

February 2015



Table of Contents

- UW Extension recognizes governor’s staff for actively seeking citizen input on water strategy 1**
- Seminars 3**
- College publications receive Wyoming Press Association honors 4**
- Researchers study elder financial exploitation factors 5**
- Monies Awarded 7**
- College awards 8**
- Proposals Submitted 9**
- UW Nordic ski club member, microbiology major, finishes 23rd in women’s 5km at World**
- University Games 10**

UW Extension recognizes governor's staff for actively seeking citizen input on water strategy

By Ann Tanaka | February 2015

Wyoming government asking citizens twice for input during the Wyoming water strategy development process has drawn attention from University of Wyoming Extension community development educators.

Representatives from Governor Matt Mead's natural resource policy staff had asked their help to facilitate listening sessions across the state.

"We may often think our government doesn't involve citizens in decision making," says Julie Daniels, extension community development educator based in Laramie County. "This was an example where the governor's natural resource policy staff took a lot of effort to engage citizens to hear what they had to say and implement what the citizens wanted in the water strategy plan."

Jerimiah Rieman and Nephi Cole, natural resource policy director and policy adviser, respectively, and representing the natural resource policy staff, received the Friend of Community Development Award this month from the Wyoming Association of Community Development Extension Professionals.

Rieman and Cole were recognized at the governor's office by Daniels.

The 2015 water management strategy was announced by the governor's office this month. More than 7,000 individuals commented on water-related issues either in person, by email, or by survey.

Meetings were in Casper, Cheyenne, Gillette, Jackson Hole, Lander, Lovell, Pinedale, Saratoga, and Torrington. The strategy was written and then returned to citizens for input.

Not involving the public and writing the strategy would certainly have been easier but not as effective, notes Daniels.

"It's a lot more time-consuming and complex to involve the public, but, by doing so, they get a more robust plan that includes better detail and explores the facets important for the success of the plan and ensuring it takes into account the needs of the citizens."

The information generated 10 initiatives in areas of water management, development, protection, conservation, and restoration. The plan is available at water.wyo.gov.

Community development educators help individuals and organizations increase their abilities to identify and address community concerns. Their programs range from leadership development and navigating community change to local government board training, nonprofit governance, and entrepreneurship.



UW Extension educator Julie Daniels reads the nomination of the governor's natural resource policy staff. At left, Governor Matt Mead and Kari Jo Gray, the governor's chief of staff.



From left, Governor Matt Mead, Jerimiah Rieman, natural resource policy director for the governor's office, community development educator Julie Daniels, and Nephi Cole, natural resource policy adviser.



Julie Daniels, representing extension community development educators, with Jerimiah Rieman, center, and Nephi Cole in the Capitol Building.

Seminars

By Bernadette Van der Vliet | February 2015

Department of Molecular Biology

Fridays, 2:10 p.m., Animal Science/Molecular Biology Room 103

February 6 - "Leukotriene and IL1-alpha Mediated Orchestration of the Anti-Fungal Leukocyte Response to *Aspergillus fumigatus*," Joshua Obar, assistant professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Montana State University

February 13 - "From Neurogenesis to Neural Circuitry: Insights from Rest-less Zebrafish," Victoria Prince, professor and associate dean, Department of Organismal Biology and Anatomy, University of Chicago

February 20 - "Deciphering the ZIP Codes of a Cell," Nancy Dahms, professor, Department of Biochemistry, Medical College of Wisconsin

February 27 - "How to Build Neuronal Circuits: A Tale of Pioneers and Followers," Harald Hutter, professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Simon Fraser University

College publications receive Wyoming Press Association honors

By Bernadette Van der Vliet | February 2015



Bill Baker



CONNECT



Barnyards & Backyards

College publications won awards in the Wyoming Press Association associates contest in January. The awards were received during the organization's annual conference in Cheyenne.

[Barnyards & Backyards magazine](#), produced by the Small Acreage Issue Team in the University of Wyoming Extension, received first place in publications. [CONNECT](#), the magazine of UW Extension, received third place in the same category.

The Office of Communications and Technology publishes both publications.

Steve Miller, an editor in the office, received first place in magazine articles for the feature ["This Flyboy Always Felt a Pull to the Ground."](#) The story was from an interview with Bob Baker of Saratoga. Baker had received the Legacy Award last fall from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Researchers study elder financial exploitation factors

By Bernadette Van der Vliet | February 2015

Researchers at the University of Wyoming are lifting the veil on elder financial exploitation trying to identify red flags that could foretell and prevent the shattered familial relationships and broken hearts.

"I've heard some people who say it's a minor problem, that it doesn't happen very often," says Virginia Vincenti, a professor in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences. "Oh no. It happens quite often. It's just that oftentimes families keep it a secret because it is so embarrassing and hard for them to grasp that it's happening."

Study Began in 2011

Vincenti and collaborators from the Universities of Wisconsin-Madison and Eastern Illinois and a fraud investigator from Laramie began interviews in 2011 with volunteers who came forward. Identities are kept confidential.



Professor Virginia Vincenti

Vincenti says abuses sometimes occur through power of attorney - the person who has authority to decide how and in what ways assets are used.

Siblings betray siblings, children betray parents, a dominant spouse who is an in-law can pressure his or her spouse to go against the parent's wishes - and the reasons are many, notes Vincenti.

"Sometimes the motivation is greed, and sometimes it's getting back at someone for something that happened a long time ago, and now that person has the power to yank someone's chains," she says.

Many Instances Unreported

The extent of such financial abuse is unknown. Authors in scientific literature put the ratio of unreported to reported incidents at 10 to 1, and one study in New York indicated the ratio could be as high as 44 to 1.

There are many reasons why no one is aware of the abuse, she says, and why parents don't report the abuse. Parents are embarrassed their children are behaving that way and don't want to say anything because the situation reflects badly upon them as parents.

"And what happens if someone complains?" says Vincenti. "Will there be retributions? Will the elder person lose the support they need so much from this person?"

The research changed course from its beginnings. Researchers initially wanted to expose what elder financial abuse does to families. Families are split, relationships are broken that may never be repaired, and the consequences of betrayal - often by people close to each other - is, "Who can I trust?"

"We evolved to saying if we really want to prevent this, we have to understand what goes on in families before this happens that could influence, in a positive way, the planning people do," says Vincenti.

Possible Factors

One factor researchers are examining is the values a person had before they gained authority through power of attorney.

There are emerging clues, she says.

“If somebody identifies their self-worth by what they can show other people they own, that can be a clue that person may be very tempted when they get the power to control,” Vincenti notes.

Such elder financial abuse is not exclusive to wealthy families.

“Sometimes, it’s taking the welfare check, the Social Security check, or taking enough assets to create Medicaid eligibility,” says Vincenti. “Sometimes, it’s through taking possessions, not being fair about it.”

Researchers will continue their study through confidential surveys and interviews with volunteers, Vincenti says, and present results in academic journals and share results with the general public.

Monies Awarded

By Bernadette Van der Vliet | February 2015

Beck, Jeffrey: \$16,451 from Wyoming Game and Fish for “Greater Sage-Grouse Migration Behavior and Male Survival.”

Despain, Johnathan, and Brittany Johnson: \$23,000 from Kansas State University for “4-H Military Partnership, 2014-15.”

Stam, Barton: \$19,592 from Wyoming Department of Agriculture for “Rangeland Health Assessment Program (RHAP): Hay Creek Land & Cattle Ranch Rangeland Monitoring,” and \$20,000 for “RHAP: Arapahoe Creek Common Allotment Rangeland Monitoring.”

College awards

By Bernadette Van der Vliet | February 2015

Away during the holiday break? See the [January Agademics](#) for the college's faculty and staff members recognized for excellence.

Proposals Submitted

By Bernadette Van der Vliet | February 2015

Beck, Jeffrey, and Anna Lisa Chalfoun: \$211,404 to Wyoming Game and Fish for “Response of Greater Sage-Grouse to Treatments in Wyoming Big Sagebrush.”

Hilgert, Christopher: \$12,000 to Wyoming Department of Agriculture for “Junior Master Gardener Program.”

Mealor, Brian: \$143,536 to Wilbur-Ellis Company for “Evaluating the Use of Threshold Concepts for Improving Habitat through Cheatgrass Management.”

Norton, Jay, and Terry Booth: \$5,120 to Bureau of Land Management for “Riparian Wetland Soil Quality as Affected by Grazing Exclusion.”

Sondgeroth, Kerry: \$270,547 to National Institutes of Health for “The Role of Variable Erythrocyte Surface Antigen (VESA1) Proteins in *Babesia bovis* Virulence.”

UW Nordic ski club member, microbiology major, finishes 23rd in women's 5km at World University Games

By Bernadette Van der Vliet | February 2015

A pair of University of Wyoming Nordic ski club team members have performed well during the early portion of the World University Games in Strbske Pleso, Slovakia.

Junior Elise Sulser of Casper and Cody senior Sierra Jech placed in their respective events in competition that has attracted athletes representing about 30 countries.

Earlier in the week, Sulser, a microbiology major in the college, competed in the women's 5km classic, finishing 23rd overall on a grueling course. Sulser is also an Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) major.

"She raced crazy good and was only three seconds out of the top 20 and 26 seconds out of the top 10," UW co-head coach Christi Boggs said by email. "I can't actually express how amazing it is placing where Elise did; there are 28 countries represented here at the games, and only nine of them were in front of her."

Event updates are at facebook.com/uwnordic.

The UW club is part of the USA team at the World University Games, known as the Winter Universiade, an international sporting and cultural festival staged every two years in a different city. It is said to be second in importance only to the Winter Olympic Games.

Sulser's finish was the highest placing among all USA team members. Other College of Agriculture and Natural Resources students competing were microbiology/ENR majors Kyle Bochanski and Britta Schroeter.

Earlier in the week, Jech placed 43rd overall, just a few seconds out of the top 30. Boggs added that several UW team members had their best overall times.

The 13-member team, along with four UW coaches, is at the World University Games through the weekend. This is the third time UW's men's and women's Nordic ski club teams have been invited to compete in the World University Games. UW's teams are competing against some world-class athletes who have competed in past Winter Olympics.

The UW Nordic ski club, composed mostly of Wyoming high school graduates, is a national power in the United States Collegiate Ski Association (USCSA)-sanctioned races. The UW women's team has won six national titles since Nordic skiing returned as a club sport more than 15 years ago. The men's team has won four USCSA national championships.

The UW women are the defending USCSA national champions, and the Cowboys are national runners-up.