," says Miller.

She is teaching Patb 4710/5710, the medical virology course, this fall.



*Assistant Professor
Myrna Miller*



Charles Stith

Miller was raised in Rocky Ford, Colorado, and received her DVM from Colorado State University in 1984 and her Ph.D. from Cornell University in 2005. In between, she worked three years in Cambodia as a volunteer with Church World Service helping to set up a basic animal diagnostic laboratory and foot-and-mouth disease vaccination program.

Charles Stith, an associate research scientist, began May 28 as the biosafety/biocontainment manager for the new biosafety level 3 laboratory. He also moved from ABADRL where he served as a veterinary medical officer. Stith received his DVM from Kansas State University in 1978 and his Ph.D. from the University of Wyoming in 2004.

Agricultural Experiment Station

An article in the spring issue of *Ag News* mentions the analogy AES director **Bret Hess** made to being a backup suddenly called in to replace the star quarterback.

"Continuing with this analogy – I have made it through the first half and much of the third quarter of my first year as director of the Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station. Looking back, I'm proud to note I've managed to keep the proverbial ball moving," says Hess.

The research and extension (R&E) centers are showing signs of continued improvements to the facilities. Concrete has been poured and the frame has been erected for the machine shed at the James C. Hageman Sustainable Agriculture Research and Extension Center (SAREC) near Lingle. The walls have been poured for the new foundation seed cleaning building at the Powell R&E Center (PREC). Renovations to three of the units at the Laramie R&E Center (LREC) greenhouse complex are scheduled for completion early this fall. All three of these locations also serve as sites for newly erected high tunnels.

"With the new Sheridan R&E Center director due to report the end of September, it will be time to set our sights on modernizing that center.



AES Director Bret Hess

Among the items on the to-do list is to upgrade the center's facilities," Hess notes.

A successful series of field days highlighting the work at the R&E centers topped the summer. More than 100 people attended PREC field day July 8. On July 25, SAREC served host to 125 people. Approximately 25 people participated in the LREC Greenhouse open house August 6.

"The number of people attending the R&E centers field days is testament to the level of interest generated as a result of their outstanding work," notes Hess. "We anticipate and look forward to a similar, perhaps greater, level of participation next summer."



*Extension educator
Diane Saenz*



*4-H educator
Faith Kroschel*

Cooperative Extension Service

Megan Brittingham joined Goshen County as an assistant extension educator for 4-H youth development April 1. She received a bachelor's degree in theatre and English in June 2007 from Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. Megan brings experience as a 4-H program assistant in several counties in Ohio over the past four years. She developed and delivered hands-on learning experiences for diverse audiences on a variety of 4-H topics.

Diane Saenz began August 2 as the southeast area extension educator for nutrition and food safety; the position is based in Carbon County. Diane received a bachelor's degree in food and nutrition with minors in Spanish and restaurant, hotel, institutional management, graduating magna cum laude in 2004 from Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas. Following graduation, Diane had a dietetic internship with the Veterans Administration

San Diego Healthcare System in La Jolla, California. She is a registered dietitian. Diane served in the Peace Corps in Guyana, South America, working as a community health educator and activities coordinator from May 2007-July 2009. Diane is bi-lingual, fluent in Spanish and English.

Faith Kroschel joined the extension service office in Sweetwater County August 2 as a 4-H educator. Faith, a Colorado native, is a 2003 graduate of Colorado State University with a bachelor's degree in consumer and family sciences. She brings four years of extension experience from positions in Montana and Colorado as a 4-H educator. Faith represented Colorado as an International 4-H Youth Exchange (IFYE) member to Greece and Denmark during 2003-2004 and continues to be active with the IFYE program.

Erin Curtis began as the half-time 4-H educator June 14 in Campbell County. Erin is a May 2010 graduate of the University of Wyoming with a

degree in agriculture education/agricultural communications. She is an eight-year alumnus of Colorado 4-H. Erin completed her student teaching in Gillette and is familiar with the community and county. She joins full-time 4-H educator Jessica Gladson in providing leadership for the youth program in the county.

Academic and Student Programs

The Office of Academic and Student Programs has a long history of formal articulation with Wyoming community colleges that has fostered exceptionally positive relationships among colleagues and facilitated smooth transitions for transfer students coming to the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, notes **Jim Wangberg**, associate dean and director of the office.

Each year, the office sponsors an annual College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and Wyoming Community Articulation Conference that alternates between the university and community college campuses as host. This conference is in addition to the larger UW Articulation Conference that involves the institutions' chief academic officers.

"While broader issues and policies are generally the focus for the university articulation conference, the college articulation is designed to keep close commu-



*Associate Dean
Jim Wangberg*

nications among colleagues and to help each other stay informed about course and curriculum issues in the agriculturally related academic degree programs," says Wangberg.

Five of the seven Wyoming community colleges have agricultural curricula and are among the regular annual conference participants. They are Casper College, Eastern Wyoming College, Laramie County Community College (LCCC), Northwest College, and Sheridan College. Joining this year's articulation conference will be representatives from the LCCC Laramie campus and Central Wyoming College.

The one-day annual meeting has proven beneficial to students and faculty and staff members. Personal and professional relationships are reinforced by discussions over common values and themes in higher education. Transfer issues are always of interest but, because of the annual meeting and year-round communications, misunderstandings

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among advisers and students have been minimized. The articulation conference always devotes considerable time for updates from each institution so all can be apprised of changes and common challenges or opportunities.

"The articulation conferences have helped build a strong sense of community and professional relationships, and we see ourselves more as educational partners for student success rather than competitors for a student body," says Wangberg. "I actually think we have one of the strongest university and community college relationships in the nation."

This relationship has served as a foundation for other co-operation such as 3 + 1 degree programs, distance education, shared use of university research and extension centers, undergraduate research and internships, cooperative education grant proposals, continued

education and professional development opportunities, collaborative research, and sharing resources and facilities.

College Relations

The Center for Advising and Career Services (CACS) is offering a new networking tool for University of Wyoming alumni, notes Anne Leonard, director of College Relations.

UWYO Alumni Experience (uwyoalumni.experience.com) allows alumni to post resumes, search jobs posted by fellow alumni, and network with other UW graduates. This service differs from other Internet job sites because it targets UW graduates.

Many employers who hire UW graduates would like to hire others from the same program. Alumni who also are business owners, companies who work in Wyoming, or those who have had positive experiences hiring UW graduates use this site to promote



*Director of College Relations
Anne Leonard*

career openings to graduates. The UWYO Alumni Experience system is used by UW to help alumni network and advance their careers.

Jo Chytka, director of CACS, says the service is free for UW alumni. Graduates can post resumes, employers can submit requests to have openings posted on the Internet, and it also provides a way for alumni to network with other UW

graduates. Chytka notes career opportunities tend to be regional and that those posting openings already have experience with UW graduates. Approximately 600 alumni and 241 employers use the system. Career services believes this is a good sign because the university only recently implemented this system and has not yet announced and marketed this service to alumni.

To create a UWYO Alumni Experience account, go to <http://uwyoalumni.experience.com> and click on *Create Account*. You will be asked basic information such as name, e-mail address, and date of graduation. Once the request is submitted, CACS will verify your eligibility and send a confirmation notice. For more information about UWYO Alumni Experience or other career services available to UW alumni, contact CACS at (307) 766-2398 or by e-mail at jchytka@uwyo.edu.



AG NEWS

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