

# April 2014



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# UW honors Latchininsky with internationalization award

By Ann Tanaka | April 2014

Grab a world map - then draw lines arcing across the globe from [Alex Latchininsky's](#) first floor office in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources to Niger, another to Kazakhstan, to Uzbekistan, and so on to Russia, Australia, Morocco, and Mauritania.

Then, connect lines from his office to 17 western states and join another with the United Nations in New York.

Latchininsky's grasshopper and locust control efforts embraces them all and prompted his receiving the UW Award for Faculty Achievement in Internationalization. He'll receive the award from the UW International Board of Advisors in Laramie April 5 at the Hilton Garden Inn.

Anne Alexander, associate dean of the Outreach School and director of International Programs, made the announcement.

"It's very rare that our winner has received 11 support letters from people in Wyoming, Wisconsin, Texas, Australia, Uzbekistan, Mauritania, Russia, and organizations like the UN, USDA, and Fulbright," says Alexander about Latchininsky, an associate professor in the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management and UW Extension entomologist.

"Nor is it common for them to have significantly improved agricultural sustainability on nearly every continent on the globe and quite literally helped save millions of people from starvation."

UW leads the world in developing biologically sound, economically viable and environmentally acceptable methods of grasshopper and locust control in large part because of Latchininsky, says Alexander.

Among Latchininsky's efforts: Conducted research, training, and given presentations in 21 countries on six continents.

- Taught courses with significant international components, mentored international graduate and undergraduate students, and served on foreign institution graduate student committees/juries.
- Hosted visiting scientists from China, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Russia, Australia, Morocco, and Mauritania.
- His grasshopper control methods developed at UW saved Wyoming producers \$13 million in just one year



*Extension entomologist Alex Latchininsky, left, helps a participant during an entomology short course at UW.*



*The USDA sought Alex Latchininsky's expertise in 2006 when a grasshopper invasion threatened*

during an outbreak in 2010.

- His team created a system of public education and technology transfer that trained producers in efficient grasshopper control methods. “

*endemic species with extinction on Nihoa Island about 250 miles from the main Hawaiian Islands.*

Alex is world-renowned for his work with grasshoppers and locusts as attested to by the letters from international colleagues, numerous awards, and invitations to speak,” says John Tanaka, professor and head of the ESM department

“Besides this work, what is most impressive is the impact he has had around the world. His colleagues attest to the positive impact his work has had in their countries in terms of food security and the impact on the environment.”

During an upsurge of the desert locust in 2003-2005, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization selected UW to develop a training program in French for desert locust control specialists in West Africa.



*Alex Latchininsky, center, provides locust monitoring training in Kyrgyzstan in 2012.*

Latchininsky delivered the course to national trainers in Niamey, Niger, and subsequently on the “train-the-trainers” basis to more than 600 specialists in 21 countries. The FAO is working with Latchininsky to develop “Practical Guidelines for Locust Control” in Russian for 10 countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia.

Latchininsky is also working to develop an International Locust and Grasshopper Professional Certification Center at UW, says Alexander. The center would be instrumental in educating locust field specialists from around the nation and around the globe on the most cutting-edge strategies and methods of locust and grasshopper management.

# UW Meat Judging Team notes first-ever consecutive wins

By Ann Tanaka | April 2014



*From left, coach Zeb Gray, Mackenzie Fuller, Scott Anderson, Danielle Stravino, Laura Strohecker, Cassidy Smith, Jennifer Sauers, Brandt Mortensen, John Lacey*

University of Wyoming's [Meat Judging Team](#) finished the spring season in March with two consecutive contest wins and a number of individual honors.

This was the first time UW team won the Iowa State or Houston Livestock Show contests, and the first time a team from UW has won two contests in a single year.

Fresh off their first-place victory at the Iowa State Meat Evaluation Contest Feb. 22, the eight-member team competed in its final spring season contest March 8 at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. UW earned first-place honors among 16 teams for its second consecutive win.

Team members are Scott Anderson, McKinnon, Mackenzie Fuller, Wright, John Lacey, Highlands Ranch, Colorado, Brandt Mortensen, Sanford, Colorado, Cassidy Smith, Carpenter, Danielle Stravino, Northridge, California, Jennifer Sauers, Big Springs, Nebraska, and Laura Strohecker, Casper.

Mortensen earned high individual honors while capturing first place in overall beef. Smith was the high individual in placings, and Strohecker earned first in beef judging; together they led the team to top honors in both divisions.

"It's a real privilege to see a group of students with no prior judging experience dedicate themselves so fervently," says coach Zeb Gray. "The University of Wyoming should be very proud of these students' commitment and excellent representation on a national stage."

The season kicked off in January at The National Western Stock Show in Denver. The team finished fifth out of 12 teams while tying first in beef judging.

Mortensen led the team finishing fourth overall and earning top honors in the specifications division. Strohecker broke the UW pork judging record earning the division first place and capturing tenth-place individual honors. Anderson garnered seventh place in the alternate's division.

The team competed twice in February: at the Fort Worth Stock Show at the Southwestern Contest and then in the Iowa State Meat Evaluation Contest in Ames.

UW earned fourth place out of 11 teams at the Fort Worth competition while finishing third in the beef grading, specifications, and pork judging divisions.

Mortensen led the team posting a score that was the fourth highest in UW history earning him third-place honors. Strohecker finished as the specifications division high individual and captured the fourth highest individual honors. Stravino took fifth in the alternate's division.

The team took first overall in Iowa and placed first in the reasons, specifications, and summer sausage divisions. Anderson led the team earning first in specifications en route to a second-place overall finish. Teammates Lacey, Strohecker, and Mortensen followed closely with third-, fourth-, and sixth-place overall finishes. Strohecker was the top individual in the reasons divisions.

For more information, contact Gray at [zgray2@uwyo.edu](mailto:zgray2@uwyo.edu)



# Master Gardeners, farmers marketing association pool resources

By Ann Tanaka | April 2014

[Wyoming Master Gardeners](#) joined with Wyoming Farmers Marketing Association members for their state conference in Sheridan March 13-15.

The combination pooled their resources, says Chris Hilgert, state Master Gardener coordinator with [UW Extension](#).

“We believed that together we would be able to offer the best conference possible,” he says.

Presentations over two days included soil maintenance, bees/pollinators, grapes/vineyards, poultry/greenhouse, herbs, arranging cut flowers food presentation, fruit tree grafting, and tomato grafting.

Master Gardeners were recognized for their hours of volunteer labor in their communities. Carol Morrison and Jerry Simonsen, both of Goshen County, logged the most with 835 hours and 505 hours respectively last year.

Hilgert says the conference provides timely, relevant, and applicable education to Wyoming gardeners, ag producers, and farmers markets.

“Both groups are working toward the same mission – supporting local producers, home gardeners, and farmers markets through education,” Hilgert says. “We all bring something valuable to the table, and bringing it all together helps us do a better job.”



Master Gardener Judy Logue, who died last year, was honored during the awards banquet by Chris Hilgert, state Master Gardener coordinator. Her image was projected on the wall. Award recipients are, front, from left, and 2013 volunteer hours and county: Jackie Taylor (191 hours, Laramie), Terry Logue (receiving award for wife Judy, Master Gardener for 15 years in Natrona), Jo Anne Arzillo (232 hours, Natrona), Carol Morrison (835 hours, Goshen), Sue Hays (148 hours, Goshen). Back: Bob Prchal (377 hours, Park), Katherine Hall (275 hours, Campbell), Jerry Simonsen (505 hours, Goshen), Patsy Larson (215 hours, Campbell), Hilgert.

No slides are available in this gallery

# Watson receives award for dedication to student success

By Bernadette Van der Vliet | April 2014

Rachel Watson, an associate lecturer in the Department of Molecular Biology, was named one of two recipients of the University of Wyoming's James C. Hurst Each Student-A Person Award.

Charles Angevine, associate professor in the Department of Mathematics, also received the honor.

UW's parent organization, Cowboy Parents, established the award to recognize members of UW's faculty or staff who "go above and beyond their normal responsibilities to personalize the student experience and who create a warm and caring environment for students."

The award honors James C. Hurst, UW's vice president for student affairs from 1981-2000, who is remembered for his warm and caring demeanor, his wisdom and his dedication to student success.

A first-year student described how Watson "goes above and beyond the call of duty to personalize the classroom experience for every student."

"On the first day of class, she asks every student to put their names and the things they love on a note card. By the next week, she has everything memorized and uses each student's individual interests to relate to microbiology and current research topics in the field and in the classroom," the student wrote. "She inspires me to not only learn the material, but to also apply it to everything in the world around me."

Other nominees from the college were **Jeff Beck**, Department of Ecosystem Science and Management; **Dannele Peck**, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, and **Axel Garcia**, Department of Plant Sciences.

To learn more about Cowboy Parents, visit, [www.uwyo.edu/cowboyparents](http://www.uwyo.edu/cowboyparents).



*Rachel Watson has been a UW faculty member since 2001.*



# Seminars

By Bernadette Van der Vliet | April 2014

## Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics Seminars

*Fridays, 3:10 p.m., Ag C building, room 223*

**April 2:** TBA, Jude Bayham, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies

**April 11:** TBA, Jordan Suter, Colorado State University

**April 25:** TBA, Felix Naschold, Department of Economics and Finance

## Department of Molecular Biology Seminars

*Fridays, 2:10-3 p.m., Animal Science/Molecular Biology building, room 103*

**April 4:** "Microbial Communities, Synthetic Biology and Biofilm Formation in Space," Cynthia Collins, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

**April 11:** "Chemosensory Regulation of Microbial Communities," John Kirby, University of Iowa

**April 25:** "Endoplasmic Reticulum Proteins that Brake Lipid Biosynthesis," Larry Gerace, Scripps Research Institute

## Research across Disciplines Seminars

*Fridays, 2:00 p.m., Ag C building, room 1030*

**April 4:** "Ecosystem Engineers, Wetlands, and Amphibian Diversity," Victoria Zero, Department of Ecosystem Science and Management

**April 11:** "Plant Community Responses to 8 Years of Climate Manipulation in a Mixed-grass Prairie," Jane Zelicova, Department of Botany

**April 25:** "Ecosystem Management in a Non-stationary World: Can We Do It," Barry Baker, The Nature Conservancy

# Hands-on Entomology

By Ann Tanaka | April 2014

Eighteen participants from across Wyoming enrolled in the 10th annual [entomology](#) short course coordinated by UW Extension entomologist Alex Latchininsky and assistant entomologist Scott Schell. Other instructors included Associate Professor Tim Collier and integrated pest management specialist John Connett, in the college; Paula Cushing of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science; and Boone Herring and Bruce Shambaugh of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Plant Protection and Quarantine program.

No slides are available in this gallery

# Albany County beef AI workshop

By Bernadette Van der Vliet | April 2014

Eighteen producers and students from UW and Laramie County Community College participated in the beef artificial insemination workshop at the UW Livestock Farm through Friday. The Albany County extension office coordinated, and other extension personnel were also involved in addition to those from the Agricultural Experiment Station.

No slides are available in this gallery

# Proposals Submitted

By Ann Tanaka | April 2014

**Gomelsky, Mark:** \$384,145 to National Institutes of Health for “Bacteriophytochrome-based Optogenetic Tools for Mammalian Gene Regulation,” \$383,315 for “Bacteriophytochrome-controlled Gene Expression in Bacterial Pathogens,” and \$176,875 for “Host-adaptation of the Lyme Disease Pathogen.”

**Latchininsky, Alexandre, and Larry Debrey:** \$111,298 to U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service for “Wyoming CAPS Infrastructure, Bundled Small Grain Commodity Survey, and Nematode Survey.”

**Rashford, Benjamin, Christopher Wright, Gordon Reese, and Johann Walker:** \$108,212 to Fish & Wildlife Service for “Modeling Grassland Conversion: Estimating Habitat Loss Rates and Future Conversion Risk in the Plains and Prairie Pothole Region.”

**Tanaka, John, and Kristie Maczko:** \$30,000 to National Cattlemen’s Beef Association for “Enhanced Ecosystem Goods and Services Content for a Social and Economic Survey of Ranchers in the United States,” and \$76,000 to USDA Forest Service for “Sustainable Rangelands Roundtable 2014.”

# Monies Awarded

By Ann Tanaka | April 2014

**Groose, Robin:** \$8,475 from Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA) for “Participatory Breeding of Winter Hardy Vegetable Peas for Wyoming.”

**Islam, Anowar:** \$20,000 from WDA for “Evaluation of Quinoa as a Leafy Green Crop for Adaptation in Wyoming.”

**Murphy, Melanie, and Charlotte Gabrielsen:** \$400 from Sigma Xi for “Climate Change Effects on Wetland Ecosystem Services Across the Prairie Pothole Region,” and \$500 from Laramie Audubon Society for “Climate Change Effects on Amphibian Persistence in the Plains and Prairie Pothole Region.”

**Murphy, Melanie, and Beth Fitzpatrick:** \$500 from Laramie Audubon Society for “Effects of Landscape Change on Greater Sage Grouse.”

**Thompson, Jennifer:** \$500 from various sponsors for “Wyoming Barnyards and Backyards: An Educational Newsletter for Wyoming’s Small Acre Enthusiast.”



# Changing Faces, Changing Places

By Ann Tanaka | April 2014

**Welcome:**

**Sharon Reiter** : Sweetwater County UW Extension, 4-H/youth development coordinator (2/28)

# Publications

By Ann Tanaka | April 2014

**Nagler, A.M., C.T. Bastian, D.T. Taylor, and T. Foulke.** "Community Economic Contributions from Recreational Trails Usage on Public Lands: Implications from a Comprehensive Wyoming Case Study." *Western Economics Forum*. 12,2 (2013): 1-11. *Lead article in Special Issue on Public Lands.*

# **Latest videos from University of Wyoming Extension**

By Bernadette Van der Vliet | April 2014

**The Western Stock Saddle**

**Pruning Vines**

# College of agriculture student earns UW student achievement internationalization award

By Bernadette Van der Vliet | April 2014

International awareness and conservation drive graduate student Megan Wilson, winner of the 2014 University of Wyoming International Board of Advisors' Excellence in Student Achievement in Internationalization Award.

Wilson will be recognized Saturday, April 5, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Laramie.

After receiving her master's in entomology, Wilson is pursuing a Ph.D. in ecology emphasizing insect ecology. Her research focuses on international conservation biology and ecology in the high-elevation tropical cloud forest.

She has served the past two summers as a graduate teaching assistant for UW's [Cloud Forest Ecology in Ecuador class](#) taught by Professor Scott Shaw and Professor Greg Brown.

"For the Ecuador classes, Ms. Wilson's role goes well beyond mere academic instruction," explains Brown. "While there, she serves as a friend, colleague, travel agent, trip planner, camp counselor, and 'den mother' for all the students."

Wilson also guides Wyoming K-12 students through [UW's Insect Museum](#) and helps maintain the living insect zoo. Through this she has met hundreds of students from across Wyoming and always promotes international scientific study.

She shares her passion for global research and travel as a teaching assistant for Biology as Culture, an introductory zoology course; as vice president of the Wyoming Entomology Club; as a member of [Gamma Sigma Delta](#), the Agricultural Honor Society; and Beta Beta Beta, the Biological Honor Society. She encourages students to have at least one international travel experience in their UW careers.

One nominator described the attributes qualifying Wilson for this honor: "Ms. Wilson is an exceptionally smart, adventuresome, enthusiastic, and pleasant graduate student, deeply involved in international activities, who exemplifies all the criteria for this award."

# Students recycle, upcycle garments to highlight fashion sustainability

By Bernadette Van der Vliet | April 2014

By McCall Linke

Impeccably dressed art patrons mingle in anticipation of the event in the buzzing venue.

Imagine a very fashionable, trendy, cool scene.

Now, imagine that at UW.

The eco-chic fashion show hitting the University of Wyoming campus at 5 p.m. Friday, April 11, brings awareness about sustainability in the apparel industry and showcases students' work.

Seventeen entries from across UW spotlight five categories: upcycled, eco-friendly material, exhibition, thrift store style and wearable art.



*Emily Schroeder and Paul Ditty work on their sustainable fashion pieces.*

Each year, student honoraries Phi Omicron Upsilon and the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences put on a professional project. This year, the two joined forces for this free, catered event in the Visual Arts Building lobby.

"Eco-chic fashion show is an event to bring students together to create designs that are sustainable and either upcycled garments or thrift store garments or what we consider wearable art, which is like trash to treasure," said Jessica Los, president of Phi Omicron Upsilon.

Keynote speaker Patricia Moura, in partnership with Dorly Piske from Partners of America, trains women to make bio jewelry in Recife, Brazil, to create a strong community and jobs for these women.

Students will compete to win a gift card for the bio jewelry and other prizes. Bio jewelry will be on display and for sale at the event.

Proceeds from sales in the U.S. fund health programs, specifically mammography for women in Brazil.

"Watching everyone's reaction to my work is amazing," says senior student Paul Ditty while explaining his two entries. He will display a menswear and womenswear garment with 10 queen flat sheets that he low water-emergent dyed.

"I'm kind of in this phase where I really like fractals and puzzle pieces, so it's going to be all these different



colors pieced together,” he says.

Seniors Los, Ditty and Emily Schroeder all said there has been a push in the Family and Consumer Science Department for sustainability awareness.

“The apparel industry isn’t really known for being kind to the environment,” notes Ditty

The Eco Chic fashion show is to prove that, “Yes. There is a way to be fashionable and conscious of the environment,” says Schroeder. “The textile and apparel industry is really harsh on the environment because it uses a lot of water in each of the process to produce finished products. With the dwindling availability of natural resources, it is important to ensure that manufacturing can be viable in the future.”

For more information search Facebook for Eco Chic: A Sustainable Style Fashion Show.