Winter 2011

Natural Resource Management Newsletter

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An ecology professor once told me “Change is a Constant.” Certainly, this generalization has been supported by all the changes which have occurred here at SDSU over the past several years. Last spring was an unsettling and troubling time. Several years of budget cuts finally took their toll and SDSU lost people and programs. However, above the dust and turmoil arose the new Natural Resource Management department. Our new department includes selected faculty previously with Biology & Microbiology, Horticulture, Forestry, Landscape & Parks, Range Science and Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences. Arguably, this was one of the very positive changes that happened here on campus last spring. Finally, faculty and students with similar interests, people who had worked together on projects, students who took many classes together and faculty who interacted with the same agencies for years would finally be put together in one department. To be sure, not everyone was happy to let go of old department affiliations. However, as Seth Reice wrote - every disturbance has a silver lining.

The new department will manage all three majors – Ecology and Environmental Science, Range Science and Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences. Our new Ecology and Environmental Science major combines the previous ecology specialization in Biology with the old Environmental Management major. Curricula from all three majors will be managed and integrated within our single department. Think of the opportunities now open to our undergraduate and graduate students - let’s more interaction with students from the other majors, greater diversity and access to graduate courses, many more undergraduate research and technician experiences available, shared seminars with students in the other majors and greater ease in moving sideways between majors.

The headquarters for our new department is located in the old Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences office in Northern Plains Biostress. Over time, we expect most of our faculty to be housed and have lab space in this building. Some faculty members have already begun the shuffle of reorganization to make this happen.

Many of you took courses, conducted independent research projects or worked as technicians at Oak Lake Field Station. The station is doing well. We’ve received strong support from Dean Barry Dunn and AES Director Daniel Scholl. This past summer, the station hosted research students and faculty working on a biofuels/biodiversity project, lake production project, biological monitoring project, a project to evaluate the effectiveness of BMP’s to reduce sediment loads and an ongoing effort to develop a statewide collection and database of aquatic invertebrates. Introduction to Range Science, Principles of Ecology lab, Plant Ecology, USFWS plant identification workshop, ROTC orienteering, Science Camp and Native American Writer’s Retreats all used the station this year. In addition, the station hosted the annual college administrators retreat and the annual USGS Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit meeting this fall. Earlier this summer, SD DENR donated approximately $40,000 worth of water quality monitoring equipment, which will greatly enhance capabilities for future aquatic projects.

We’re already seeing some integration of research programs and joint lab meetings among faculty with similar research interests and integrated seminar courses are already planned for the 2012 school year. Of course the size of the new department has created greater strain on our office staff and Dr. Willis. I was honored last spring to be asked to assist Dave and hopefully lighten his load and that of the staff. I am very upbeat about the new department. I believe that this new alignment will be good for our research programs, good for our students and will lead toward better service to natural resources in South Dakota. I know all of us here hope you’ll find your way back to visit the new department. Yes – change is a constant, but there is a silver lining.
SDSU Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation Club Hosts Benefit Raffle

The SDSU Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation Club worked hard during December, 2010 until February, 2011 to raise money to assist Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences Senior major Tonna Hartman of Brandon, SD. Tonna was severely injured on Veteran's Day 2010 when she was working on a Club research project. While trying to retrieve a raccoon radio collar, Tonna fell and suffered a major back injury, shattering two vertebrae. She was rushed to the Emergency Room, airlifted to Sioux Falls Orthopedic Unit, and underwent emergency surgery, where two rods were inserted into her back. She was also forced to wear a back brace for three months.

The Club held an executive board meeting several days later to determine how to proceed with a benefit, where they decided to raffle a CZ Redhead Over/Under Shotgun. Determined Club members set up several booths around the SDSU campus and outside of Walmart in the sub-zero degree weather. Booths were also set up in Tonna’s hometown of Brandon, SD. Several SDSU Clubs made very large donations to the cause, as did Governor Dennis Daugaard. Donations and get-well letters came in the mail by the hundreds, coming from as far away as Seattle, WA and New Orleans, LA. On February 16, 2011, Tonna drew the winner of the shotgun and was presented a check of $5,770 by Club President Brynn Parr. The gun winner was Herbert Troester of Vernal, Utah. Mr. Troester then donated the gun back to the Club. The Club would like to thank one and all who helped with this benefit. It goes to show how far you can go when you bring people together for a common goal.

SDSU Student Subunit of the American Fisheries Society – Chili Feeds

One of the fund-raisers for the SDSU AFS subunit is their once-per-semester chili feeds. People from across campus stop by for a bowl of chili and all the fixin’s. The following two pictures are from the March 2011 feed. Their timing was good as we had a late snow the day before, and it was cold outside!

IMPRESSIONS
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

lough! On top of that, budget issues at the State and University level had folks voicing concerns, rightly so it turned out, about potential changes to faculty salaries, appointments, and the Department. The job I left to come to SDSU was with the University of Illinois, part of an incredibly dysfunctional government system (think former governor Rod Blagojevich) that forced me to spend considerable time fussing over budgets and political issues and I was ready to leave them behind. Well, the first few days at SDSU started to feel like that old saying – out of the frying pan, into the fire! But it didn’t take long to be reminded of some critical things that did not change. Untouched, and in fact emboldened, was the resiliency and excellence of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences (soon to become the Department of Natural Resource Management – more change!) and their commitment to top-notch research, natural resources, and the people they serve. I couldn’t have been more proud to be a part of this Department as I saw my new colleagues be resourceful and pragmatic and push through these changes and crises.

The topic of change and resiliency really does define my first several months here and, like our science, it was happening at multiple scales. I was literally shocked and amazed at the changes to the wetland and upland landscape of South Dakota that the critters I love rely on. On the one hand, I arrived at a time of incredible abundance for waterfowl – unprecedented runoff and precipitation filled pothole wetlands and spilled into floodplains that probably hadn’t been wet in during the breeding season in many years. Ducks would likely have good success given the sheer abundance of water, especially in boom-areas like the James River Valley. And indeed, breeding population estimates (and, by most accounts, fall hunting success) were excellent. At first blush, it appeared to be a time of plenty for a duck guy returning to the Prairies.

On closer inspection, however, it became clear that tremendous, in fact unprecedented, changes were taking place in this critical ecoregion for waterfowl. With record commodity prices, grass that had withstood the plow for nearly two centuries was being broken. Conservation contracts were expiring and not being renewed. And with all the water, everyone was looking for a way to dry their land. In the old days, tiling or otherwise draining wetlands was a significant endeavor, but I learned that modern equipment was able to tile an entire field as easily and quickly as installing a sprinkler system in one’s lawn. I cannot say how much tile I have seen go in the ground in the few months I’ve been back, nor how much grass turned upside down, but I am confident it has influenced thousands of acres. Clearly, such rapid change provides challenges and opportunities for waterfowl research, and indeed it appears I’ll have my work cut out for me as I endeavor to help train the next generation of waterfowl and wetland managers and scientists.

My notes of grim change are easily balanced by the resiliency of the land and animals, and as spring progressed through summer and fall, my wife and I were reminded why we loved living here so much. Despite change and degradation, wildlife is so incredibly abundant here compared to other parts of the country, and so visible too. From the first honks of Canada gray’s returning to nest on the James River Valley. And indeed, breeding population estimates (and, by most accounts, fall hunting success) were excellent. At first blush, it appeared to be a time of plenty for a duck guy returning to the Prairies.

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News from the South Dakota Coop Unit

**BY STEVE CHIPPS, UNIT LEADER**

“The Times They Are a Changin” [Bob Dylan]. I once wrote that if you own this album, you’re probably an old geezer like me. Or maybe you’re just a Dylan fan. But in any case, we all recognize that times do ‘change’, often out of necessity, and make us better for them. This year marked some significant changes for our Department and the South Dakota Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit – changes that will undoubtedly make us stronger and more competitive in today’s professional environment. A lot has ‘changed’ with the Coop Unit since last year, starting with the fact that the Unit is now fully staffed with the recent hires of two scientists. Dr. Joshua Stafford, our new Assistant Unit Leader-Wildlife, reported for duty in April 2011. Josh is a waterfowl ecologist who before arriving at the Unit, spent several years with the Illinois Natural History Survey as Director of the Bellrose Waterfowl Research Center. A native of Oregon, Josh graduated from Oregon State University before receiving his Master’s degree at South Dakota State University under the guidance of Dr. Les Flake (Distinguished Professor Emeritus). Josh received his Ph.D. from Mississippi State University and since arriving at the Unit has a number of waterfowl projects underway. In October 2011, we filled our third vacancy with the hire of Dr. Larry Gigliotti – Assistant Unit Leader-Ecology. Larry brings a strong background in Human Dimensions of Wildlife Management to the Unit, and before arriving in Brookings spent the last 18 years working as the Human Dimensions Specialist for South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks. Larry received his undergraduate degree from Penn State University and his Master’s and Ph.D. degrees from Michigan State University. Another significant addition to the Unit was the recent hire of Mrs. Kathryn (Kate) Tvedt. Kate is our new Unit Administrative Assistant and helps the Coop Unit with a variety of federal reporting requirements and maintenance of our new web page at http://www.coop-units.org/South_Dakota/. She also has several Department duties. Prior to joining the Unit, Kate served as an English teacher and volleyball coach in the public school system. Kate’s position is new, in that she represents the first full time Administrative Assistant assigned to the Unit -- a ‘change’ that the Unit is very grateful for and that would not have been possible without the strong support of the Department, GF&P and the University Administration. The Unit also recently ‘changed’ location by moving our office and reception area to the second floor of the Northern Plains Biostress Laboratory (former Horticulture, Forestry, Landscape and Parks main office). Our new space near the atrium is working great—and we welcome alumni and friends to stop by when in town. It is only one flight of stairs from the main Department, and Kate always has a jar of candy on her desk. And last but not least, next year marks the 50th Anniversary of the South Dakota Coop Unit. Having been around for longer than any of the current employees, it is clear that the Coop Unit at South Dakota State represents the sum of the people and cooperators who have contributed to its success. So, thanks to all of the alumni and friends who call South Dakota State University home.

**USGS South Dakota Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit**

(Left to right): Dr. Larry Gigliotti, Assistant Unit Leader; Kathryn Tvedt, Administrative Assistant; Dr. Steve Chippis, Unit Leader; Dr. Joshua Stafford, Assistant Unit Leader

**Dr. Wuellner Recognized for Online Teaching**

**BY DAVE WILLIS**

Dr. Melissa Wuellner (Ph.D. 2009 and faculty member since January 2010) is being nominated as the first SDSU faculty member to achieve the Master level for the university’s Online Instructor Certification Program. To achieve this status, a faculty member must proceed through the basic and advanced levels of certification by taking a series of short online training courses, teaching online for at least four consecutive semesters, completing a full or partial re-design of an existing course to incorporate at least one new technology, or developing one on-campus class to online format, and mentoring instructors who are new to the online environment. Dr. Wuellner has adapted the summer online WL 110 (Environmental Conservation) class to be offered during the fall and spring semesters and has fully developed WL 220 (Introduction to Wildlife and Fisheries) and WL 230 (Wildlife and Fisheries Techniques) for the distance environment. To date, she has mentored seven new online instructors and been nominated for the 2010 Instructional Technology Council Awards for Excellence in Teaching in the category for “Outstanding Online Course.” If the nomination is successful, Dr. Wuellner will receive a monetary recognition award from SDSU President Chicoine at the annual celebration of faculty excellence. We hope to learn that she received the award no later than January of 2012.

**Department Enrollments – Graduate and Undergraduate**

Let’s begin with the undergraduate numbers. Due to the department combining, we learned new information about just how the counting is actually done. Following is the official, fall census day counts for our undergraduate majors. For Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences alumni, the enrollment of 293 is another all-time record, surpassing the previous record of 275 that was reached in both fall of 2007 and fall of 2010.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ecology and Environmental Science</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Management</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Range Science</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences</td>
<td>293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>347</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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However, this does NOT tell the entire story. It turns out that the 347 undergraduates for whom we get credit are simply those who declared one of our majors as their first major. Many students have more than one major, and those students also require time and resources from the department. There actually are 20 students enrolled in the Ecology and Environmental Science major, plus the 35 who remain in the old Environmental Management degree, for a total of 55. We actually have 342 undergraduate students who have a major in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences. Range Science remains at a total of 25 undergraduates in the major.

Now, let’s switch to the graduate program. As of 1 December, 2011, we had the following graduate students and graduate programs being advised by faculty members in our new department. Notice the diversity in degree options.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MS Animal and Range Sciences</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS Biological Sciences</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PhD Biological Sciences</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PhD Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>63</strong></td>
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Kjellsen Hunting Heritage Award

The Kjellsen Hunting Heritage Award, established in 1998, is an annual award consisting of a firearm given in honor of Mayo and Joyce Kjellsen and celebrating the tradition of sport hunting. The award is available to a junior or senior student in the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences at South Dakota State University. To apply for this award, students must have junior or senior standing; have been a member of the Wildlife Conservation Club for a minimum of two years; have a minimum GPA of 2.5 in the Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences curriculum; and, be an ethical hunter who believes in fair chase and equal hunting opportunities. This year’s winner was Christina Koehler. Her essay for the competition follows.

Tradition Hunting by Christina Koehler

Tradition hunting to me is spending time with family and friends while obtaining a memory that will last a lifetime. I have several memories of hunting adventures but the one I would like to share with you is one that I will truly cling to forever. Just this fall I went grouse hunting with a dear friend of mine at our favorite waterfowl production area in Marshal Co. It was a beautiful fall afternoon, you couldn’t ask for a better one, it was in the high 60’s and the warm season grasses were in their prime with an assortment of golden brown and purple colors. The English setters were in paradise with the fresh scent of grouse in the grass. I think they were more excited than we were. Mid-way through the hunt we decided to give the dogs a rest so we sat on a side hill looking over a wetland. We sat there talking about life and all the challenges that it brings. We happen to look up and see the dogs playing in the water. The sheer enjoyment they got out of it reminded us how often we take for granted the simple pleasures of life. Even though we didn’t get a bird that day we obtained a memory that will last a lifetime, which is to enjoy the simple pleasures of life. Memories are made not by what you get but what you get out of the pursuit of the hunt.

When you ask me for my philosophy of equal hunting opportunities what comes to mind is giving everyone a chance to enjoy the memories that are made by hunting. It is truly a shame that so many people go through life not getting the chance to hunt. This is partly due to the fact that kids grow up with parents that don’t hunt or because they live in cities. I think a big solution to this problem is getting the word out there that there are programs for kids to get involved with outdoor activities and that they are several public land hunting opportunities out there for the folks that live in cities. There are several great hunting opportunities available for youth. I think the word just needs to get spread that they are out there. Adults need to take advantage of the mentored hunting program which allows adults to take a youth out and experience their first hunt along with teaching them ethical hunting practices and ethical land uses. We need to target kids because they are the future of the hunting heritage and they need to be taught ethical hunting practices.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity for me to share with you what the tradition of hunting means to me and my thoughts on equal hunting opportunities.
STREETER FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP: Athena Turner and Dr. Brian Graeb

LARRY AND JO KALLEMEYN SCHOLARSHIP: Dr. Mike Brown and Emma Kanaan

GERALD SPAWN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP: Dr. Katie Bertrand and Brianna Gaughan

OUTSTANDING WILDLIFE M.S. GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD: Kyle Monteith and Dr. Jon Jenks

SOUTH DAKOTA CONSERVATION OFFICERS ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP: CO Chad Williams, recipient Jason Bumsted and CO Blake Yonke

STEPHEN ZEBARTH SCHOLARSHIP: Brynn Parr and Dr. Susan Rupp

HEARTLAND PHEASANTS FOREVER SCHOLARSHIP: Undergraduate Student Athena Turner, Dr. Dan Hubbard, and Graduate Student Joshua White

NORGREN MEMORIAL AWARD: Front: Jordan Purintun, Emily Gaston; Back: Wyatt Mack, Dr. Melissa Wueellner, and Kyle Behl

LLOYD FREDRICKSON MEMORIAL AWARD (OUTSTANDING FISHERIES PH.D. STUDENT): Daniel James and Dr. Steve Chipps

LLOYD FREDRICKSON MEMORIAL AWARD (OUTSTANDING WILDLIFE PH.D. STUDENT): Dr. Jon Jenks and Joshua Smith
ALUMNI NEWS - ALUMNI NEWS - ALUMNI NEWS

From Geno Adams (MS 2004), Fisheries Program Administrator, SDGFP-Pierre Dave.

We had a load of perch from Gavins Point National Fish Hatchery that two of Todd St. Sauver’s employees had to pick up and stock yesterday. One was an intern, Matthew Perrion, and the other a seasonal, Andrew Wuestewald. I believe they both have undergraduate SDSU connections.

They noticed some small organisms swimming around in the water with the perch. They figured something wasn’t right, so they took the initiative to call Gavins Point for more information. Then they called Todd and let him know the load of fish had “clam shrimp” in with the perch.

Other hatcheries around the Midwest have had issues with clam shrimp so we were advised to not take the load of fish as to not risk somehow getting them into Blue Dog Hatchery.

I just wanted to let you know how impressed we were that these two young guys had the foresight to recognize the situation and do something about it. Todd was extremely happy and mentioned that SDSU should be proud of guys like this!

Bernard Hien (M.S., 2005) recently left West Africa for a position with the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD). He moved to Rome, Italy, in January of 2011. Congratulations Bernard, extremely happy and mentioned that SDSU had the foresight to recognize the situation and do something about it. Todd was extremely happy and mentioned that SDSU should be proud of guys like this!

Bernard Hien (M.S., 2005) recently left West Africa for a position with the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD). He moved to Rome, Italy, in January of 2011. Congratulations Bernard, and keep us updated! In fact, on December 28, 2011 he and his wife surprised us with a visit.

Bob Klaver (Ph.D. 2001) was recently named the Leader of the Iowa Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. Congratulations and best wishes!


Don Hammer (BS 1968) and his wife Joan—Greeting from Leefarm and sunny Arizona. Attending Elk’s, Cowbelles, Gem & Mineral Club, Old Pearce Preservation Association and Historical Society functions. Joan is Cowbelle’s Treasurer, newsletter editor, publicist and historian and worked all the fund raising events, made the scrapbook and chaired several Cowbelles’ activities. We continue to compile ranch histories and copy old ranching photos she uses for displays at various events. Don is still secret- ary and publicist for the local birding festival and he leads a Ghost Towns field trip. He again served as newsletter editor and publicist for the Sunsites Gem & Mineral Club. Hoping this finds you in good cheer.

Tom Bacula (MS 2009) is the District One Fisheries Biologist for the Indiana DNR. His supervisor, Jeremy Price, indicated “Tom is a sharp guy who has done an excellent job as the assistant and is more than capable to oversee the district.”

Mirela Tulbure (PhD 2008) has accepted a position as Lecturer at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia. Mirela collaborated on research with several NRM faculty members, including Carol Johnston, Carter Johnson, and Mike Wimberly. Dr. Tulbure was pre-

Emma Ward

Samantha Kay Ermer, born to Mark (MS 2001) and Jaccque (MS 2000), on Friday, March 25, 2011 at 06:50 AM. 7 lbs. 9 oz., 21 in.

We received this from Matt Ward (“the elder”) (MS 2003) in March of 2011. “On another note, my daughter is now almost 5 months and life has changed a lot. She’s now the boss and decides when, how, and where we do everything. But life is good. I bought some pink musky crank baits this winter, so we will see if ‘Emma’ can catch her first musky this year trolling, or at least her lure.” Emma was born 10/7/10. Matt is a Fisheries Specialist for Lake Superior Area DNR Fisheries in Duluth, MN.

Jeff Gleason (BS 1992, MS 1997) reports that he was married in August 2011. “Dr. Deborah Epperson (originally from FL, but now a LA resident) and I were married (MS 1997) in Alaska. It was a nice wedding with a few friends in a beautiful setting on the Placer River, south of Anchorage. Todd acted as the marriage commissioner. We spent about 10 days in Alaska fishing and sightseeing while staying with Todd and his wife, Adrienne.” No wedding pictures, but he did send one from an Alaska cruise.

Jeff Gleason always seems to have the best fish photos of our alumni! Here he is with a jack crevalle. Jeff reports that the speckled trout (spotted seatrout) and redfish fishing in coastal Louisiana tends to be best for these species April-May and Oct-Nov.

Kayla Miller (BS 2011) and Professor Carol Johnston recently published a paper in The Prairie Naturalist entitled “Phragmites australis in South Dakota: historical distribution and environment.” The manuscript was based on Kayla’s undergraduate research project. Kayla is now a graduate student in the Department of Microbial and Molecular Genetics at Michigan State University.

Samantha Kay Ermer

Emma Ward

Bob Kla Ver

Jeff Gleason

Newlyweds Deborah and Jeff

Annual Hunt Reunites SDSU Wildlife Alumni

Football tailgates and golf tournaments are great but there’s nothing better than a good hunt to reunite SDSU wildlife alumni. Each year these life-long friends and former students from SDSU’s Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences reunite for a week of waterfowl hunting… and this fall was no exception. The first week of October 2011 found these 6 jackrabbits hunting geese in north central North Dakota. Pictured left to right are SDSU wildlife graduates Jeff Gleason (BS 1992, MS 1997), Todd Frerichs (BS 1988), Matt Holland (MS 1997), Tom Cooper (MS 1996, PhD 2005), Will Meeks (MS 1996), and Dave Naugle (MS 1994, PhD 1998).

We look back fondly on our days in Brookings, and the lessons learned at SDSU paved the way for our futures. Each of us is pursuing our passion for conservation in the wildlife profession. Jeff is an avian ecologist with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management in Louisiana. Todd, Tom and Will all work for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Todd is Deputy Project Leader at Audubon National Wildlife Refuge in Coleharbor, North Dakota; Tom is a biologist in the Division of Migratory Bird Management in Bloomington, Minnesota; and Will heads up the Habitat and Population Evaluation Team in Bismarck, North Dakota. Matt is a Senior Field Coordinator with Pheasants Forever in New London, Minnesota, and Dave is a wildlife professor at the University of Montana in Missoula.

We all had a good laugh sitting around Todd’s kitchen table one night as Will noted that none of us is getting any younger! It seems like yesterday that we were all on birding field trips with Dr. Les Flake or trying to recall the correct scientific name for a wetland plant in Dr. Gary Larson’s class. And no reunion would be complete without reliving the great times we had with Dr. Ken Higgins who for their graduate degrees advised Matt, Tom, Will and Dave. We’re forever indebted to Ken for instilling in us a passion for wildlife and for providing us with so many personal and professional opportunities. So here’s a big shout out to our friend and mentor Ken Higgins, Professor Emeritus and connoisseur of fine pie and coffee everywhere. Alas, Matt correctly pointed out that the last of us turned 40 years old this year—but who cares as long as you’re with good friends and the birds are flying… Go Jacks!
Fecske Promoted

From Steve Henry, Deputy Refuge Manager at Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, Basking Ridge, NJ:

It gives me great pleasure to announce that Ms. Dorothy Fecske has been selected as our new Wildlife Biologist. Dorothy’s extensive experience, skills, and educational background suit her particularly well to become our new Wildlife Biologist. Dorothy earned a doctorate degree from South Dakota State University studying free-ranging mountain lions. She has extensive field experience studying species as diverse as piping plover, swift fox, black bear, and New England cottontail. For four years, she was employed as a Furbearer Biologist with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department and had primary responsibility for managing the state’s furbearer harvest program as well as state-wide wildlife disease monitoring efforts. Her experience working with state agencies is a major asset as the Service looks to strengthen relationships with the states. Dorothy also has a strong background in GIS having coordinated the South Dakota GAP Analysis Project. Dorothy was previously employed by the Fish and Wildlife Service as a biologist in North Dakota and is currently working as a Biological Science Technician on the New England Cottontail project in Maine. She has distinguished herself by being recognized as the 2007 Wildlife Conservationist of the Year by the North Dakota Wildlife Federation and was the 2002 Outstanding Ph.D. student while attending South Dakota State University. She has an impressive list of scientific publications and is well-respected in the wildlife field. She is tentatively scheduled to report in late-September. Please join me in extending her a warm welcome to Great Swamp!

Tyler Stubbs (BS 2008) wins NABI Award from Mississippi State University

WHAT IS THE NABI AWARD?

David Nabi was a graduate student in Wildlife and Fisheries during 1979-1980. During the Thanksgiving break of 1980, David was involved in a tragic automobile accident which took his life. David’s warm-hearted relationship with, and contributions to, his fellow students moved them to memorialize him in the form of an award given in his name. The Nabi Award is designed to recognize a graduate student whom has unselfishly given his/her time to assist fellow graduate students, faculty, and staff with guidance, research, academia, miscellaneous tasks, and/or through social endeavors. This award is primarily peer oriented and therefore, each student is encouraged to reflect on the past year here at MSU and nominate an individual worthy of such an honor. It is important that you carefully consider an individual who truly exemplifies the standards set forth by this award. Although this is not a monetary award, the recipient will receive a personal plaque signifying their selection. Their name will also be engraved on a permanent memorial plaque mounted in the College of Forest Resources (CFR). The award was presented at the CFR Awards Banquet in April 2011. This is considered the highest, most prestigious award given to any one graduate student in the CFR here at Mississippi State.
In the last couple of alumni newsletters we have focused on the many changes that have occurred over the past few years. Little did I know that the biggest change was yet to come. New assistant head Nels Troelstrup addressed some of these changes in his article at the start of the newsletter. Let me add a little more information.

Due to substantial budget cuts for higher education in 2011, which actually followed smaller cuts the previous two years, the College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences moved toward fewer but larger departments. As Nels already reported, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences was combined with the Ecology and Environmental Science major from the Department of Biology and Microbiology, and also with the Range Science major from the Department of Animal and Range Sciences. We also house one faculty member from the former Department of Horticulture, Forestry, Landscape, and Parks, which was dissolved. We now have nine faculty members in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences plus the three in our fully staffed SD Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit (U.S. Geological Survey), seven in Ecology and Environmental Science, and three in Range Science Range Science (with interviews for one more range faculty position happening as I write this).

Four scientists with the very successful Geographic Information Science Center of Excellence elected to use the new department as their home for promotion and tenure. We still have three people working in our highly productive Wetland Inventory office, two valued employees from the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks remain stationed in our offices, plus we have four career service office staff members. The graph shows the complete roster for the department.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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<th>Career Service</th>
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<tr>
<td>Accounting Assistant</td>
<td>Diane Drake</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department Secretary</td>
<td>Dawn Van Ballegooyen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office Supervisor</td>
<td>Terri Symens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grounds (0.25 FTE)</td>
<td>Richard Sweeney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department/Unit Secretary</td>
<td>Kate Twidt</td>
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<tr>
<th>Ecology and Environmental Science</th>
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<tr>
<td>Professor; 0.25 appointment in NRM; 0.75 in Plant Science</td>
<td>Paul Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Distinguished Professor</td>
<td>W. Carter Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>Carol Johnston</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>Gary Larson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>Tagir Gilmanov</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professor and Assistant Department Head</td>
<td>Nels Troelstrup, Jr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
<td>Lan Xu</td>
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<th>Range Science</th>
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<tr>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
<td>Roger Gates</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>Patricia Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>Kyle Schell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grassland Coalition Liaison</td>
<td>Alexander (Sandy) Smart</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant Professor</td>
<td>Vacant position</td>
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<tr>
<th>South Dakota Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit (U.S. Geological Survey)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Unit Leader and Professor</td>
<td>Steven Chippens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant Unit Leader and Associate Professor</td>
<td>Joshua Stafford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant Unit Leader and Assistant Professor</td>
<td>Larry Gigliotti</td>
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<th>South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks</th>
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<tr>
<td>Conservation Officer</td>
<td>Jeff Grendler</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Waterfowl Biologist</td>
<td>Rocco Murano</td>
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<th>Wetland Inventory</th>
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<tr>
<td>Research Assistant</td>
<td>Peter Bergmann</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Assistant</td>
<td>Dennis Hanson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supervisor</td>
<td>Michael Kjelsten</td>
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<th>Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Professor</td>
<td>Katie Berland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>Michael Brown</td>
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<td>Professor</td>
<td>Charles Dieter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant Professor</td>
<td>Brian Grabe</td>
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<td>Professor</td>
<td>Daniel Hubbard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>Jonathan Jenks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distinguished Professor and Graduate Program Coordinator</td>
<td>Kent (KC) Jensen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
<td>Susan Rupp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant Professor</td>
<td>Melissa Wielner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Distinguished Professor and Department Head</td>
<td>David Willis</td>
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<th>Geographic Information Science Center of Excellence Courtesy Appointments</th>
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<td>Mark Cochrane Professor, Assistant Professor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Niall Hanan Professor, Assistant Professor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geoffrey Henbry Professor, Assistant Professor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Wimberly Professor, Assistant Professor</td>
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A long-term goal for combining the department is to further enhance interdisciplinary research within the ABS College. As natural resource issues become more complex and challenging, most difficult research questions are best addressed by interdisciplinary teams of specialists. In addition, more and more of the federal competitive grants are based on interdisciplinary work, and the new NRM department should substantially enhance our capabilities to compete for such funds.

So, WELCOME to the Range Science and Environmental Management alumni who have received this newsletter. We are just starting to work on the mailing and email lists for those graduates, so help us whenever you can. Send changes in address or email addresses to Terri.Symens@sdstate.edu. If you know of alumni who did not receive the newsletter, please be sure to give us contact information for them or put them in touch with us. We can expect a few of such growing pains in the next year or two.

Check our new web page at: http://www.sdstate.edu/nrm/
Oak Lake Field Station Hosts Annual Honors College Retreat

The SDSU Honors College held its annual fall retreat at Oak Lake Field Station on Sunday, August 28. Attendance included over 100 students and faculty. The group uses this retreat to welcome new students and to stimulate student engagement and participation at the start of the school year. Station director Nels Troelstrup led the group through a tour of station facilities, projects and environments as a part of the afternoon activities.

Visit Oak Lake Field Station’s webpage http://www.sdstate.edu/nrm/facilities/oaklake/.

Blaze Orange Hunting Caps and the Higgins Endowment

The Blaze Orange hat campaign was a tremendous success. The campaign raised just under $12,800, of which $6,383 went to the Higgins endowment! We will continue hat sales next year. We received quite a few “comments” from people (alumni and otherwise!) who could not get the hat last year. So, we will place a bigger order next year and by making a single order, we should get a better price on the hat and more proceeds from the sales. So, this truly is great news. That’s a sizable donation in our part of the Foundation-related world, so hats off to Scott Simpson from SDGFP for the original idea. Hats off to the Athletic Department as well for sharing the proceeds with us.

New book from Island Press entitled Energy Development and Wildlife Conservation in Western North America


Energy and Wildlife offers a road map for securing our energy future while safeguarding our wildlife heritage. Contributors show how science can help craft solutions to conflicts between wildlife and energy development by delineating core areas, identifying landscapes that support viable populations, and forecasting future development scenarios to aid in conservation design.

The book frames the issue and introduces readers to major types of extraction, quantifies the pace and extent of current and future energy development, provides an ecological foundation for understanding cumulative impacts, and synthesizes information on the biological response of wildlife to development. The final section calls for a shift away from site-level management that has failed to mitigate cumulative impacts on wildlife populations toward broad-scale planning and implementation of conservation in priority landscapes. This book is intended for elected officials, industry representatives, natural resource managers, conservation groups, and the public seeking to promote energy independence while at the same time protecting wildlife.

Hayer chosen as a finalist for the SDSU Sigma Xi Chapter Graduate Research Award

Cari-Ann Hayer was chosen as a finalist for the South Dakota State University Sigma Xi Chapter Graduate Research Award. She presented her proposal “Fish assemblage structure, trophic ecology, and potential impacts of Asian carp in Missouri River tributaries, South Dakota” to the awards panel and won 2nd place in a competitive field of candidates. Ms. Hayer is co-advised by Drs. Katie Bertrand and Brian Graeb.
Dr. Brown receives F.O. Butler Award for Research

Dr. Mike Brown received the 2011 F.O. Butler Award for Research at the annual faculty recognition banquet. This well-deserved award is a university-wide recognition. Mike was the only SDSU researcher who received the award for 2011. The recognition program had the following text. “Dr. Brown conducts cutting-edge research in fish-diet production and aquaculture that has garnered $6,277 million in grants and contracts. His ongoing research in population dynamics and movement patterns of invasive aquatic species has earned Dr. Brown a national reputation and resulted in more than 100 articles and book chapters for scientific publications and more than 160 professional presentations.” We are sure proud of Mike!

Donations to Department of Natural Resource Management

NOVEMBER 1, 2010 TO DECEMBER 27, 2011

Robert Bartling
Robert D. and Joyce A. Beck
Pete and Lisa Bergmann
Mary J. Best
Robert G. Best
Richard N. Bjorklund
Vernon and Daphne Blaylock
Marvin L. and Jean Bouska
Mike and Elaine Brown
Galen E. Busch
Carrol O. and Janice M. Calkins
William R. Cody
David D. and Kimberly S. Cook
Thomas R. Cooper
Brian Dirks and Nancy Dietz
Jeffery and Pamela Donahoe
Roderick C. Drewien
Harold F. Duebbert
Brian L. Dykstra
Rebecca R. Ewing
Darryl D. Farmer
Clifford H. Fiscus
Kurt J. and Lucia B. Forman
Alice Fredrickson
Todd A. Freirichs
Roger N. and Vonda L. Gates
Thomas W. and Mary C. Gengerke
David L. Gilbert
Tagir Gilmanov
Ronald D. Glover
Jay F. Gore
Michael R. Hannon
Arnie Hauge
Michael J. Hawkins
Jeremy J. Higgins
Conrad N. Hillman
Todd A. and Courtenay K. Hoernemann
Geneva M. Hogue
Daniel E. Hubbard
James J. and Marjorie J. Hubert
Warren W. Jackson
Ancel M. Johnson
Larry W. and Jo M. Kallemeyn
Jerry D. Kobriger
Richard L. Kroger
Gary E. and Pamela J. Larson
Scott V. Larson
Allan L. Lovasa
Kerry A. Lucke
Bob and Debbie Lusk
Matt T. Mangan and Karen E. Arnold
James W. and Geraldine Matthews
Jeffrey W. Mc Crady
Thomas S. McComish
Craig L. Milewski
Dave E. and Corey L. Naugle
Harvey H. Pletz
Erling B. Podoll
John and Patsy T. Popowski
Quality Deer Management Association – SE SD Branch
Morris L. and Marcene J. Radack
Daniel L. Reinking
Slacy L. Salvevold
Charles G. and Dorcas S. Scalet
Gladys Schmitt
Douglas A. Searls
David C. Simon
Sioux Falls Chapter of Izaak Walton League
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Whitetails Unlimited, Inc.
Zeno W. Wicks, III & Roxanne Savaryn-Wicks
David W. and Susan E. Willis
Stephen M. Zebarth

YES!  I wish to contribute to the SDSU Department of Natural Resource Management through the Greater State Fund.

Name___________________________________________________________
Address_________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
City____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
State____________________________________________ Zip__________________________
Phone_________________________________________________________________________
Present Employment __________________________________________________________
Amount of Gift Enclosed $____________________________________________________

All donations should be made payable to the Greater State Fund and designated for the Department of Natural Resource Management.

Mail to:  
SDSU Foundation  
Box 525  
Brookings, SD 57007
The Department was given permission to replace Dr. Eric Mousel, who resigned for an opportunity with the private sector. During December of 2011, two top candidates were brought to campus for interviews. Regardless of the outcome, either of these individuals could well serve our program. We hope to have a final decision by January of 2012, with a start date in mid-summer of 2012. No one is more excited than Dr. Sandy Smart, who has been carrying the brunt of the entire campus-based program on his shoulders this fall.

One piece of good news is that Dr. Mousel agreed to help us through spring semester of 2012 by teaching his RANG 205 Introduction to Integrated Ranch Management course through an online (distance) format. Eric is an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Natural Resource Management.