

April 2015



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UW range management students third at international competition

By Ann Tanaka | April 2015

The University of Wyoming placed third and five team members placed in the top 10 percent among the 158 students from 25 colleges and universities competing in the International Society for Range Management's Undergraduate Range Management Exam.

The UW team won a tiebreaker with the University of Alberta and was one point from tying second-place South Dakota State University. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln won the event, at SRM's meeting February 3 in Sacramento, California.

UW students in the top 10 were Erick Ramerth, Big Lake Minnesota, and Kelsey Welter, Aurora, Colorado, who tied for ninth, and Barbara Bender, Lake Forest, California, who placed 10th.

"Eight of the UW students placed in the top 20 percent, and all of the UW students placed in the top half," says Derek Scasta, an assistant professor in the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management. He coached the team with Julia Workman, a plant sciences master's student.

The students are rangeland ecology and watershed management majors and have been practicing for the competition since September, says Scasta, who is a UW Extension range specialist.

"The URME is a two-hour professional examination with six subject-specific areas and includes real-world problems requiring complex calculations," he says.

The exam is so similar to the one taken by professionals to earn SRM's certified professional in rangeland management designation that the exam requirement is waived for students placing in the top 10 percent and have at least five year's experience after graduation, notes Scasta.

UW team members are Jessica Windh, Reedley, California, Andee Leininger, La Junta, Colorado, Ethan Overton, Meeker, Colorado, Shelby Baumgartner, Clearmont, Amanda Lee, Flower Mound, Texas, Kelsey Welter, Aurora, Colorado, Eric Ramerth, Big Lake, Minnesota, Barbara (BJ) Bender, Lake Forest, California, Nolan Hicks, Meeteetse, Shay Horton, Riverton, and Tevyn Baldwin and James Burford, both of Scottsbluff, Nebraska.



Back, from left, coach Derek Scasta, Shay Horton, Shelby Baumgartner, Nolan Hicks, Eric Ramerth,

James Burford, Ethan Overton, Society for Range Management president Jenny Pluhar of Canyon, Texas. Front, assistant coach Julia Workman, Amanda Lee, Barbara (BJ) Bender, Jessica Windh, Kelsey Welter, Tevyn Baldwin, Andee Leininger.

Skill test

By Ann Tanaka | April 2015

Wyoming high school FFA members tested meat judging skills using the UW Meat Lab facilities in early March. The contest was part of the State Agriscience Fair in Laramie.

No slides are available in this gallery

Instructional technology educational specialist joining extension

By Ann Tanaka | April 2015

Tamara Meredith will join the Office of Communications and Technology Wednesday, June 3, as the instructional technology educational specialist. She has served as the librarian/technology specialist with Albany County School District 1 since 2011. She was head of the Learning Resource Center at the University of Wyoming Libraries from 2009-2011.

Meredith will provide training for effective uses of instructional technology, training personnel on using new and current technologies, assist educators in developing online educational courses, and will research and recommend teaching methodologies. She will also recommend methods of integrating instructional technologies to enhance and engage learning.

She received her master's degree in library and information science in 2004 and is working toward her Ph.D. in learning technologies with a focus in instructional design and emerging technologies, both from the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas.

Meredith is a member of the music department's adjunct faculty and has taught undergraduate and graduate courses since 2010.



Tamara Meredith

Lavelle provides office support, resource center management

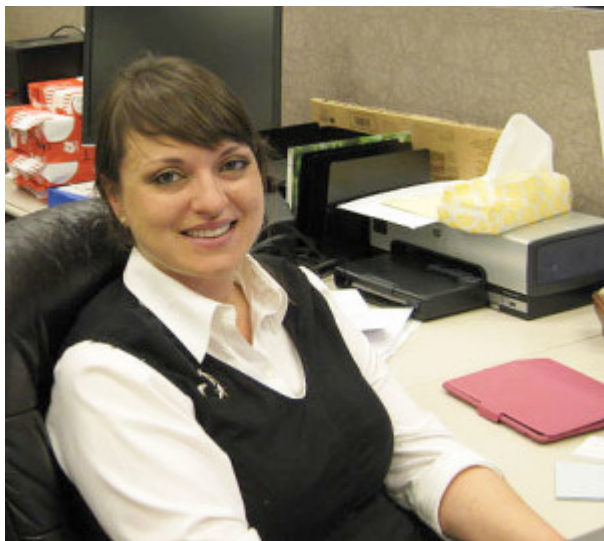
By Ann Tanaka | April 2015

Cate Lavelle joined the Office of Communications and Technology February 25, providing general office support and serving as the resource center manager.

Lavelle graduated with double majors in political science and environmental health from Boise State University in 2011 and was an executive assistant and bookkeeper in Boise prior to coming to the University of Wyoming.

Her responsibilities include, in addition to managing the resource center, coordinating the publication process; assisting counties with UW Extension postage needs; and serving as the contact person for teleconferences, and business card, name tag, letterhead, and envelope orders.

Lavelle served 10 years in the Army National Guard as a budget analyst and Apache helicopter mechanic, and her tours include Iraq.



Cate Lavelle

Department of Molecular Biology Seminars

By Ann Tanaka | April 2015

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

April 3: "Confronting Kidney Disease via the Gastrointestinal Tract: Non-Absorbable Inhibitors of the Na⁺/H⁺ Exchanger SLC9A3," Andrew Spencer, Ardelyx, Inc.

April 10: "Uranium Detoxification by *Caulobacter crescentus*," Yongqin Jiao, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

April 17: "Divide and Polarize: The Role of Cell Division during Epithelial Cell Polarization and Tissue Morphogenesis," Rytis Prekeris, University of Colorado

April 24: "Nuclear Architecture, Aging and Cancer," Tom Misteli, National Cancer Institute

Monies Awarded

By Ann Tanaka | April 2015

Beck, Jeffrey: \$1,041 from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for “Supplement - Inventory of Vegetation Cover for Uplands of Bowdoin.”

Beck, Jeffrey, and Anna Lisa Chalfoun: \$182,000 from Wyoming Game and Fish Department for “Response of Greater Sage-Grouse to Treatments in Wyoming Big Sagebrush.”

Despain, Johnathan, Dawn Sanchez, Gretchen Gasvoda, and Justina Russell: \$99,388 from National 4-H Council for “OJJDP Mentoring Project.”

Dhekney, Sadanand: \$23,000 from Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA) for “Studying Grapevine Water Requirement and Irrigation Management Strategies in Wyoming Vineyards.”

Dhekney, Sadanand, Anowar Islam, Randa Jabbour, and Blaine Horn: \$20,000 from WDA for “Engineering Alfalfa Weevil Resistance in Commercial Alfalfa Cultivars: A Valuable Tool for Integrated Pest Management of Alfalfa Weevil.”

Edwards, Jeffrey, Justina Russell, and Catherine Wissner: \$22,946 from WDA for “Wyoming Pollinator Education Program.”

Jones Ritten, Chian, and Mariah Ehmke: \$149,858 from USDA NIFA for “Overcoming Honey Bee Pollination Market Information Deficiencies in the Intermountain West and Pacific Coast.”

Kniss, Andrew: \$4,800 from Monsanto Company for “MSA Service Order 2: Warrant Best Management Practices in Roundup Ready Sugarbeets.”

Mealor, Brian: \$10,000 from Wyoming Department of Transportation and \$5,000 from Wyoming Office of State Lands and Investments for “Wyoming Invasive Grass Initiative: Statewide Cheatgrass Distribution and Prioritization.”

Murphy, Melanie: \$4,600 from Fish and Wildlife Service for “Wyoming Toad Recovery Program.”

Wall, Daniel: \$268,850 from NIH for “Year 4 Protein Exchange and Self Recognition in Myxobacteria Biofilms.”

Proposals Submitted

By Ann Tanaka | April 2015

Bisha, Bledar: \$27,500 to Department of Army for “Single Process Multiplex Detection System for Food and Water Pathogens.”

Ford, Stephen, Peter Nathanielsz, and Lubo Zhang: \$2,579,862 to National Institutes of Health (NIH) for “Maternal Obesity and Programming of Offspring Cortisol Production.”

Gomelsky, Mark, and X. Frank Yang: \$141,500 to NIH for “Cyclic Di-GMP-Dependent Regulation of Metabolism and Virulence in *Borrelia burgdorferi*.”

Heitholt, James: \$29,878 to U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) for “Exploring Agriculture: Learning Opportunities for Under-Represented Populations that Focus on Field, Greenhouse, Natural Resources, and Mechanization Experiences.”

Hess, Bret: \$222,412 to USDA NIFA for “Animal Health and Disease Research,” \$55,522 for “McIntire-Stennis Formula,” \$138,488 for “Hatch Multistate Formula Funds,” and \$246,606 for “Hatch Regular.”

Hufford, Kristina, and Taylor Crow: \$6,500 to Boulder County, Colorado, for “Alternative Methods for Delineating Seed Transfer Zones: Comparisons of Genetic and Common Garden Data.”

Kniss, Andrew: \$17,000 to Bayer for “Weed Science Research and Education Program (Continuation),” and \$13,000 to Western Sugar Cooperative for “Weed Ecology and Management in Sugarbeet (Continuation).”

Nathanielsz, Peter: \$32,770 to NIH for “Stable Isotope Evaluation of the Methionine Cycle in Undernourished Pregnancy.”

Nathanielsz, Peter, and Cun Li: \$308,289 to NIH for “Developmental Programming by Mismatch of Pre- and Postnatal Nutrition,” and \$439,196 for “Developmental Nutritional Mismatch Produces Juvenile Prediabetic Phenotype.”

Nathanielsz, Peter, Cun Li, Thomas Jansson, Laura Cox, and Susan Weintraub: \$5,829,052 to NIH for

“Mechanisms of Placental, Fetal Brain and Renal Outcomes of IUGR.”

Scasta, John: \$176,224 to State of Wyoming for “Restoring Fire on Pole Mountain: Monitoring Effects on Vegetation, Livestock and Wildlife.”

Scasta, John, Leticia Varelas, and Mitch Stephenson: \$149,391 to USDA NIFA for “Developing Spatial Analysis Tools to Manage Livestock Grazing by Improving Grazing Distribution Models.”

Schumaker, Brant, Kerry Sondgeroth, Todd Cornish, Gerard Andrews, and Hank Edwards: \$79,558 to United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization for “FAO/IAEA Diagnostic Detection Training Program.”

Tanaka, John, and Kristie Maczko: \$91,000 to USDA Forest Service for “Sustainable Rangelands Roundtable 2015.”

Taylor, David: \$8,250 to Wyoming County Commissioners Association for “An Analysis of the Socioeconomic Conditions in Sublette County, Wyoming.”

Thompson, Jennifer: \$5,000 to Pennsylvania State University for “AMS Grant Writing Workshops and Technical Assistance.”

Instructors teach full ServSafe classes after Teton County makes certification mandatory

By Ann Tanaka | April 2015

One Teton County food fact is the Grand Teton of considerations – avoiding foodborne illness is a lot better than the alternative for the millions of visitors who pass through the county each year.

The Teton County Public Health Department made ServSafe certification mandatory in this county based on a rule passed by the Teton County District Board of Health.

More than 35 filled the managers certification course in March, and more than 30 participated in the ServSafe Starters course offered in Spanish. The class was offered in Spanish due to the high percentage of Hispanic residents in Teton County.

Such training helps foodservice managers understand food safety risks their operations face, says Josefina Ibarra, University of Wyoming Extension nutrition and food safety (NFS) educator and the training coordinator.

The Jackson ServSafe classes were taught in conjunction with the Wyoming Lodging and Restaurant Association, Wyoming city/county health departments, Wyoming Department of Agriculture, and UW Extension.

Five instructors from different organizations taught food safety standard operating procedures; hygiene and health; receiving, storage and transport; food preparation and display; and regulatory compliance.

Participants were engaged, Ibarra says.

“You can tell this community cares about its well-being,” she notes. “Even though this certification class has become a requirement, people seemed to enjoy the class. Having five instructors is also helpful since you avoid possible monotony of having one or two instructors in the eight-hour class.”

Education is the best prevention against bad inspections and foodborne illnesses, says Mike Dart, Teton County environmental health supervisor.

“This is one of the reasons these classes are mandatory,” he says.

The food service industry in Teton County, as in other locales, has a high turnover.

“It’s very important that at least the owners or operators have as much knowledge as possible so they can adequately train their workers,” says Dart. “And with the millions of visitors that travel through here each year, it could be quite devastating if we have some sort of outbreak. We want to take preventative measures so foodborne disease does not occur. The Public Health Department has had excellent response from restaurant operators and the public regarding the new food code rules.”

Jordan McCoy, extension NFS educator in Teton County, taught food safety, storage, and sanitation and says participants asked good questions and were engaged.

“This is also a small community and everyone knows everyone, so it has a more community-based feeling,” she says. “This was a great way to network with other people and ask questions.”

Those who passed the examination at the end of the class received a five-year certification, says Ibarra.

The ServSafe Starters is a four-hour class in basic food service handling. Those passing the examination receive a certificate of completion.



Jordan McCoy



Josefina Ibarra