Spring 2018

Department of Natural Resource Management Newsletter

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Dear NRM Alumni and Friends,

Our spring semester was full of activity on many fronts. We successfully recruited a new range specialist tenure-track faculty member, Krista Ehlert to be based in Rapid City, a new field specialist Katherine Jaeger in Sioux Falls, three of our current faculty were promoted: Mike Brown to full professor along with Brian Graeb and Lora Perkins to Associate Professor, and we completed an intensive Institutional Program Review by three external evaluators. This was the first formal undergraduate and graduate program evaluation since our department was formed in 2011-12 and we all learned a lot in the process.

Our annual NRM Award and Scholarship banquet at McCrory Gardens was once again a lovely evening in April celebrating the accomplishments of our students and our mission! We had 175 attendees and presented 47 awards to 77 number of undergraduate and graduate students and 2 awards to 4 faculty members. We also held our 2nd annual Appreciation & Graduation Reception on the Friday afternoon before graduation to acknowledge our seniors who are off on their next adventure having successfully completed their degrees at SDSU.

As always our summers are humming with so many faculty and student in the field conducting their research with the goal of learning how best to conserve and manage our natural resources. We will be welcoming new Assistant Professor, Rob Lonsinger, shortly and have said good-bye to Leslie Vincent who was an instructor and recruiter for the department after 4 years and she will be missed. However, Leslie has agreed to return to advise the juniors and seniors under her mentorship remotely starting in December, because we all value the relationships that she has developed with our undergraduate students.

We wish you all a wonderful summer and look forward to hearing from you or seeing you in the future in Brookings or wherever our paths may cross.

All the best!

Michele
Annual NRM Award and Scholarship Banquet was held at the McCrory Gardens on April 17, 2018.

77 undergraduate and graduate students within the Department received awards and scholarships, totaling $58,000.

*Next year’s banquet will be on April 16, 2019. Please save the date!

Undergraduate Student Awards

Bob and Carroll Hanten Endowed Scholarship in Fisheries: Joseph Kretchman with KC Jensen

Brent Wilbur Wildlife Conservation Scholarship:
Hannah Kast with Mike Brown

Brookings Wildlife Federation Scholarship: Desirae Hertling with Spencer Vaa and Chuck Berry

Clifford and Alice Falken Scholarship: Jennifer Huber & Aaron Muehler with Dennis Falken and Mike Barber
Claude V. Lamoureaux Memorial Scholarship in Support of the Jackrabbit Guarantee: Angelina Arensdorf incoming freshman in the Range program (no photo)

David Bartling Scholarship in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences: Phillip Hummel with Michele Dudash

David J. Holden Memorial Scholarship: Cailee Peterson with Nelda Holden

Dr. Robert A. Klumb Memorial Scholarship Endowment: Jared Hintz & Macy Murren with Steve Chipps

Ecology and Environmental Science Scholarships: Matthew Carreiro & Jennifer Dailey with Nels Troelstrup

Elvin and Eloys Bjorklund Memorial Scholarship: Miranda Zinola with Brian Graeb

Geneva Kettering Hogue and Jerome O. Hogue Scholarship in JG: Logan Ackerman with Jon Jenks

“JG” stands for Support of the Jackrabbit Guarantee.
Gerald B Spawn Memorial Scholarship in Wildlife: 
Jasmine Cisneros with Mike Brown

James and Barbara Jessen Scholarship in Natural Resource Management: 
Rebecca Wilson with Carol Johnston

James E.R. Williams Scholarship in Natural Resource Management: 
Kristen Giefer with Lan Xu

James K. “Tex” Lewis Memorial Scholarship: 
Shyanne Seidel with Sandy Smart

Jeff Heidelbauer Scholarship in Rangeland Ecology and Management: 
Cody Kneip with Carol Johnston

Jeffery and Pamela Donahoe Scholarship in Wildlife and Fisheries in JG: 
Brandon Boekhout with Joon

“JG” stands for Support of the Jackrabbit Guarantee.
Jennings Upland Endowment in Range Science: Kara Fairchild, Emily Knutson, Eric Puetz, Shyanne Seidel with Josh Leffler (left) & Magdalen Borst with Michele Dudash (right)

Jerome Norgren Water & Wildlife Conservation Scholarship: Rachel Erickson, Rylan Webster & Lor-na Wright with Larry Gigliotti

Lake Campbell Wildlife Club Scholarship, Mound City: Joseph Kretchman with KC Jensen and Jenna Van Beek

Larry & Jo Kallermeyn Scholarship in Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences: Jed Burgers with Michele Dudash

Mabel Adams Eberly Memorial Scholarship: Alyssa Vachino with Maribeth Latvis

“JG” stands for Support of the Jackrabbit Guarantee.
McCook Lake Izaak Walton League Scholarship: Bryce Eimers, Kevin Frick, Dillion Koch & Tanner Pietz with Sid Wagner

McMullen Undergraduate Research Grant: Jennifer Dailey with Nels Troelstrup

Paul and Jeanette Vohs Scholarship in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences: Kaitlyn Cihoski with Joshua Stafford

Rock Hills Ranch Scholarship in JG: Blake Roetman with Lora Perkins

Sioux Falls Chapter Izaak Walton League Scholarship in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences: Benjamin Hanzen with Lan Xu

smithii Award in Range Science: Andrea Collins with Sandy Smart

“JG” stands for Support of the Jackrabbit Guarantee.
South Dakota Conservation Officers’ Association Scholarship: Miranda Zinola with Mike Brown and Chris Kuntz

South Dakota Walleyes Unlimited Scholarship: David Flanery, Benjamin Hanzen, Kristina Laska, Dylan Riedl with Rocky Niewenhuis and Brian Graeb (upper) & Jasmine Cisneros with Michele Dudash (lower)

Society of Range Management Freshman Scholarship: Emily Knutson with Lora Perkins

Stephen M. Zebarth Scholarship in Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences in JG: Jessica Kading with Joshua Stafford

Streeter Memorial Scholarship in Wildlife & Fisheries: Julia Stueven with Steve Chipps

“JG” stands for Support of the Jackrabbit Guarantee.
The Harry Stoeber Memorial Scholarship: Benjamin Hanzen with Chuck Dieter

Thomas Pozarnsky Scholarship in Range Sciences: Eric Puetz with Sandy Smart

Ward Miller Scholarship Fund: Kristen Giefer with Maribeth Latvis


29-90 Sportsmen’s Club Scholarship: Jessica Kading with KC Jensen

“JG” stands for Support of the Jackrabbit Guarantee.
Graduate Student Awards

Outstanding Biological Sciences MS Graduate Student: Joshua Harvey with Josh Leffler

Ducks Unlimited Scholarship in Natural Resource Management: Jameson Brennan with Lan Xu

Great Plains Fishery Workers Association Scholarship: Travis Rehm with Steve Chipps

Outstanding Grasslands Sciences Graduate Student: Surendra Bam with Sandy Smart

Lloyd and Alice Fredrickson Memorial Scholarship in Wildlife & Fisheries: Aaron Sundmark with Larry Gigliotti

Outstanding Wildlife MS Student: Tyler Garwood with Jon Jenks
David W. Willis Fisheries Research Award: Tom Kasiga with Mike Brown and Matt Willis

Robert A. Klumb HAMMS Award (Habitat, Aquatics, and Management of the Missouri River System): Joseph Mrnak with Steve Chipps

Waterfowl Specialty—Gay Simpson Award: Neil Martorelli (No photo)

Faculty Award Recipients

David W. Willis Faculty Award: Leslie Vincent with Michele Dudash and Matt Willis

SDSU Awards for Service: Carol Johnston with Michele Dudash. Brian Graeb & Nels Troelstrup (no photo)

Congratulations all on your achievements!
Professor Carol Johnston


This year, the committee received 40 nominated books from 17 publishers. The shortlists are part of a new initiative to better highlight the diversity and strength of the titles that the committee receives as nominations each year for the awards. The winners will be announced in June.  
http://wildlife.org/wildlife-publication-awards-committee-announces-shortlists/

Botanical Society of America Young Botanist Award

Our graduating senior, Mallory Malecek, received a Young Botanist Award from the Botanical Society of America! This is a competitive national award that recognizes top students in the plant sciences based on academic and research achievements. Only 14 awards were given out this year!

Congratulations Mallory!

Botanical Society of America PLANTS Grant

Our Wildlife and Fisheries majoring student, David Flanery, received the PLANTS Grant (Preparing Leaders and Nurturing Tomorrow’s Scientists: Increasing the diversity of plant scientists) from the Botanical Society of America. This program recognizes outstanding undergraduates from diverse backgrounds and provides travel grants and mentoring for these students.  

Congratulations David!
Appreciation & Graduation Reception

The 2nd annual reception was held on May 4th, 2018 from 3 to 4:30pm at the Atrium in the Edgar S. McFadden Biostress Laboratory. Undergraduate students, graduate students and their families enjoyed the departmental event.

2017 Fall Undergraduates

Heidi Becker (WFS, Min: BOT)  
Jonathan Champion (REM, Min: BOT)  
Courtney Herrick (WFS)  
Clayton Johnson (WFS)  
Blake Lorenzen (NRLE)  
Joseph Mayrose (WFS)  
Daniel Pecenka (WFS)  
Mitchell Sabers (WFS)  
Cody Somsen (WFS)  
Keith Whitburn (NRLE)  
Spencer Carstens (NRLE)  
Daniel Dirks (NRLE & WFS)  
Austin Hilbrands (WFS)  
Kendyll Jones (NRLE) & WFS  
Monique Mack (EES)  
Tate Nafziger (EES, Min: REM)  
Kelsie Peterson (WFS)  
Alex Sindelar (WFS)  
Alannah Vellacott (EES)

2017 Fall Graduates

Adam Kauth (MS: WFS-W)  
Sarah Nevison (MS: WFS-W)  
Alex Rosburg (MS: WFS-F)  
Lily Sweikert (PhD: WFS)
2018 Spring Undergraduates

David Ahrens (WFS)       Ryan Alley (WFS)
Jared Anderson (NRLE)    Isaac Andrade (WFS)
Skyler Arent (WFS, Min: REM) Cassandra Auxt (WFS)
Katlyn Beebout (EES, Min: BOT) Isaac Bennett (NRLE)
Kyle Burdick (NRLE)      Andrea Collins (REM)
Adam Day (WFS)           Thomas Docken (WFS)
Russell Felicia (WFS, Min: REM) Ashton Fey (WFS)
Megan Garms (WFS)        Heidi Haivala (WFS)
Nicholas Harrington (WFS, Min: REM) Derek Hartl (WFS)
Madison Hope (EES)       Alyson Hurley (NRLE)
Alexandra Jennings (WFS) Blake Jorgensen (EES)
Cortlynn Jung (WFS)      Zachary Lothspeich (WFS)
Alexander Macki (WFS)    Mallory Malecek (EES, Min: BOT)
Matthew Manning (WFS)    Austin McLemore (WFS)
Peter Nasby (WFS)        Dylan Peterson (NRLE & WFS)
Joshua Prohaska (EES)    Calvin Rezac (WFS)
Tanner Roehr (WFS, Min: REM) Abigail Schauer (EES)
Joseph Sherbon (NRLE)    Taylor Steinfeldt (WFS)
Lucas Strong (WFS)       Madeline Stubbs (WFS)
Brandon Teberg (WFS)     Jacob Von Bergen (WFS)
Taylor Walters (EES)     Kassidy Weathers (EES)
Samuel Weber (NRLE)      

2018 Spring Graduates

Elise Berheim (MS: WFS-W)
Jill Voorhees (MS: WFS-F)
Eli Felts (PhD: WFS)

Congratulations!
A Sampling of Our Presentations

- Katelin Frerichs (Undergraduate), Lan Xu, and Arvid Boe. January 2018. Identifying and characterizing of salt-tolerant alfalfa (*Medicago sativa subsp. falcata*) germplasm at the Society for Range Management (SRM)
- Surendra Bam, Jacqueline P. Ott, Jack L. Butler, and Lan Xu January 2018. Competition of Native and Non-Native Grasses in terms of Belowground Bud Bank and Tiller Demography at SRM
Student members in SDSU Sub-chapter of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) kicked off the spring with another successful Annual Chili Feed, with eight different and flavorful chilis (photo on right).

The chilis (photos below) ranged from savory vegetable chilis to unique and delectable wild game chilis. A selection of homemade side dishes and some homemade southern tea provided opportunities for some interesting chili combinations. And as classes started again, the sweet treats left smiles on partakers’ faces as they left. The annual event is a free-will donation event where the chili, side dishes and desserts are provided by NRM staff members, students and subunit members.

The belly warming chili provide people with an opportunity to relax and enjoy a homemade lunch, while being able to support the activities of the sub-chapter’s members. The donations from the event will the sub-chapter to put on social events, transport members to sampling event to gain experience and various other opportunities. The members of the AFS greatly appreciate all who attended and those who donated. We thank those once again who provided food for the event and for all those kind hearted people who chose to donate.

The winners for the chili competition!
Best Tasting Chili: Dr. Brown / Most Creative: Aaron Sundmark
2018 Gamma Sigma Delta Honors Society of Agriculture

Poster Competition Awards:

Congratulations to these students and their advisors on another successful Gamma Sigma Delta Annual Poster Competition. The following students received prizes of $75 1st place, $50 2nd place, and $25 3rd place from College.

Undergraduate:
1st place – Katelin Frerichs (NRM)
2nd place – Kassidy Weathers (NRM)
3rd place – Kirby Krogstad

Don Marshal, Kassidy Weathers, Katelin Frerichs, Kirby Krogstad and Sandy Smart (from left to right)

Joshua Harvey, MS student, is presenting his poster.
Katelin Frerichs, 1st place winner, is presenting her poster.
A professional development workshop geared towards Assistant Professors at SDSU that took place over the spring semester (photo above).

Maribeth Latvis, one of our faculty members, received financial support from NRM and the College to participate in training in Washington DC.

They received feedback on grantsmanship and communication, and met with program officers from federal funding agencies (e.g. USDA, NIH, NSF).

They also had the opportunity to meet with our South Dakota delegation on Capitol Hill (Senators Mike Rounds and John Thune, and Congresswoman Kristi Noem) to discuss the importance of our research at SDSU (photos below).
Welcome to NRM World

Katherine Jaeger  
Youth Outdoor Education  
Field Specialist at SDSU Extension, Sioux Falls

Rob Lonsinger  
Assistant Professor,  
a wildlife ecologist with a background in wildlife management and conservation genetics

Krista Ehlert  
Assistant Professor/  
WRAC Extension Range Specialist, Rapid City

Life Update!

Rebecca Kolstrom  
Our current Master student, Rebecca won $500 to help offset travel expenses associated with The Wildlife Society Alaska Chapter meeting in Anchorage, March 2018.

Lily Sweikert  
Our graduate, Dr. Lily A. Sweikert, has recently accepted an AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellowship assignment as the Environmental Protection Specialist and Sustainability Advisor for the Global Development Lab of USAID!

Will Inselman  
The new Assistant Division Administrator of the Research Section in the Wildlife Division will be Will Inselman, MS degree in Wildlife within NRM. Will brings research experience in upland, big game, and threatened & endangered species to the job. Will received both his undergraduate and graduate degrees from SDSU. Not only does Will have a move ahead of him, but will also be getting married this summer!
Leslie Vincent Farewell Potluck

On May 15th, faculty and staff from the department shared a potluck lunch to honor Leslie Vincent on her time as an Instructor, Recruiter and Advisor. Leslie and her husband are moving to Ashland, Wisconsin where Geoffrey will begin as an Assistant Professor at Northland College this fall. They also welcomed their first child, Greyson, in late May!

Leslie will be missed! She taught several classes over the last three years and advised over hundreds of students in the department. We wish her well in all her future endeavors!
Oak Lake Field Station Spring Bird Count

Oak Lake Field Station held its annual spring bird count on Saturday, May 19.

Participants arrived at the station administration building at 8:00 a.m., bringing binoculars and wearing appropriate clothing and footwear for a hike of approximately one mile.

Refreshments were provided following the count as we tallied and discussed what we had observed.

Other photos from the Station

- Whitetail deer
- American plum
- Baby raccoon
- Giant bee hive in a tree
- Baby cottontail rabbit
Opportunities to support the NRM Department:

Student Education Enhancements, Scholarships, and Endowments:


The Natural Resource Management Department. Funds that enable strategic initiatives in academic and Research programs through implementation of the department strategic plan.

Clifford H. Fiscus Endowment that helps supports our NRM Departmental seminar series. Clifford H. Fiscus (B.S. 1950) was a long-time friend of the department. In 2004, he provided an endowment to the department that is used to bring guest speakers to campus. This is an important aspect of our graduate student training and pursuit of scholarly excellence.

NRM Education Fund. This fund enables talented undergraduate students to present their research at local and national meetings.


-If you are interested in donating at the $1000 level or above, we can work with you to develop a named scholarship. A list of our current named scholarships can be found at: https://www.sdstate.edu/nrm/academics/scholarships/upload/Undergrad-Scholarships.pdf-
• **Dave Willis Fisheries Research Award Endowment**
  This Endowment was established to honor Dr. Willis’ life work and to sustain his legacy through promoting excellence in fisheries education and research. We encourage and appreciate your support of Dave’s legacy through a donation to support the growth of this endowment. Gift pledges can be made over multiple years or as single donations. Proceeds will be used to provide competitive research awards to graduate and undergraduate fisheries students who have demonstrated scholarly excellence in fisheries science and best personify Dave’s exceptional career and service to our nation’s natural resources.

• **Kenneth F. Higgins Waterfowl Legacy Research Endowment**
  This Endowment honors the life and the distinguished career of Dr. Ken Higgins, a former wildlife research biologist with the U.S. Department of the Interior and the South Dakota Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, and a professor emeritus in the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences at South Dakota State University.

• **Clifford H. Fiscus Waterfowl Research Endowment**
  The Fiscus Waterfowl Research Endowment fund honors the life of Mr. Fiscus, who earned a degree in Wildlife Management at South Dakota State College. This endowment provides support for waterfowl research activities which may enhance future management or welfare of waterfowl or other wetland dependent avian species and/or their habitats.

• **Dr. Robert A. Klumb Memorial Endowment**
  This Endowment honors the memory of Dr. Robert “Rob” Klumb (1967-2013) by his family. Rob was a Project Leader for US Fish & Wildlife Service and adjunct associate Professor at South Dakota State University. This Scholarship is award annually.

• **Kevin Honness Memorial Scholarship Announcement**
  The Honness Scholarship is awarded each year (31 March) to student members of the Great Plains Natural Science Society. Two awards ($500 each) are currently available, one for graduate and one for undergraduate researchers; preference will be given to students conducting research in the Great Plains. Applications will be accepted each year from 1 November until 28 February. Interested students can find additional details and application form at [http://www.sdstate.edu/nrm/organizations/gpnss/kevin-honness-memorial-scholarship.cfm](http://www.sdstate.edu/nrm/organizations/gpnss/kevin-honness-memorial-scholarship.cfm).

• **Curtis M. Twedt Upland Game Research Endowment**
  Curtis M. Twedt, a native of Volga, SD, graduated in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences in 1959. Dr. Twedt enjoyed a 31-year career with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission as an upland game and research biologist. The recipient of the Twedt research grant shall be selected by the Department of Natural Resource Management at SDSU. The long-term vision of the Department is to eventually be able to provide a graduate research assistantship from this endowment.

• **Jesse W. West Research Endowment**
  This Endowment is intimately tied to the Pond Boss magazine and forum. It honors the life of Jesse W. West, a Mississippian and professor of geology. While teaching geology “summer camp” in the west, including Colorado, California, and the Black Hills (one of his favorite geological places), he developed a love of the area and its people, which he shared with his family. His strong belief in helping others along their journey in applied science is the cornerstone of Jesse’s endowment.
Off Campus Research Facilities - Oak Lake Field Station or Wildlife and Fisheries Research Unit (existing resources to which you could contribute are identified below).

Your impact: Expanding endowed undergraduate research opportunities grants for our Oak Lake Field Station and Wildlife and Fisheries Research Unit; Funding to support construction of off-campus teaching and research facilities and/or purchase large research equipment.

Charles and Marcia McMullen Undergraduate Research Award

An Endowment recently established in honor of Dr. Charles and Marcia McMullen who have been long-time supporters of the Oak Lake Field Station. Chuck served as the first director of the Oak Lake Field Station and was instrumental in working with President Robert Wagner to establish the field station as a resource to students interested in the natural sciences. This endowment provides support for NRM undergraduate students interested in conducting undergraduate research at the station.

Oak Lake John Haertel Memorial Research Award

An Endowment established in honor of Dr. Jon Haertel, vertebrate biologist in Biology & Microbiology. Jon’s love of vertebrate animals and long-time contributions to the study of vertebrates resulted in establishment of this endowment to support undergraduate research on vertebrates at the Oak Lake Field Station.

Rogen-Trooien Oak Lake Endowment

An Endowment established in honor of Alvera Rogen and the Trooien Family who had a long-time family connection and interest in the Oak Lake Field Station. This fund was established to support long-term maintenance and development of facilities at the Oak Lake Field Station toward the education and development of students interested in South Dakota natural resources.

Oak Lake Field Station Fund

A flexible field station account developed using unrestricted gifts to the Oak Lake Field Station and utilized for newsletters, web site, hospitality expenses and meeting attendance in relation to field station operations and programs.

Endowed research faculty positions in Ecology or Environmental Science, Range Ecology or Range Management, Wildlife Biology and Fisheries Biology.

Your impact: Faculty endowments provide funding for perpetuity that will allow the Department to recruit exceptional faculty members and provide them with the resources that are essential to their ability to do their critical work.

(Targeted gifts would also be appreciated to support the purchase of research equipment and enhancement of research lab facilities in each of the areas identified above.)

Please return this form or contact our Foundation partners, Mike Barber (605.321.6468) to learn more about how you can make a difference in the Department of NRM.
CONTACT US with news, comments or questions:

**PLEASE** contact us with Alumni Updates. We get more positive feedback from people who appreciate these updates than anything else in the newsletter!

Also, **please** send email address updates, corrections, and share the newsletter with friends and alumni, so we can grow address list.

**Thanks** for any help!

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