

AG ^{UW} NEWS

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Tom Davidson receives
award for vigorous efforts
to champion UW and the
College of Agriculture and
Natural Resources

SEE STORY PAGE 4



UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AND NATURAL RESOURCES



Dean Frank Galey

“Even if you’re
on the right
track, you’ll get
run over if you
just sit there.”

Will Rogers

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Will Rogers was correct. We will get run over if we just sit there.

It is a rare business or other venture where planning is not essential. This will be a year of planning for the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The University of Wyoming and the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources are beginning to gather input for the 2014-2020 academic plan. One of the goals for both the current and upcoming plan is to connect areas of distinction within the university and college with critical issues facing Wyoming and the region. The college plan, which will be incorporated into the overall university plan, will also help identify core institutional principles and guide resource allocation.

Our three-part, land-grant mission (teaching, outreach, and research) is central to this process. We would be doing the state, current and future students, and other constituents a disservice if the college did not consult the people of Wyoming about issues that might be addressed in our academic plan. Thus far, we have received input from representatives of Wyoming’s community colleges, the Wyoming Weed and Pest Council, and the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation. Meetings are planned with the Wyoming Stock Growers Association, the Wyoming County Commissioners Association, and the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts.

We are also gathering input from partners and advisers to our extension and outreach programs offered through UW Extension and the Agricultural Experiment Station. Extension is currently soliciting input from its clientele about new program areas and potential changes to existing programs. Last summer, the Agricultural Experiment Station conducted a series of town hall-type meetings to help them shape our applied research efforts.

Your input is the key to a thoughtful and worthwhile academic plan. For example, input to our current academic plan sharpened the college’s focus on various areas of distinction – these include expertise in diseases common to both livestock and wildlife, expanding programs in range and watershed management and the reclamation of disturbed lands, and a focus on life sciences including both basic and applied research. These efforts brought together all seven academic departments, UW Extension, Agricultural Experiment Station research and extension centers, and the Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory. The college offers career paths to a broad range of fields, emphasizes research on topics directly affecting Wyoming’s citizens, and helps build strong rural communities through community development and leadership programs.

Our mission statement states:

The mission of The College of Agriculture at the University of Wyoming is to be the proactive leader in education and scholarship to cultivate healthy, sustainable systems for Wyoming’s agriculture, environment and natural resources, and rural communities. Our vision is to serve people through the application of the land-grant principles of learning, engagement, and discovery.

Given our mission statement, how can we better serve you, improve our efficiency and effectiveness, or seize new opportunities? I hope you will share your thoughts and ideas about how the college can better serve you, our constituents. Please feel free to speak with me, our associate deans (Glen Whipple, Donna Brown, Bret Hess) or with the department heads. You can also contact us via e-mail at agrdean@uwyo.edu. Our current plans for the future can be found on our Web page under the college overview tab, mission statement/future plans (www.uwyo.edu/uwag/college-overview/mission-statement.html)

This issue includes stories about students’ impressions of General James Mattis’ campus visit, information about the beef leadership and heifer marketing class, and an article about the increasing popularity of distance courses and how our Department of Plant Sciences is taking advantage of this educational trend. I hope you enjoy these articles. On behalf of our students and faculty and staff members, we wish all of our alumni, friends, and supporters, a very happy and healthy 2013.

Dean Frank Galey

College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

UW EXTENSION VEHICLE WILL RUN ON COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS, GASOLINE

University of Wyoming Extension has received a \$13,000 grant from Encana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc. to convert a 2012 Ford F-150 to a bi-fuel vehicle, which uses compressed natural gas (CNG) or gasoline.

“Natural gas used for transportation is clean – producing less emissions than gasoline – is safe and reliable, is largely abundant and at current prices CNG costs up to \$2 less per gallon than gasoline,” says Randy Teeuwen, Encana USA community relations adviser. “And, they have the same mileage and power as gas vehicles.”

He says Encana has converted 14 percent of its Wyoming fleet to CNG, with plans to convert it entirely within about three years.

“We are focused on supporting natural gas as a transportation fuel of choice, and we are happy to provide this conversion for UW Extension,” he notes.

The vehicle, owned by extension, will be used by an associate director and be visible statewide but will spend the most time around Laramie, along the I-80 corridor, in western Wyoming such as Sweetwater, Fremont, and Big Horn counties, and areas east of the Idaho/Utah border, says Glen Whipple, director of UW Extension.

“Natural gas is a plentiful fuel with great potential to reduce the nation’s reliance on imported oil,” says Whipple. “It makes sense that Wyoming, a state where natural gas production is a critical economic contributor, would be a leader in the use of CNG as a motor fuel.”



UW Extension energy coordinator Milt Geiger shows the compressed natural gas filler valve.

UW Extension has offices staffed with educators and specialists on the UW campus, in all 23 Wyoming counties and the Wind River Indian Reservation, all who do a significant amount of travel, notes Whipple.

Extension maintains a fleet of 31 trucks, SUVs, and sedans.

“The conversion will allow us to test and evaluate the possible cost savings and efficiencies for CNG-capable vehicles in our fleet,” says Whipple. “With CNG fueling stations either in service or planned throughout Wyoming in the near future, the time is right to put a CNG-capable vehicle in service.”

Encana USA opened a CNG station in Riverton at the Pit Stop on South Federal Boulevard, and the Pinedale station is in use, according to Encana. Fueling infrastructures opened in Rock Springs in October, and the Wyoming Legislature approved a station for Laramie to open in 2013.

“UW Extension is pleased to have a CNG-powered vehicle in its fleet to travel the state,” adds Whipple. “We appreciate the support of Encana for this project, and given the importance of natural gas to Wyoming, look forward to more CNG-powered vehicles to our extension fleet.”

FIRST CUTTING

DAVIDSON RECEIVES UW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

*Story courtesy Julianne Couch
Alumnews Editor*

Even though he is retired and living near a scenic lake in Wisconsin, Tom Davidson finds himself returning to his hometown of Laramie, and his university, several times a year.

It isn't just that he's visiting friends or revisiting the days of his youth, though that might be part of it. But mostly, Davidson is committed to service, especially to the University of Wyoming.

Davidson graduated with a degree in agriculture in 1961. His first involvement with UW other than his degree occurred in the late 1980s, when he raised funds for the Centennial Complex, which houses the UW Art Museum and the American Heritage Center.

"I was fortunate to be there when some of these things have happened," Davidson says about the timing of his involvement with that project.

Davidson says much of his life has been shaped by circumstance, of one thing leading to another rather unexpectedly, by a series of "turning points." For instance, Davidson taught vocational agriculture at the high school in Pinedale upon graduation from UW. He recalls those days as the most rewarding work he has ever done. "We had a lot of really good kids and parents who helped with what we did," he notes.

Because of that experience, Davidson says, "Our whole lives changed." At Pinedale, he started the award-winning *Wyoming Future Farmer* magazine. That got him noticed, and he was offered a job in Washington, D.C., with *The National Future Farmer* magazine. During the



Ann and Tom Davidson with Cowboy Joe and handlers Laura Schurman of Gillette, left, and Allyson Zinke of Lakewood, Colorado.

next 32 years, Davidson worked in the Chicago area for major national farm and consumer magazines, including *Progressive Farmer*, *Southern Living*, *Successful Farming*, *Better Homes & Gardens*, and *Good Housekeeping*.

"I learned by osmosis," he says of his move from voc-ag to magazine advertising sales. "Because of my agricultural background, I was able to talk to the agriculture people in a more professional manner," Davidson says.

"If somebody had walked up to me in Pinedale, Wyoming, and told me I was going to retire as Midwest manager of *Good Housekeeping*, well, I would have never believed it."

In spite of his successful career in magazine advertising and public relations, Davidson says he missed the satisfaction he felt working with students. Although he never wanted to return to teaching, that impulse to help students spurred his involvement with the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and with the College of Business,

MEDALLION SERVICE AWARD

helping to organize career centers and other student services.

On the College of Business Advisory Council, Davidson spearheaded the college's efforts to develop the Peter M. and Paula Green Johnson Career Center. As chairman, Davidson visited career centers in Wisconsin, Iowa, and other states, visiting with directors "to help us be able to use their career centers for an example of what a career center should be like."

Davidson hasn't forgotten his home college, either. He says a new initiative in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources will help coaches and judging team participants with the costs of travel for these activities. "We have recently developed a student travel fund that is going to allow more students to participate and be part of it," he says.

Frank Galey, dean of the college, says, "Many of our students, department heads, and senior leadership either work with Tom directly or have benefitted from his efforts on behalf of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Helping our students succeed academically, expanding the number of internships and career opportunities for students, and working with UW Extension to provide needed programs to Wyoming students are all examples of Tom's efforts on behalf of the college."

Davidson's efforts on behalf of UW can be seen across the campus. In 1995, upon the passing of his father, James Davidson, he established the James and Blanche Davidson scholarship, honoring his father's contributions to the sheep industry. The elder Davidson was a long-time shepherd for UW.

Tom Davidson's other accomplishments include:

- Assisting with the development, underwriting, and marketing of *UWyo* magazine and *Barnyards and Backyards*, a College of Agriculture and Natural Resources publication. With ad sales in his blood, he is a volunteer sales rep for the latter magazine, generating more than \$80,000 in revenue over the last six years.
- Creating a Cowboy Joe Pony scholarship and program of donor support for student pony handlers.
- Revitalizing the Ag Appreciation Day Barbecue to benefit student groups.
- Creating the Cowboy Joe Pony apparel sold in the UW Bookstore with proceeds benefitting student groups and programs.

Davidson grew up on property that was the UW Livestock Farm, now the Wyoming Territorial Prison grounds, in west Laramie. As a junior at UW, he was named Outstanding Member of the Alpha Tau Alpha Honorary Association for students in agriculture, and was its president his senior year. He ran track and played basketball at UW, and says he still has friends from those days.

It was through playing high school basketball he noticed his future wife, Ann (Graham) Davidson (BS '62), who was at that time a cheerleader for the high school in Rock Springs. "I was very much aware of her," he notes.

"What's really special about being on these UW boards is that Ann and I meet some of the best people; we're working with the top people in the state. There's no way I could be receiving this award if it had not been for her."



Jennifer Jacobsen of Teton County was recipient of the Newer Employee Recognition Award from extension director Glen Whipple.

Teton County extension educator recognized for nutrition efforts

Vision, finesse, and confidence helped a northwest area UW Extension educator receive the organization's Newer Employee Recognition Award.

Jennifer Jacobsen, a nutrition and food safety educator, received the award in Laramie during UW Extension's annual training conference last fall. Jacobsen, based in Jackson, serves Lincoln, Sublette, Sweetwater, Teton, and Uinta counties.

"She is an example of an outstanding educator and exemplifies enthusiasm, professionalism, creativity, and a strong work ethic," wrote one nominator.

Another noted Jacobsen's vision, finesse, and confidence.

"She continuously looks for new ways to serve and educate in the west area and provides successful programming in and outside of Teton County," said another.

Jacobsen began her position in 2009.

FIRST CUTTING



Professor Michael Liebman



Associate Professor Alan Schroeder



Associate Professor Dannele Peck



Associate Professor Pamela Langer



Assistant Professor Daniel Wall



Senior lecturer Rachel Watson

TOP STUDENTS SELECT TOP PROFS

Several professors from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources were among those chosen as Top Profs by their senior students for the academic year.

Members of the University of Wyoming (UW) Cap and Gown Chapter of Mortar Board – which include some of the most-outstanding senior students at UW – chose their Top Profs for the academic year at a dinner hosted by President and Mrs. Tom Buchanan in November.

All members of the senior honor society selected professors who have made a positive impact on their lives at UW. These professors go beyond normal classroom expectations to help their students succeed, both in college and later in their careers. Some faculty members were recognized by multiple students, according to Mortar Board.

Following are the Top Profs, their departments, and the UW Mortar Board students

Michael Liebman, family and consumer sciences – recognized by **Lisa Baldock**, Jackson, and **Callie Neelands**, Cheyenne

Dannele Peck, agricultural and applied economics – recognized by **Kailey Barlow**, Big Piney

Daniel Wall, molecular biology – recognized by **Cameron Finley**, Green River

Alan Schroeder, agricultural and applied economics – recognized by **Kaitlynn Glover**, Casper

Pamela Langer, molecular biology – recognized by **Catherine Schmidt**, Laramie

Rachel Watson, molecular biology – recognized by **James Moulton**, Glenrock, **Mara Cosgrove**, Thornton, Colorado, and **Sarah Dixon**, Steamboat Springs, Colorado

WILLIAMS RECEIVES NATIONAL EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

A family and consumer sciences professor has been recognized for excellence in teaching and service to students.

Karen Williams is one of six regional recipients of the Excellence in College and University Teaching in the Food and Agricultural Sciences Award from the USDA Association of Public and Land-grant Universities.

Williams received the award during the national APLU meeting November 11 in Denver from

Catherine Woteki, chief scientist and under secretary for USDA's Research, Education, and Economics.

"This award is a great honor, but it is really a recognition of our college, its support for teaching and the scholarship of teaching and learning, and of our students," says Williams. "I learn more from the children I work with and the college students I'm privileged to teach than they learn from me. I have the best job in the world."

Frank Galey, dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and Donna Brown, associate dean and director of the Office of Academic and Student Programs in the college, accompanied Williams. Brown, one of the nominators, was head of family and consumer sciences when Williams was recommended.

Sonny Ramaswamy, director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, made announcements about each of the award winners.

Recipients are evaluated on classroom teaching ability, use of innovative teaching methods, service to students, and professionalism and scholarship.



Professor Karen Williams

"It's really a nice honor – a tremendous honor," says Galey. "Her innovation in the classroom and in the curriculum has been fantastic. She is a leader campus-wide in assessment and outreach education. Her online offerings and ability to navigate the on-line education in this state have really helped lead our outreach programs."

Brown noted William's

leadership within the department and across the UW campus in teaching and assessing students for critical and creative thinking, professional skills and behaviors, and global and multicultural awareness.

"Karen spearheaded the department's early focus on student competencies and assessment resulting in the strategies that are considered the model on the UW campus, including the use of electronic portfolios for assessment purposes," notes Brown.

Brown said Williams was instrumental in developing several degree programs and options on the UW campus, including the distance degree option in professional child development.

Williams also helped develop and now directs the college's distance Bachelor of Applied Science degree program.

Williams joined UW in 1993 as an instructor in the College of Education. She became an assistant professor in 1995 in family and consumer sciences, an associate professor in 2001, and professor in 2006. She was head of the department from 2005 to 2010.



Extension director Glen Whipple presents website designer and developer Ann Tanaka the Creative Excellence Recognition Award during extension's awards banquet.

UW Extension's webmaster receives creative excellence honor

Creating and enhancing client websites and delivering creative and impressive projects earned a website designer and developer UW Extension's Creative Excellence Recognition Award.

Ann Tanaka, in the Office of Communications and Technology, received the award November 7 during extension's professional development conference in Laramie.

Tanaka was recognized for her commitment to improving extension's Web presence.

"In a very short time, Ann has transformed extension's Web presence from static pages to an interactive experience," wrote a nominator.

Wrote another: "Ann approaches each project with a curiosity to learn something new, persistence to make the current better, and determination to deliver a product that reflects the desires of her clientele. Her ideas and creativity in building and improving websites always exceed my expectations."

Tanaka joined UW Extension in 2011.

Teton County associate receives UW Extension's top secretary award

An office associate described as the backbone of the Teton County UW Extension office received the Frances Freese Secretary of the Year Award.

Gwen Hansen joined the office in Jackson 16 years ago.



Gwen Hansen

Last year's recipient, Julie Miner of the Park County office in Powell, made the announcement during Extension Secretary Conference – A Professional Event (ES-CAPE) in Wheatland in the fall.

"She does not like being in the spotlight and often does her work in the background out of the notice and attention of many," wrote one nominator. "Those in this community who have had the pleasure of working or interacting with her, however, recognize she has been and continues to be the true backbone of our extension office."

Wrote another, "She makes everyone in our office feel welcome and appreciated. She is the heart of our office, and we would be lost if we did not have her."

UW Extension has offices in every county and the Wind River Indian Reservation.

The award recognizes extension secretaries for outstanding contributions and accomplishments and is awarded each year during ESCAPE. Freese worked at the Wind River Indian Reservation extension office then moved to the Fremont County office, where she worked for 25 years.

Cameron president-elect of family and consumer sciences national honor society

Associate Professor Bruce Cameron in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences was elected president-elect for Phi Upsilon Omicron, the national honor society for family and consumer sciences, in August.

Cameron was officially installed during Conclave in October and is the first UW faculty member to serve as president.



*Associate Professor
Bruce Cameron*

"It is quite an honor to be the first UW faculty member to be selected as president-elect of Phi Upsilon Omicron," says Cameron. "The Delta chapter of Phi U was the fourth chapter established in this national honor society."

Cameron will serve as president-elect for 2012-2014 and assume the role of president in 2014. His primary responsibility as president-elect will be to serve as chairman of the National Professional Project committee. The professional project is undertaken by each of the honor societies chapters that encompass the current theme – the theme for 2012-2014 is "Building Traditions, Developing Legacy."

Cameron will also be a member of the National Council, responsible for conducting the affairs of the honor society, and the Education Foundation Board, responsible for the scholarships, fellowships, and awards provided by the honor society.

Founded in 1910, Phi Upsilon Omicron is a collegiate-focused honor society that nurtures student leaders to carry on the legacy of family and consumer sciences. Chapters are established via a petitioning process at accredited institutions across the country offering bachelor's degrees in family and consumer sciences.

The Delta Chapter at UW – in Region 4 – was the fourth chapter and was approved in 1916-17. All collegiate chapters are assigned to geographic districts or regions. The regions have been adjusted over the years as changes have occurred within the honor society.

Cameron notes three important purposes of Phi Upsilon Omicron:

- Recognize and promote academic excellence
- Enhance qualities of leadership by providing opportunities for service
- Encourage lifelong learning and commitment to advance family and consumer sciences and related areas

The organization provides collegiate members as well as alumni networking and mentoring opportunities.

Delta chapter has about 20 student members representing all of the areas of family and consumer sciences.

In addition to the professional project, the chapter is involved in numerous community service activities. The Delta chapter at UW has contributed to the Alzheimer's walk, donated time, supplies and/or money to the Laramie Soup Kitchen and Interfaith Good Samaritan, provided educational materials and tie blankets to the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program, and participated in Adopt-a-Family during the holiday period. Chapter members also volunteer and help game nights at Laramie Senior Housing and conduct canned food and coat drives in the community.



UW Extension specialist receives career achievement award

A professor in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences and director of Wyoming AgrAbility has received the Career Achievement Award from the National Family Life Specialists' Awards Committee.

"I was extremely honored and humbled," says Randy Weigel, UW Extension human development specialist. "In my 37-year extension career, I've had the privilege of working with most of the past recipients."

The Career Achievement Award honors an extension state specialist in family life and human development who has made significant contributions with impacts at the national level on extension program development, delivery, and evaluation.

Weigel was honored November 15 during the National Update and Family Life Specialists' Awards Presentation webinar hosted by the U.S. Department of Agricul-

ture and National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

"Throughout his two decades of service, he has made significant contributions in developing, teaching and evaluating extension programs," says Brian Higginbotham, family life extension specialist at Utah State University. "His contributions, including presentations and publications, have had multiple impacts outside his home state."

Weigel spoke for 15 minutes during the webinar on topics including the age-paced parenting newsletters he worked on during his time at Iowa State Extension; the Farm Crisis of the '80s; Wyoming Extension



Professor Randy Weigel

homemakers; Western Integrated Resource Education – Agriculture Help Wanted; the animal care project at the Wyoming Girls School; and Wyoming AgrAbility.

"I am proud of the proactive, integrated and comprehensive response of extension human development and family life specialists to the emotional needs of farm families

facing the farm crisis of the '80s, and the inclusion of behavioral (mental) health into extension agricultural management education and the National AgrAbility project," says Weigel.

Latchininsky selected for faculty senate speaker series

Extension entomologist Assistant Professor Alex Latchininsky was the Fall 2012 Award Recipient for the Faculty Senate Speaker Series and presented on the UW campus in November.

Latchininsky discussed "The Aral Sea catastrophe: Is one of the world's greatest environmental disasters reversible?"

Latchininsky received his bachelor's and master's degrees in entomology at St. Petersburg State University, Russia. In 1995, he came to UW to pursue his Ph.D. in entomology. Since 2003, he has been a faculty member and University of Wyoming Extension entomologist.

He has published 33 peer-reviewed articles and 14 monographs and book chapters in five

languages. He has served as president of the U.S. National Grasshopper Management Board, and received the International Integrated Pest Management Award of Excellence in 2012 for developing and delivering rangeland grasshopper management strategies in the West.

He has also served as an international consultant for the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization. Latchininsky has traveled to 40-plus countries including Argentina, Australia, Mexico, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Senegal, China, and Central Asian countries, and he has been featured on the Discovery Channel and History Channel television programs about locusts.



*Associate Professor
Alex Latchininsky*

FIRST CUTTING

UW scientist, state's veterinarian lauded for animal health efforts

A University of Wyoming professor and the Wyoming state veterinarian have received awards from national animal health organizations.

Professor Donal O'Toole in the Department of Veterinary Sciences received the Distinguished Career Service Award from the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) at the association's annual meeting October 18-24 in Greensboro, North Carolina.

State veterinarian Jim Logan received the National Assembly Award from the U.S. Animal Health Association, which met jointly with the AAVLD. The National Assembly is the collaborative body of all U.S.



Professor Donal O'Toole



Jim Logan

state animal health officials, according to the USAHA. Logan was recognized by all state veterinarians for his contributions to advance animal health programs nationally.

O'Toole was honored for his long-term service to veterinary diagnostic medicine

in the United States, including peer-reviewed papers, teaching related to diagnostic medicine, service on the association's executive board, including as president 2005-2006, and as chair of its pathology committee.

He joined the Department of Veterinary Sciences in 1990 as an associate professor and diagnostic pathologist and served as department head and as director of the Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory for five years.

He teaches undergraduate courses in diseases of livestock, equine health and disease, and mammalian pathobiology. His research focus is spontaneous diseases of food and companion animals and fatal viral disease of bison.

Natrona County educator receives UW extension's most prestigious award

A Natrona County University of Wyoming Extension educator received extension's most prestigious award.

Karla Case, a nutrition and food safety educator, was presented the Jim DeBree Excellence in Cooperative Extension Award in November during the organization's annual training conference. Case is based in Casper.

The award, honoring the retired extension administrator, is given to those who demonstrate a high level of professional performance and leadership within their program areas and communities.

Nominations noted Case's ability to work well with others, collaboration in creative efforts, and providing innovative and inspiring contributions.

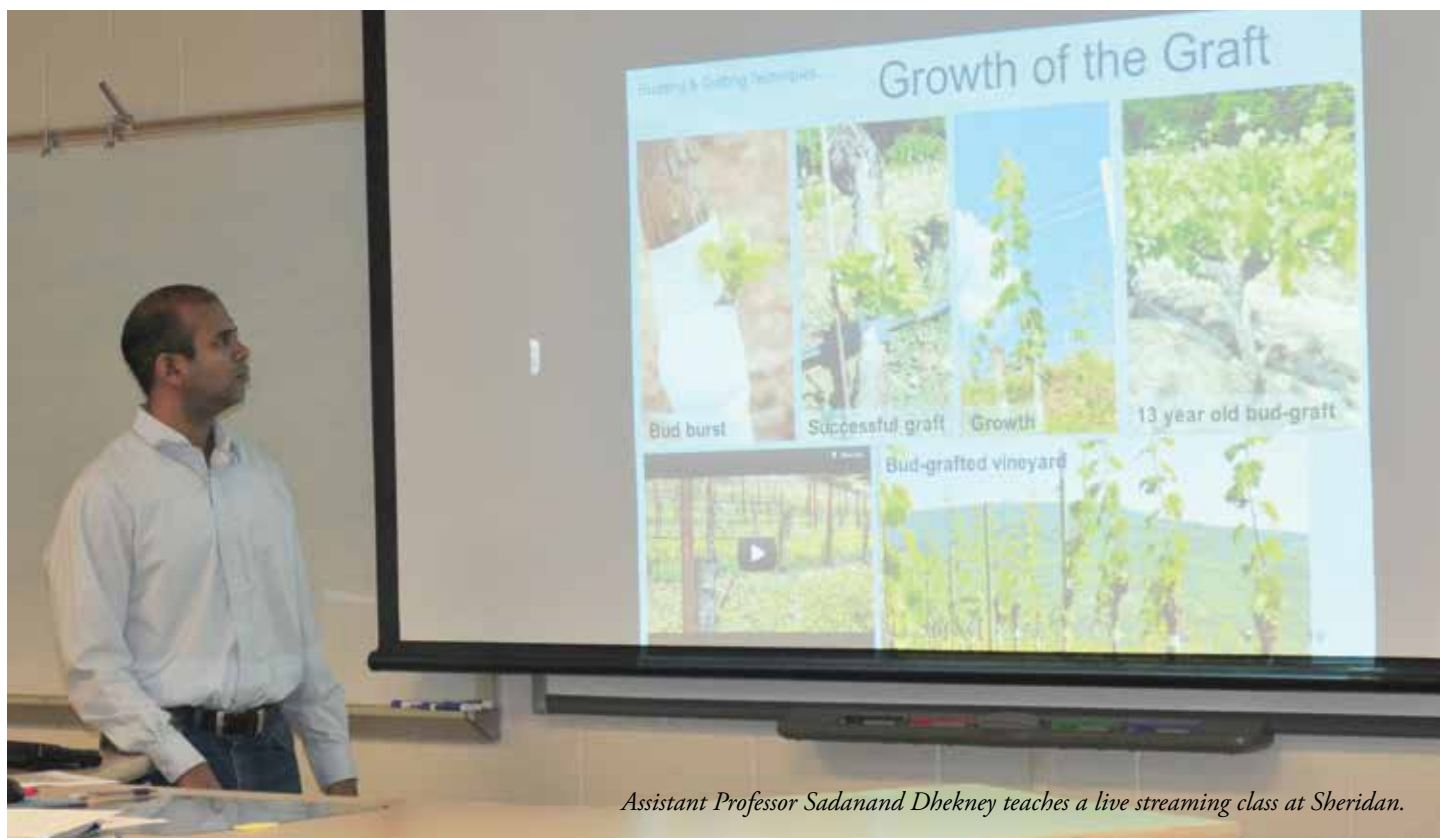
Case is also the Cent\$ible Nutrition Program coordinator for the county. CNP provides educational opportunities for Wyoming families and individuals with limited resources to have access to an affordable, available, adequate, nutritious, and safe food supply.

"Karla demonstrates a natural way of reaching out to the public through education and awareness," wrote one nominator. "Her classroom is fun and comfortable for everyone of all ages. She is always prepared from start to finish and has a positive attitude, demonstrating true passion for her work."

Case, a registered dietician, joined UW Extension in 2006.



Karla Case of Natrona County receives the Jim DeBree Excellence in Cooperative Extension Award from Dean Frank Galey. The award is the most prestigious in UW Extension.



Assistant Professor Sadanand Dhekney teaches a live streaming class at Sheridan.

Plant sciences curriculum propagates with distance education programs

Plant tissue culture and biotechnology is a new course offered this spring by the Department of Plant Sciences (DPS) – only, the course will be taught on the Sheridan College campus nearly 300 miles north of Laramie.

Fortunately, UW plant sciences students in Laramie unwilling to make the commute to Sheridan can take the class by video conference. Without video-conferencing capabilities, this class would likely not be offered.

“It would be really hard to offer it only in Sheridan,” says Sadanand Dhekney, assistant professor of horticulture, who will teach the class. “The video conferencing is really a blessing.”

Dhekney’s lectures will be streamed live to a classroom in Laramie; lab sessions will be in Sheridan and Laramie.

Bailey Hallwachs, who is earning a bachelor’s of science degree in agroecology and a minor in horticulture, took Dhekney’s introduction to viticulture class, taught from Sheridan via video conference, in the fall.

“It is because of distance education I am able to take these courses that suit my interests while fulfilling my degree requirements,” she says. “These courses are not offered here on campus so this is the only means available.”

Online Courses Engage Research Centers

Most research and teaching faculty members at UW Agricultural Experiment Station research and extension centers are DPS members.

Distance education enables DPS faculty members to teach more face-to-face classes at Wyoming community colleges, since Laramie students increase enrollment when they take the classes by video conference.

Teaching face-to-face at community colleges also contributes to UW’s land-grant mission and improves the transfer of students to UW.

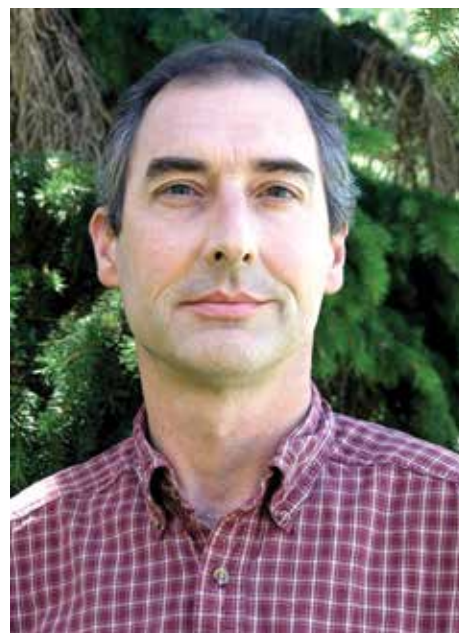
“We started to tailor our classes for distance learning five years ago,” says Steve Herbert, associate professor and department head of plant sciences. “We’ve been adding a course or two every year, mostly by asking new faculty to set up their classes for distance learning as they arrive. We’re generating a richer curriculum for students in Laramie as well as for students in Sheridan.”



Associate Professor Valtcho Jeliakov



Assistant Professor Sadanand Dhekney



Associate Professor Steve Herbert

UW's field and laboratory facilities and studies are available for students and faculty members at local community colleges for research, demonstration, and teaching.

DPS now offers nine distance-education/online classes, including Dhekney's plant tissue culture and biotechnology course.

"Prior to the new distance-learning opportunities, there was a big disconnect between Laramie and the research and extension centers," says Herbert. "It's important to engage our faculty at research and extension centers with students in Laramie. The distance education and interactions with students at the community colleges creates very important interactions and connections for our remote faculty with the UW campus in Laramie."

Offer Innovations for Teaching

Valtcho Jeliakov, associate professor and director of the Sheridan Research and Extension Center, teaches the hybrid herbs, spices, and medicinal plants and the online-only organic food production classes.

"I believe distance education offers new opportunities for innovations in teaching," says Jeliakov. "The online asynchronous

methods contribute to the development of critical thinking, high-quality dialog, and new ideas. My online experience has been very rewarding; I consider myself lucky to be able to teach online classes in the areas that coincide with my research interests."

An endowment by Whitney Benefits, an educational foundation in Wyoming, helped DPS offer more distance education and online classes.

"The agreement was we'd have a three-plus-one program," says Herbert. "Students at Sheridan College can take two years at Sheridan, graduate with an associate degree, take a third year of classes at Sheridan, and then transfer to UW to complete a four-year degree."

Course Had Waiting List

Herbert says 141 students registered in 2012 to take distance education and online classes in plant sciences and horticulture. Jeliakov's online organic food production class even had a wait list.

"One of the concerns in initiating this program was attendance," says Herbert. "We tried to teach classes on-site up in Powell, but students didn't attend. Now the classes are available to more students than

"We're drawing on a larger population of students and that makes the program viable from the outset."

— Steve Herbert

are actually in Sheridan, which improves the probability for success in Sheridan. We're drawing on a larger population of students and that makes the program viable from the outset."

DPS plans to offer more distance education and online classes, although not as a replacement for the traditional classroom format.

"Every approach has its limitations," says Jeliakov. "Obviously, distance learning courses may not be very suitable for some subjects requiring more hands-on experience. Distance learning may not offer the same level of face-to-face contacts between the instructor and the students."

Herbert concurs.

"I don't think distance learning is going to replace face-to-face any more than TV dinners have replaced the grill at backyard barbecues," he says.

Galey receives Wyoming Wool Growers Amigo Award

The Wyoming Wool Growers Association (WWGA) presented its Amigo Award to Frank Galey, dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, citing support of sheep research and outreach programs for producers.

The WWGA announced the award during its joint meeting with Idaho and Utah woolgrowers in November. The association's executive board decides recipients, says Bryce Reece, WWGA executive vice-president.

The college conducts an annual ram test, installed a sheep GrowSafe feeding system, which allows data collection on an individual animal while with others, and entered into an agreement with the WWGA in late 2011 to house the Von Krosigk Targhee flock at the Laramie Research and Extension Center (LREC).

"Frank has fought pretty hard for us," notes Reece. "The discussion around the table was that few universities are even interested in doing sheep anything any more. Frank has not only maintained sheep activities, but it's still a strong program."

Research Yield Results

Research results are shared with producers.

"We just completed the 12th ram test with UW, and the college stepped up when we approached them when we saw the GrowSafe system coming into use and how important that turned out to be for the cattle industry," says Reece.

The beef GrowSafe system, installed at the James C. Hageman Sustainable Agriculture Research and Extension Center near Lingle a few years ago, provides feed rations and collects data on individual animals without animals being isolated.

"UW went out and bought a sheep GrowSafe system – the only one of its kind



Dean Frank Galey with the Amigo Award from the Wyoming Wool Growers Association.

in the world specifically engineered and designated for sheep," says Reece.

The GrowSafe system was installed at the LREC.

Data from the feed efficiency research is yielding important information for producers, he says.

"We are getting tremendous data from that," says Reece. "As in all things having to do with new areas of research and technology, it's causing us to ask a lot more questions than we had answers for. We are starting to see, in rams coming off the tests, a five-fold difference between the most efficient and least efficient. That's a lot of money. The GrowSafe system is another thing for which Frank has been a strong proponent."

Collaboration for Targhee Sheep

When Reece heard Dean and Charleen Von Krosigk of Riverton might be selling their Targhee sheep flock, he asked if they were interested in forging an agreement for the WWGA to buy the flock.

"The reason being I knew the demand

out there for those and what would happen if word went out they were for sale," he says. "I was worried they would leave Wyoming."

Targhee sheep were developed for wool and lamb production in the Rocky Mountain region. The Von Krosigk flock started as a 4-H project for their children. Their children grew up, and the couple continued the flock.

"It is arguable it is the number one Targhee flock," says Reece. "Others might argue, but it's undeniable no one has had more national champions than that flock."

The WWGA then approached UW.

"The Von Krosigk family had decided to get out of the business and had three goals for the flock: keep the flock in Wyoming; keep the flock together; and continue to have the genetics of the flock available to the sheep industry in Wyoming," says Doug Zalesky, LREC director.

WWGA owns the sheep, and UW provides housing and the day-to-day management of the herd. Proceeds are split, and the herd genetics are offered to the sheep industry through ram sales.

The arrangement is a win-win for the WWGA and UW.

"Benefits to UW are access to one of the premier flocks of Targhee sheep in Wyoming and the U.S.," Zalesky says, "the ability to utilize the sheep for teaching and for non-invasive research, and work with the woolgrowers in providing some of the best Targhee genetics for the Wyoming sheep industry."

Woolgrowers benefit by keeping the flock in the state, the genetics, and access to the research data/information that will help in continued, positive genetic progress, notes Zalesky.

General's bearing, behavior earns praise

Students compliment General Mattis for listening, down-to-earth manner

A four-star general visiting UW last fall issued no orders – but he certainly commanded attention of agricultural students.

The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources was one of the hosts of Gen. James Mattis, commander of U.S. military operations in the Middle East. Mattis discussed “Perspectives on the Middle East” October 4 during a presentation open to the public in the College of Arts and Sciences Auditorium and fielded questions from students.

Selected students also had dinner with the general.

Before his current post, Mattis served as both NATO's supreme allied commander transformation from 2007 to 2009 and as commander of U.S. Joint Forces Command from 2007 to 2010. Before that, he commanded I Marine Expeditionary Force, U.S. Marine Forces Central Command, and the 1st Marine Division during the Iraq War.

Graduate student **Susan Wells** is using the GI bill to pursue a triple major in agricultural and applied economics, water resources, and environmental and natural resources. Wells received her commission from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1985 and Naval Flight Officer wings in 1987. One of her last billets was onboard the USS Essex as a helicopter direction control officer working with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit.

“I came from a view of having been in the Gulf around 1995, and things have changed,” she says. “The general answered my question, with Iran being of great concern on multiple dimensions: creating unrest in other countries, at sea harassing ships, etc. The evening dinner was interesting as he stressed the need for linguists and knowledgeable people in the area. For me, it was fun to be able to talk to his assistant,



Gen. James Mattis is welcomed by Dean Frank Gale during Mattis' presentation at the University of Wyoming campus.

Brig. Gen. Carl Mundy, since I served with him onboard the USS Essex. I think all of us students had an enjoyable time, and getting a world perspective definitely broadens a student's horizon.”

Wells says she tries to stay informed about Middle East and West Pacific events but does not have enough time, and living in smaller towns like Laramie can be isolating.

“Even if I did have enough time, there is nothing like being able to talk to someone who currently works in the area and interacts both on the government level and with the local communities,” she says. “It was nice to hear in private and on the local level the people still like Americans, and the media tends to not report the day-to-day positives.”

Wade Allnutt is a senior from Walden, Colorado, majoring in agricultural business with a minor in animal production. He is also a College of Agriculture and Natural Resources student ambassador.

“I would just like to say I had a great

time, and it was a great experience to go to that dinner,” Allnutt says. “I found the general to be very down-to-earth and easy to have a conversation with. I liked that he was very interested in what we had to say and our thoughts. He seemed genuinely concerned about America's youth and their future.”

Kaitlynn Glover, a senior from Casper, is in the UW honors program and majoring in agricultural communications and minoring in international business. In 2011, she completed an internship with Sen. John Barrasso's office in Washington, D.C.

“Gen. Mattis, while a prominent and respected international figure, was humble, congenial, and generally hospitable,” she says. “Watching him speak with other military figures in one breath and relaying stories from the Middle East to students in the next was absolutely phenomenal. Unlike many political individuals, Gen. Mattis addressed questions with clear, transparent answers and a frankness that endeared him to all. Perhaps my fondness for the general was due to his principles and sense of carriage; he seemed like a man who truly lived by the Code of the West:

1. Live each day with courage
2. Take pride in your work
3. Always finish what you start
4. Do what has to be done
5. Be tough, but fair
6. When you make a promise, keep it
7. Ride for the brand
8. Talk less and say more
9. Remember that some things aren't for sale
10. Know where to draw the line

“These things are of paramount importance to Wyomingites, and Gen. Mattis seems to exemplify them,” says Glover. “I truly felt honored to have spoken with one of the most intelligent and honest men I've ever met, who also happens to be a military genius.”



Dollars and sense

Animal science students learn marketing through bred-heifer sale production, leadership from industry

How many agricultural classes end in cash?

This one does – and provides hands-on leadership and marketing tasks to students.

Assistant Professors Scott Lake and Allison Meyer in the Department of Animal Science taught the beef leadership and heifer marketing course that ended with 60 head sold at the bred-heifer sale last fall.

“Our main goals were to provide the students with real-world experiences in conducting a livestock sale and to give them opportunity to network with beef industry professionals,” says Meyer.

Class Has Two Parts

Beef leadership is taught in the fall and heifer marketing in the spring.

“This year we did it backward,” says Lake, who initiated the class last fall.

The timing of the new class fell on the beef leadership class and not the marketing students putting on the heifer sale. “The kids who went through it last fall will be able to help the kids in the spring marketing class,” says Lake.

Lake developed the class from a course he was involved with while at Purdue University.

“I came here and started thinking about the different ways we could offer a leadership class,” says Lake, UW Extension



Assistant Professor Scott Lake

livestock specialist. “I don’t want to just stand there in front of a class. The whole idea is we expose kids to the different opportunities you don’t get in a traditional classroom.”

The class is especially unique in our region and with its commercial cattle focus, says Meyer.

“Some other large land-grant institutions have purebred, seedstock, or show prospect sales that are run by students, but our focus here was more on the commercial cattle side,” she notes. “Honestly, these classes and sales are a lot of work and have a lot of risk involved. Although



Assistant Professor Allison Meyer

our first sale went well, we certainly were all worried at several points this fall. We are fortunate to have the support of our department and college, which certainly helps.”

Animal Science, Ag Econ Students

Each class is two credits. Students can take both or either. Most students in the 4000-level class are animal science and agricultural economics students.

Lake wants to provide as many leadership opportunities as possible in the 15-week spring semester. “I want them to get in front of eight to 10 people, real leaders,

to get them to talk about their views of leadership and on the cattle industry and education.”

The spring class will build toward the fall bred-heifer sale.

“A lot of the students are from ranch backgrounds,” says Lake, “but I think in the beef industry, unless you are going back home to work on the ranch, that exposure to advertising a product and dealing with people and all things involved is important and different than when you are just in class talking about it.”

Students in Charge

The students were put in charge of all aspects of the sale: marketing, dealing with consignors, the production sale, and the advertising.

“A lot of the heifers are producer cattle,” he says.

Sixty head were sold with 10 coming from the beef unit at the Laramie Research and Extension Center in the Agricultural Experiment Station. Lake says Travis Smith, beef manager, helped a lot during the process.

“The beef unit keeps only so many heifers each year, so Travis went through them thoroughly to select them. I want to make that part of the class, to evaluate the heifers – which are good heifers, what would buyers like to see in the sale.”

Proceeds go to the AES and the animal science department. Lake hopes some of the proceeds will go to help pay travel and other expenses for the two courses.

Structure class for real-world feel

The class met about once a week (sometimes twice) throughout the semester and every other week after the bred-heifer sale.

The 15 students were split into six groups/teams:

- Sale management,
- Cattle,
- Facilities,
- Advertising/sponsorship,
- Sale catalog, and
- Cattlemen’s day.

“During each meeting, they would give updates and we would discuss concerns/decisions from each group,” says Assistant Professor Allison Meyer. “Each group worked together both in and out of class to organize and execute their groups’ duties. We provided suggestions and guidance, but much was up to the students. Several of them met with me outside of class to discuss these things, too.”

Meyer says the class was structured to have a real-world feel.

“We especially wanted to make sure students got the opportunity to make decisions and not just be grunt labor, but we also wanted to play to students’ strengths and long-term interests,” she notes.

Each student on the first day of class ranked the groups in order of their interest and explained why they wanted to be involved in their top choices.

“Each student got one of their top three choices, and most of them got to be involved in something that has career-building potential based on their long-term interests,” she says.

Flying Oreos name insects

There are Oreos, beans, pearls, and hourglasses flying through the moist, cool and amazingly green high-elevation cloud forests in the Ecuadorian Andes.

And, some of those species on the lush slopes are named in honor of College of Agriculture and Natural Resources students, faculty members, and alumni.

About half a world away – 12,000 miles – a newly discovered wasp in Thailand was named by the researchers in honor of Scott Shaw, professor of insect biology and classification at UW and curator of the UW Insect Museum. That wasp is in the same journal article that describes the Lady Gaga wasp. The Shaw species name, not nearly so flamboyant, is *Aleiodes scottshawi*.

Despite what you may be thinking, entomologists take naming new insect species they’ve discovered pretty seriously. UW Ph.D. student Guinevere Jones names 10 new species of *Meteorus* wasps in an article published in the November issue of the journal *Zootaxa*. Shaw, her adviser, is coauthor of the paper.

“Naming new species is a much more complicated process than it initially would seem,” says Jones, a former master’s student of Shaw in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. “Most importantly, you must follow all of the guidelines set forth by the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN): the name must be Latinized correctly, the specific epithet (the species name) cannot already ex-

and hourglasses: UW researchers in Ecuador cloud forest

ist. Also, you don't want to name anything after yourself as that is considered bad form and the ultimate display of ego. Some taxonomists name new species after people important to them, celebrities, or unique features/characteristics/behaviors of that new species."

These parasitoid wasps are beneficial and economically important insects that affect the tropical forest plant community by naturally regulating the populations of plant-feeding caterpillars, Shaw says.

Jones discovered the species of wasps during her work at the Yanayacu Biological

Research Station on the eastern slopes of the Ecuadorian Andes. Nestled in the lush cloud forest, the station is open year-round, can sleep 50, differs in elevation from Laramie by only a few footsteps (7,218 versus UW's 7,200), and climate can change from cool and rainy in the morning to hot and sunny in the afternoon. Yanayacu informational material warns prospective researchers to prepare to get wet.

Jones has been there several times, and Shaw also takes researchers and students to the station and research area. Jones earned her master's degree in entomology from UW in 2010 and then started her Ph.D. program. She is now teaching and conducting research at UW.

Here are a few names of the new *Meteorus* wasps and Jones' rationale for their names.

M. bustamanteorum: Named after the Bustamante family, integral to the continued success of the Yanayacu Center, noted Jones. Forty years ago, the Bustamante family purchased more than 1,300 hectares (about 3,212 acres) of land on the northeastern slopes of the Andes. Resisting the pressure to clear-cut his land in the name of land improvement, Simon Bustamante managed to leave the majority of his property untouched, and that legacy is shared with the Yanayacu Center along with his family's lodge that is focused on birding and the preservation of that region.

M. horologium: Named for the "hour-glass-esque" shape on the second tergite (dorsal plate), from Latin for "hourglass."

M. margarita: The Latin word *margarita*

means "pearl" and is such named for the pearl-like spot directly below the antennal sockets on the face.

M. oreo: With the majority of the body dark in color, with a white middle, this species resembles an Oreo cookie.

M. quasifabatus: In the summer of 2008, the first research trip to Yanayacu was made in conjunction with an Earthwatch volunteer group. Peggy Campbell-Rush, one of the Earthwatch volunteers and a first-grade teacher from New Jersey, was very interested in the taxonomic aspect of the Caterpillars and Parasitoids of the Eastern Andes project and inquired if one or two of her students could help Jones name a new species. "I sent photographs of some of the wasps, along with the ICZN guidelines to her. She worked with two (at the time) 6 year olds, and one of them declared it looked like a string bean (as his parents communicated via email through Campbell-Rush). This wasp is named in honor of Jack O'Rourke and Michael Mullough by using the Latin terminology *quasi* (meaning "like") and *fabatus* for bean," says Jones.

M. zitaniae: This species was named in honor of Nina Zitani, assistant professor in the Department of Biology, Western University, London, Ontario, the expert on Costa Rican *Meteorus*. Zitani is also a former graduate student of Shaw.

Shaw's new Ph.D. student has named an insect species after Jones.

"Helmuth Aguirre Fernandez named one of his new Colombian *Meteorus* species after me," says Jones, "so there is a *Meteorus guineverae* flying around Colombia."



Meteorus oreo

PROGRAM NOTES

Agricultural and Applied Economics

Associate Professor **Alan Schroeder** is retiring this March.

Schroeder, agriculture and natural resource law specialist with University of Wyoming Extension, joined the department in 1986. He earned his bachelor's of science degree in agricultural economics from North Dakota State University in 1971, a master's degree in natural resource economics in 1974, his juris doctorate in 1977, and his Ph.D. in natural resource economics in 1982, all from the University of Wisconsin. An interview with Schroeder is at bit.ly/alanschroeder. He is a long-time member of Wyoming's Ag and Natural Resources Mediation Program. The Wyoming Department of Agriculture program provides a mediator to help disputing parties identify issues, explore options, and reach a conclusion.

Associate Professor **Dannele Peck** was awarded the "Editors' Citation for Excellence in Refereeing for Water Resources Research for 2011." The journal is interdisciplinary and publishes original research in the natural and social sciences of water.

Anna Scofield received the 2012-2013 Vanvig Fellowship. Anna, from Lee Vining and Mt. Shasta, California, received her bachelor's degree in environmental management from Cal Poly in 2007. She was elected this year as the department's gradu-



*Associate Professor
Alan Schroeder*

ate student representative. Her thesis research, under the supervision of Associate Professor **Don McLeod** and research scientist **Scott Lieske**, examines how the spatial pattern of development contributes to rising wildland fire suppression costs.

Animal Science

Ricardo Arias, a Ph.D. student from Danli, Honduras, working with Assistant Professor **Scott Lake**, won first-place among 15 entries in the 2012 Colorado Nutrition Roundtable Graduate Student Poster Competition September 20. He received a \$500 check from the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (ARPAS) for his first-place effort. His poster was "Effects of Post A.I. Nutrition on First-Service Conception Rates of Beef Heifers." Other UW graduate student presenters included **Melinda Ellison** from Kremmling, Colorado;

Chance Marshall from Jackson; and **Tursan Nurmamat** from Urumqi, China. **Desiree Shasa**, former master's student at UW, gave an invited oral presentation of her winning poster from 2011 at the 2012 CNR. Assistant Professor **Allison Meyer** also gave an invited presentation at describing her research on how nutrition might be involved in fetal programming of offspring.

The department partnered with the American Angus Association's educational arm, the Angus Foundation, to present a one and one-half day educational program Cattlemen's Boot Camp in September to 50 cattle producers from Wyoming, Montana, Colorado, Idaho, and Nebraska. After a welcome from Andy Rest, American Angus Association (AAA) regional manager, and **Doug Hixon**, head of the Department of Animal Science, first-morning presenters included Larry Corah, vice president of Certified Angus Beef LLC ("Developing a Business mentality"); Jim Logan, Wyoming State Veterinarian ("Establishing a Herd Health Program"); UW livestock specialist **Scott Lake** ("Cowherd Nutrition and Reproductive Management"); and Assistant Professor **Kristi Cammack** ("Feed Efficiency"). Paul Andrews, president and CEO of the National Western Stock Show (NWSS), provided his vision for the future of the NWSS during the joint Friday noon seminar. The Friday afternoon discussion entitled



*Assistant Professor
Allison Meyer*

"Understanding Carcass Grades and Values" was led by Associate Professor **Warrie Means**, Meat Judging Team coach **Zeb Gray**, and Meat Lab manager **Kelcey Christensen**. Tonya Amen, genetic service director for the AAA, presented a case study on using available genetic prediction tools to identify a sire to meet a producer's breeding objectives. Participants moved to the Hansen Livestock Teaching Arena for hands-on breakout sessions on topics such as permanent animal identification including freeze branding; synchronization and artificial insemination; body condition scoring and ultrasound technology; and DNA marker-assisted selection. Saturday morning session highlights included a presentation on "Fetal Programming and its Effect on Carcass Composition and Quality Grade" by **Meyer**; "Communicating a Positive Image in the Beef Industry" by Ann Wittmann, executive director

of the Wyoming Beef Council, and Shelia Stannard, director of activities and events for the AAA. Dillon Feuz, professor of agricultural economics at Utah State University, gave the wrap-up presentation on “Surviving the Cattle Business in Times of Drought.” The UW Food Science Club provided the Friday evening and Saturday noon meals. Participant evaluations were highly complimentary of the quality of educational programs provided at this first-ever Cattlemen’s Boot Camp program held in Wyoming, says Hixon.

Ecosystem Science and Management

The Department of Ecosystem Science and Management hosted a regional rangeland competition November 10 in preparation of the Society for Range Management’s international competition in Oklahoma City this February.

Forty students from Utah State University, Colorado State University, Montana State University, Sheridan College, and the University of Wyoming (UW), competed in the Rangeland Cup, undergraduate rangeland management exam, plant identification, and extemporaneous speaking.

On the evening prior to the competition, the UW Range Club hosted a producer and agency land manager panel discussion. Panelists included: Mike Phillips, assistant field manager in the Bureau of Land Manage-



Professor George Vance

ment’s Worland Office; Jim Wilson, permittee from Worland; Aaron Swallow, rangeland management specialist for the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest; and Mark Eisele, permittee from Laramie.

“We ended the evening with an awards banquet, and the Range Club put on a dance,” notes **John Tanaka**, professor and head of the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management.

Those competing from UW included: **Mandy O’Donnell**, Spring Creek, Nevada, **Bailey Terry**, Newcastle, **Jaramie McLean**, Miles City, Montana, **Cassidy Comer**, Gillette, **Eric Ramerth**, Big Lake, Minnesota, **Evan Hathaway**, Fairview, **Travis Decker**, Craig, Colorado, **John Wagner**, Sterling, Colorado, **Sarah Kauer Griffith**, Durango, Colorado, **Haley Lockwood**, Big Piney, **Andee Leininger**, La Junta, Colorado, **Blair Gauthier**, Rozet, **Kate Richardson**, Worland, **Ashley Anglen**, Fort Bridg-

er, **John Buffkin**, Cody, **James Burford**, Morrill, Nebraska, **Patrick Snead**, Laramie, **Cody Bish**, Longmont, Colorado, and **Amanda Van Pelt**, Fernley, Nevada.

The department also started assisting with the Future Farmers of America (FFA) Western National Rangeland Career Development Event as a collaboration between UW, the University of Idaho, Utah State University, and the University of Nevada, Reno. Teams from FFA chapters in the four states competed in Idaho Falls, Idaho, this year. UW may host the event next year, says Tanaka.

Scott Shaw, professor of entomology and curator at the UW Insect Museum, was on sabbatical fall semester and will return for spring semester.

“He has been spending the time on biodiversity research in Ecuador, involving the discovery of new insect species feeding on forest caterpillars,” notes Tanaka.

Shaw is studying at the Yanayacu Biological Research Station on the eastern slopes of the Ecuadorian Andes, visiting museum collections in the eastern United States, and developing research collaborations with scientists in Ecuador, Mexico, Costa Rica, and Finland.

George Vance, Professor Emeritus of soil science, retired in August after nearly 23 years of teaching, researching, and conducting outreach for UW.

“We have been given approval to refill a soil chemistry position, and the search is under

way,” notes Tanaka.

Jim Wangberg, professor of entomology and associate dean, also retired at the end of the summer. Wangberg served as the founding director of the Center for Teaching Excellence, now the John P. “Jack” Ellbogen Center for Teaching and Learning.

Alex Latchininsky, associate professor of entomology, was chosen to deliver the UW Faculty Senate Speaker Series Seminar for fall 2012. He delivered his presentation “The Aral Sea Catastrophe: Is One of the World’s Greatest Environmental Disasters Reversible?”

Family and Consumer Sciences

Randy Weigel, professor and extension specialist in human development and family sciences, received the National Family Life Specialist’s Career Achievement Award in recognition of his significant contributions in extension program development, delivery, and evaluation in November.

Randy’s exemplary and creative work has supported individuals and families in transition through many crises and on many fronts, says Associate Professor **Bruce Cameron**, head of the department. His early work in Iowa on family stress with the farm crisis of the 1980s was the right program at the right time. He continues his on-target programming by helping Wyoming and western agricultural and ru-

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Professor
Randy Weigel

ral families cope with issues such as stress, drought, rural mental health, and disability.

Shane Broughton, associate professor in human nutrition and food, was invited to participate in a discussion on the need for potential supplemental vitamin D and calcium in women using a relatively new drug/application for birth control, a side effect of which is a higher incidence of bone fractures that are not osteoporosis related, at the Concepts in Obstetrics, Gynecology and Infertility (COGI) conference in Lisbon, Portugal in November.

Three dietetics students, **Jessica Schueler**, Bend, Oregon, **Lisa Baldock**, Norman, Oklahoma, and **Callie Neelands**, Cheyenne, attended the Food and Nutrition Conference and Expo in Philadelphia in October. This annual meeting is the premier event for food and nutrition professionals, showcasing the latest nutrition science information, and food service trends. Students have the opportunity to meet



Professor
Karen Williams

with fellow dietetic students and interns from all over the country, an invaluable resource. At the conference, Jessica gave a presentation from her master's work entitled "Presence and Dynamics of Leptin, Glucagon-Like Peptide1, and Polypeptide YY in Human Breast Milk at Early Postpartum."

Karen Williams, professor in human development and family sciences, was awarded one of six regional teaching awards by the United States Department of Agriculture at the recently held Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities meeting in Denver, Colorado. This award recognizes faculty members based on their abilities as classroom teachers, their innovative teaching methods, and their service to students and their professions. Karen, also a recipient of one of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Outstanding Educator awards in fall of 2011, is on sabbatical during the 2012-2013 academic year.

Molecular Biology

Research by Professor **David Fay** has been referenced in the *New York Times* article "Can a Jellyfish Unlock the Secret of Immortality?" Author Nathaniel Rich explores the 1988 discovery of *Turritopsis dohrnii*, known as the immortal jellyfish. *Turritopsis dohrnii* can transform itself back to a polyp, the organism's earliest stage of life.

Fay's research studies the Retinoblastoma (Rb) tumor suppressor protein in the nematode *C. elegans*.

Rich wrote that the greatest advancements in medicine have come from observations of animals that seemed to have little or no resemblance to man. Rich cited Fay's research when he wrote that scientists in Wyoming studying nematode worms found genes similar to those inactivated by cancer in humans. The genes could be a target for new cancer drugs.

Wrote Rich, "One of the Wyoming researchers said in a news release that they hoped they could contribute to the arsenal of diverse therapeutic approaches used to treat and cure many types of cancer."

The article is at <http://nyti.ms/TRgxAL>.

Notes Fay about his research, "One of our primary objectives has been to understand the normal biological functions of the *C. elegans* Rb family ortholog, *lin-35*. In humans, loss of Rb is strongly correlated with cancer. In fact, the large majority of human cancers are known to



Professor
David Fay

contain mutations that result in the functional inactivation of the Rb protein, thereby leading to the view that loss of Rb function may be a universal and obligate step in the progression of human cancers."

Fay is also director of the Molecular and Cellular Life Sciences Program at UW.

Plant Sciences

Over the last five years, plant sciences has experienced an extraordinary generational turnover in its faculty, notes Steve Herbert, head of the department.

Ten of the 13 voting faculty members now in the department have joined since 2007, two faculty searches are in progress, and a third faculty search has been approved.

"This pattern reflects a national trend," notes Herbert.

After decades outside the limelight, agricultural research and education are increasingly seen as vital to sustainable living



*Assistant Professor
Brian Mealor*



*Research scientist
Abdel Mesbah*

for a global population that will soon reach 10 billion. Ag departments in land-grant schools around the U.S. are losing experienced senior members to retirement and competing vigorously to hire from a relatively small pool of recently trained Ph.Ds. and postdoctoral fellows.

"We have been very fortunate to hire a series of talented and energetic individuals in plant sciences over recent years," notes Herbert. "We'll continue to make searches a top priority, but our greatest concern now is retention. Retention of productive faculty is always much more cost-effective than replacement."

As recently hired faculty members have established their programs of research, teaching, and extension, four disciplinary areas in plant sciences have become well-defined. Agronomy, horticulture, plant improvement, and plant protection are all disciplinary areas in which three or more plant sciences faculty members are working actively.

In the plant protection group, weed science is well-represented by Assistant Professors **Andrew Kniss**, **Brian Mealor**, and research scientist **Abdel Mesbah** but, with the sad loss of Professor **Gary Franc** to illness, there are no faculty-level plant pathologists at the University of Wyoming.

Sugar producers in Wyoming and adjacent states have already begun to voice concern, Herbert says.

Sugar beets are Wyoming's second-largest cash crop, and sugar beet pathogens can cause devastating losses if not identified early and controlled actively.

"We hope to have one or more plant pathology positions filled at UW soon," says Herbert, "but I think we also need to take a more regional perspective and cooperate with our sister institutions in Colorado, Montana, and Nebraska. Plant pathogens don't recognize state borders, and we should be working together."

Veterinary Sciences

This past June, the Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory (WSVL), located within the Department of Veterinary Sciences, was visited by a team from the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD), an organization with the mission of "continuous improvement and public awareness of veterinary diagnostic laboratories by ... education, communication, peer-reviewed publication, collaboration, outreach, and laboratory accreditation."

"AAVLD sets the standards for operation of veterinary diagnostic laboratories and evaluates whether laboratories are operating up to those standards," says Professor **Will Laegreid**, head of the department and WSVL director. "Thus, the goal of the site visit team was to look at the operations of the WSVL from top to bottom. All aspects of the laboratory were open to examination, from how samples are received and routed within the lab to how results are reported to our clients. I am pleased to report that, following the site visit and a review by the full AAVLD accreditation committee, the WSVL was granted full accreditation status, the direct result of hard work by WSVL staff and faculty members."

Professor **Donal O'Toole**, veterinary pathologist and professor at WSVL, was this year's recipient of the Distinguished Career Service Award at the 55th



*Professor
Will Laegreid*

annual meeting of the AAVLD. The award was presented during the president's banquet jointly hosted by the AAVLD and U.S. Animal Health Association (USAHA) in Greensboro, North Carolina.

The state of Wyoming was well-represented in the awards given at the recent AAVLD meeting as, in addition to Professor O'Toole, **Jim Logan**, Wyoming State Veterinarian, received the National Assembly Award from the USAHA for his contributions to the advancement of national animal health programs.

"Congratulations Professor Donal O'Toole and Jim Logan – the awards are very well deserved," says Laegreid.

Two new faces in the department are **Megan Dillon**, who has taken over duties in the diagnostic electron microscopy facility, and **John Henningsen**, who will be working in the trimming/necropsy section of the WSVL.

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*Director and
Associate Dean Bret Hess*

Agricultural Experiment Station

The transition of fall into winter has brought yet another season of change for the Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station (WAES) and the UW research and extension (R&E) centers in Laramie, Lingle, Powell, and Sheridan.

“With sugar beets in the piles, grains in the bins, hay in the stacks, and last year’s crop of livestock in the lots or lockers, we look forward to the arrival of winter’s much-anticipated snow storms to recharge our water resources,” says **Bret Hess**, WAES director and associate dean.

As water is the currency for continuing the annual agricultural production cycle, funding drives annual productivity of WAES faculty members, he notes. WAES facilitates this process by administering an internal grants program. The WAES competitive grants program funds two- to three-year research projects that address issues relevant to Wyoming.

Five of the 22 proposals submitted were funded. Projects include:

“Understanding the Epigenetic Mechanisms of Lactation Failure”

“Regulation of Nuclear Size in Cancer Cells”

“Strategic Cheatgrass Management in Wyoming-Landscape-scale Prioritization and Evaluation of Targeted Grazing”

“*Listeria monocytogenes* Exopolysaccharide: Structure and Roles in Colonization and Persistence on Produce Surfaces”

“Economic Impacts of Climate Change and Drought on Wyoming Ranchers: A Critical Evaluation”

WAES initiated a competitive graduate stipends program to stimulate additional research and recruit new graduate students to work at the R&E centers.

“Successful applicants will be announced early this winter,” notes Hess.

One of the intended benefits of the program is to increase collaborative research at the R&E centers, where applied research is conducted to address problems encountered by fellow agricultural producers, says Hess.

UW Extension

Windy Kelley joined UW Extension in December. Kelley is an area educator contributing to UW Extension’s statewide effort to provide educational programs on the sustainable management of rangeland resources. She is based in Pinedale and serves extension’s west area,



Windy Kelley

which includes Sublette, Sweetwater, Uinta, Lincoln, and Teton counties.

Kelley holds both a bachelor’s degree in natural resource recreation and tourism and a master’s in rangeland ecosystem science from Colorado State University.

“Kelley will continue UW Extension’s long history of outstanding educational outcomes for landowners, natural resource managers, energy companies, and cooperating agencies in western Wyoming,” notes **Susan James**, federal relations and staff development coordinator with UW Extension.

Prior to joining extension, Kelley was the agricultural program coordinator for the Wyoming Department of Agriculture in the Jonah Interagency and Pinedale Anticline Project office.

“Windy’s technical expertise combined with her demonstrated success in addressing complex natural resource management issues in western Wyoming provide her an exceptional foundation to develop and deliver



Diane Saenz

relevant, objective, and impactful educational programs,” says James.

Diane Saenz will join UW Extension’s northwest area team in May. She will be based in Fremont County’s Lander office but will serve the Wind River Indian Reservation, Fremont, Hot Springs, Washakie, Big Horn, and Park counties.

“Saenz will continue her excellent work as a UW Extension area educator in nutrition and food safety but with a different office, new clientele, and a change of scenery,” says James.

Saenz started her career with UW Extension in August 2010. Before moving to the Lander office, she was the nutrition and food safety educator for southeast Wyoming, based in Carbon County.

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*Director and Associate Dean
Donna Brown*

as I adjust to this new position," says Brown.

Brown joined the College of Agriculture faculty in 1987 as a textiles and clothing University of Wyoming Extension specialist and assistant professor in the Department of Home Economics. She was promoted to associate professor in 1993 and professor in 2004. In 2010, Brown assumed the role of head of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences.

"I am already enjoying the opportunities this new role has provided me – it has given me the chance to get to meet and spend time with more students and colleagues from across the college and campus that I hadn't interacted with extensively in my previous roles," she notes.

Brown says she has enjoyed conducting teaching observations for many of the untenured faculty members in the college.

"It has allowed me to gain a greater understanding of the breadth and diversity of the disciplines housed within the college and to see firsthand the excellent

instruction students within the college receive, and the genuine passion for students and teaching that faculty members in this college demonstrate," says Brown.

Brown attended the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia, and holds both a bachelor's degree (1983) and Ph.D. (1987) in textile technology, with a focus on textile chemistry. Her doctoral research involved the synthesis of wash-resistant topical anti-static agents for wool. While at UW, Brown's scholarship has been primarily in the area of artistic textile design.



Brett Befus

College Relations

Brett Befus was recently hired as major gift officer for the UW Foundation.

He works primarily with the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the College of Law, in addition to a focus on planned giving. He received his undergraduate degree in business administration from UW and a graduate degree from West Virginia University. He then

worked for the UW Athletics Department prior to attending and graduating from the UW College of Law. Following law school, Brett worked as an attorney for the 5th Judicial District Court in Cody.

"I am truly excited about returning to Laramie to work for UW – an organization that means so much to me," he says. "As an alumnus and third-generation Wyomingite, my passion for the state and our university runs deep. I am eager to help Dean Frank Galey find private

Academic and Student Programs

Donna Brown joined the office in September as the associate dean and director, replacing **Jim Wangberg**, who retired September 7.

"I am grateful for all the encouragement and support I have received from so many already and am especially thankful for the assistance and patience of the Academic and Student Programs Office team, especially Kelly Wiseman and Mandie Corcoran,



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support to further the advancement of the college. Agriculture and natural resources are engrained in Wyoming's identity and culture. Their importance to the state and beyond cannot be understated."

Befus says the alumni and friends of the college are diverse but share a common attribute – the desire to make a difference.

"I look forward to meeting more constituents who desire to remain involved and engaged with the college," he says. "I relish the opportunity to explore options with our supporters about how their philanthropy can best be achieved. Whether it is providing scholarships for students, awarding outstanding faculty members, or providing

much-needed operating funds for a specific program – your support can be so impactful."

He encourages constituents to consider long-term gift planning options – including those that pay income for life and simultaneously leave a legacy of support for future UW students.

"If you have an interest in supporting UW, please let me know," he says. "I am committed to finding strategies that align individual and institutional fulfillment."

Befus enjoys sports and rooting for the Cowboys and Cowgirls and professional teams along the Front Range. He can be reached at (307) 766-1802 or via e-mail at bbefus@uwyo.edu.

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