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Winter 2009

## Wildlifer's Log

Dave Willis

*South Dakota State University*

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### Recommended Citation

Willis, Dave, "Wildlifer's Log" (2009). *NRM Newsletter*. Paper 2.  
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# Wildlifer's Log

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES SCIENCES · SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

## Blackwell Promoted!

Congratulations to Dr. Brian Blackwell on his promotion to Adjunct Associate Professor in the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences. Brian is a fisheries research biologist with South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, stationed in Webster. He has held an adjunct position since 2001. He recently completed his first role as thesis advisor, working with M.S. student Tom Bacula who graduated this year. We sincerely appreciate the continual time and energy that Dr. Blackwell invests in our Department!

## Willis on National Cooperators Coalition

Dave Willis, Head of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, has been elected to serve on the Steering Committee for the National Cooperators Coalition (NCC) for the Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit Program. The NCC provides strategic guidance for operation and development of the Cooperative Research Unit (CRU) program and assistance to the program in meeting its financial needs in order to build a strong and integrated base of support that serves the research, education, and technical assistance requirements of the nonfederal CRU Cooperators.

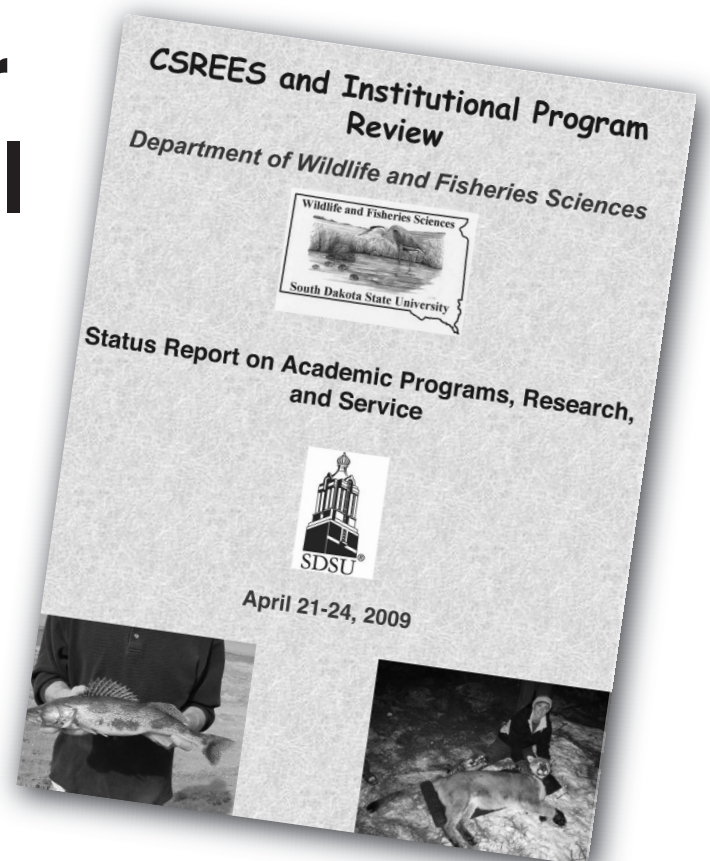
## 2009 was the Year for a Departmental Program Review

*2009 was once again the year for our Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service comprehensive program review.* Following is the executive summary. Review team members follow at the end of the article. For the most part, we continue to receive favorable program reviews, and we had a highly diverse review team this time around. The review did provide us with some new ideas and several challenges for the future.

### Executive Summary

The Executive Summary offers highlights of the review. It does not replace the more specific and detailed accounting of strengths, challenges, and recommendations the Review Team provided under each of the eight sections that follow. Departments of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences across the nation are experiencing similar challenges to those outlined in this report.

The SDSU Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences Department's (WFS) undergraduate program is excessively large for the number of faculty and staff resulting in an overloaded workforce, stretched thinly over teaching, research, and service. WFS struggles to attract a culturally diverse undergraduate student population (urban, ethnic, gender) and undergraduate student advising loads are heavy. The number of graduate students is at carrying capacity for the number of faculty and facilities and there is an insufficient variety of graduate course offerings. The Department needs an extension specialist that could help coordinate and provide research results in a format useable to stakeholders for dissemination of research results. WFS faculty has not embraced the opportunity to engage constituents through a Departmental advisory committee, utilized the extension model, and fully develop the potential of cross-campus collaborations and joint appointments. The Review Team observed that there is high variability in research productivity among wildlife faculty, especially for peer-reviewed publications. Field sampling equipment (boats, etc.) is well-used and may not function adequately, reducing the Department's capacity to conduct research and teaching.

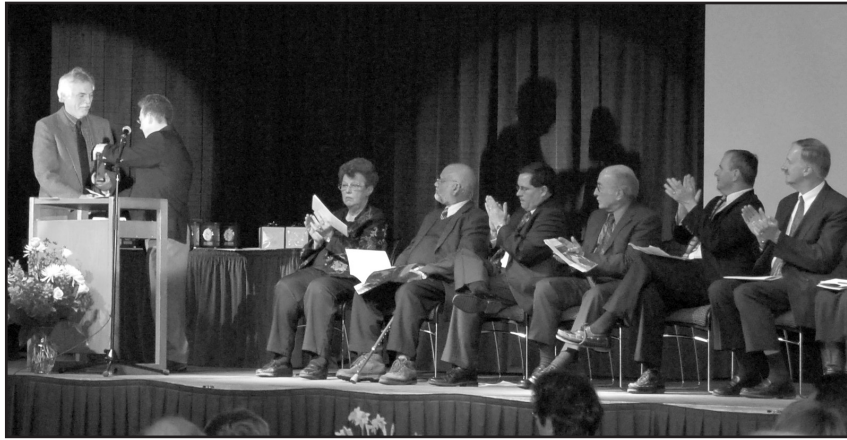


SDSU's Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences Department strives to be nationally and internationally recognized for their teaching, research, and outreach activities and be a force in guiding natural resources management. They want to be at the forefront of efforts to solve society's complex, potentially global issues surrounding applied wildlife and fisheries management and ecology. The ability to capitalize on and create additional capacity to address challenges and opportunities resides with existing faculty and staff. Therefore, greater attention must be given to communication between and among administrators, faculty, staff, students, collaborators, and stakeholders as a necessary foundation for WFS to take on society's critical issues in fisheries and wildlife sciences.

The Review Team observed a high degree of esprit-de-corps and a proud sense of dedication among the administration, faculty, staff, and students within the Department and an enthusiastic recognition of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences' quality by College of Agriculture and University administrators. The faculty, supported by the staff, is nationally and internationally prominent, producing graduates and post-doctoral fellows that span the globe as prominent profes-

# First Ever Recognition Event

SDSU held its first annual recognition event for faculty on February 24, 2009 – Learning, Discovery and Engagement: Celebrating Faculty Excellence. Dr. Jon Jenks received a 2008 Distinguished Researchers & Scholars Award as the representative for the entire College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences. Dr. Mike Brown was recognized for receiving the American Fisheries Society Distinguished Service Award in 2008, and Dr. Kent Jensen was recognized for earning tenure. Dr. Steve Chippis represented the Department very well, as he was invited to give a keynote presentation that afternoon. The title of his presentation was “Mercury in South Dakota Walleye: Consequences to Fish and Angler.”



**PHOTO:**  
Dr. Jon Jenks received the 2008 Distinguished Researcher for the College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences from Acting Dean Don Marshall.

# Recognitions Continue for Jon Jenks

Dr. Jon Jenks was recently honored by his alma mater, the University of Maine, where he earned his M.S. in Wildlife Management in 1986. Their Department of Wildlife Ecology acknowledges the professional accomplishments of their alumni through their Award for Professional Excellence. The Award of Professional Excellence from the Department of Wildlife Ecology is intended to recognize years of service to the profession by former students, both graduate and undergraduate. The University of Maine’s Wildlife Program (i.e., Department of Wildlife Ecology and the Maine Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit) realizes that significant numbers of students graduating from this Program have served their profession long and well, and by doing so have honored themselves and the Program. The names of recipients are inscribed on a plaque at Nutting Hall at the University of Maine, and the list of recipients also is maintained on their Departmental web site.

## Update on Jesse West Fisheries Research Endowment

Our efforts to increase this endowment continue, thanks to tremendous support from initial donor Eric West and members of the Pond Boss family (see [www.pondboss.com](http://www.pondboss.com)). The silent auction and other activities at the Pond Boss III Conference and Expo in September 2009 added another \$13,700 to our principal! In addition, we do have some alumni who donate to this endowment through the SDSU Foundation, and we certainly acknowledge and appreciate those efforts! Undergraduate student Nick Peterson, mentored by Ph.D. student Justin VanDeHey, used the 2009 award to study largemouth bass pond stocking rates in western South Dakota impoundments. Nick, Justin, and Bre VanDeHey traveled to the 2009 Pond Boss Conference where they presented posters on various research projects and helped run the silent auction. Justin published one popular article on stable isotope analysis research in Pond Boss magazine during 2009, and Nick and Justin will have another article on bluegill behavioral ecology in the January 2010 issue.

## Wuellner Continues to Receive AFS Awards



After winning the J. Frances Allen Scholarship from the American Fisheries Society (AFS) in 2008, Melissa Wuellner may have believed that she had reached the pinnacle for a graduate student. However, in 2009, she received the Distinguished Service Award from AFS! She earned the award for many reasons, not the least of which was her service with AFS strategic planning efforts. Thus, SDSU received a distinguished service award for the second year in a row. Alumni may recall that Dr. Mike Brown won that award in 2008 for his coeditorship of *Analysis and Interpretation of Freshwater Fisheries Data*, along with alumnus Dr. Chris Guy (M.S. 1990, Ph.D. 1993).

**PHOTO:**  
AFS President Bill Franzin and Melissa Wuellner.

## Willis also Recognized at AFS Meeting



Dr. Dave Willis received the President’s Fishery Conservation Award from the American Fisheries Society (AFS) at its 139th Annual Meeting in Nashville, Tennessee (2009). The President’s Fishery Conservation Award is presented for an activity or accomplishment that advances aquatic resource conservation at the regional, national, or international level.

**PHOTO:**  
AFS President Bill Franzin and Dave Willis.

# Alumnus Will Meeks promoted to Chief, Branch of Wildlife Resources, National Wildlife Refuge System

While attending SDSU, I was in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's cooperative education program and employed as a biological technician at Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge while conducting my M.S. thesis work there. After graduating in 1996, I went to work for the USFWS as a Private Lands Wildlife Biologist in the Sandhills of Nebraska. I worked primarily with ranchers and partners interested in improving habitat through actions such as grazing systems and wetland/wet meadow restorations.

I then became the Supervisory Wildlife Biologist at the Devils Lake Wetland Management District Complex in north-east ND. I worked with staff there to create the biological program and support management operations in the Wetland Management District. In 2003, I became the Refuge Manager of Lostwood National Wildlife Refuge in northwestern ND. Here, I used grazing and prescribed burning to manage the 27,000 acre prairie refuge.

In 2006, I was selected as the Deputy Refuge Manager for Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge in Homer, AK. Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge was established to conserve marine mammals, seabirds and other migratory birds, and the marine resources upon which they rely. The Refuge's 4.9 million acres include the spectacular volcanic islands of the Aleutian chain, the seabird cliffs of the remote Pribilof Islands, and icebound lands washed by the Chukchi Sea, providing essential habitat for some 40 million seabirds, representing more than 30 species.

My most recent position is the Chief, Branch of Wildlife Resources in the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS) in the Service's Washington Office. Below is some text that explains the National Wildlife Refuge System and the Roles and Responsibilities of the Branch of Wildlife Resources.

The NWRS began in 1903 when President Theodore Roosevelt established Pelican Island, a 3-acre island off Florida's coast, as the first national wildlife refuge. NWRS has grown to about 150 million acres of strategically located habitats in all

50 States and U.S. territories, including 550 refuges and 37 wetland management districts that contain thousands of Waterfowl Production Areas and small prairie wetlands. It is the only network of Federal lands devoted specifically to wildlife and wildlife habitat conservation.

The NWRS provides habitat for threatened and endangered species, migratory birds, and some of the Nation's most important fishery resources. It also includes about 20 percent of the designated wilderness areas in the U.S. Fifty-nine national wildlife refuges have been established specifically to protect endangered species. The NWRS offers outstanding wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities, including fishing, hunting, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation for present and future generations. Around 40 million people visit the NWRS annually.

The Branch of Wildlife Resources oversees wilderness policy and refuge-specific issues such as invasive species and pest management; biological support; water rights, management, and use; marine resources; contaminants; and migratory birds and endangered species. It also provides leadership in policy development and implementation; technical assistance and

oversight in the development of Comprehensive Conservation Plans and step-down management plans; reviews proposals to create new or expand existing refuges; develops products, materials, and training courses to facilitate consistent implementation and application of policy; and provides budgetary information on refuge planning and policy issues.



## The Fiscus Speaker Endowment

The Fiscus Speaker Endowment was established in 2004 through the generous contribution of Clifford F. Fiscus. In 1950, Cliff received his B.S. degree from SDSU with a major in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences. His professional career was primarily with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Cliff endowed this fund with a \$25,000 contribution. Earnings from the endowment assist the Department in bringing outside speakers/lectures onto campus and in supporting faculty international travel. Two speakers were brought to campus during 2009.

Dr. Dan Svedarsky is the epitome of what the Fiscus Endowment strives to accomplish in bringing distinguished outside speakers to campus. Dr. Svedarsky grew up close to nature on a dairy farm in the Ozarks of southern Missouri. After completing two degrees at the University of Missouri, Columbia, he later studied the nesting and brood-rearing ecology of greater prairie chickens in Minnesota while completing a Ph.D. in Wildlife Biology at the University of North Dakota. He has been at the University of Minnesota at Crookston since 1969 and is currently Head

of the Natural Resources Department, which enrolls some 200 students. Dan specializes in farmland and prairie wildlife management and teaches Wildlife Habitat Management Techniques, Integrated Resource Management, Sustainability, and Land Use Planning. He just completed a term as President of The Wildlife Society. Dr. Svedarsky spoke on "Integrated Wildlife Management in an Era of Sustainability."

Our other Fiscus-supported speaker was Patrick

Schmalz, who is the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Treaty Fisheries Biologist. He is charged with managing fisheries covered under the 1837 treaty. One of Patrick's primary responsibilities is managing the Mille Lacs walleye fishery, a highly popular sport fishery managed jointly with local tribes. He has extensive experience with large lake management and human dimensions. His presentation was entitled "Management of the Lake Mille Lacs Walleye Fishery."

### Current Alumni Email Addresses

At last count we had about 300 current email addresses for our alumni. Please consider sending your current email address to us ([terri.symens@sdstate.edu](mailto:terri.symens@sdstate.edu)). We promise not to mis-use your address. We would just use it for additional contact on informational items. As one good example, starting next spring, we plan to compile and distribute an annual overview of Department research activities. If we have your email address, we'll either send you an electronic copy of the report, or send a link to the report on our Department web page. We are still toying with the idea of distributing the Wildlifer's Log via email, but that is not yet feasible for all our alumni. Thanks for considering!

# National Wildlife Turkey Federation Award

The Northwest Area Conservation Districts of South Dakota were recently honored for their outstanding work to raise public awareness of conservation and wildlife management issues, improve wildlife habitat and increase hunting opportunities.

The National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) recently presented the group with the 2009 Conservation District Partner of the Year Award during the National Association of Conservation Districts' annual meeting in New Orleans. Garrett Schweitzer from the Perkins County (SD) Conservation District accepted the award on the group's behalf. Garrett is a 2007 SDSU graduate from the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences.

Northwest Area Conservation Districts of South Dakota group members include the U.S. Forest Service, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Tatanka Resource Conservation and Development Council, the NWTF, and representatives from Perkins, Harding, Dewey, Corson, Ziebach and Tri-County conservation districts.

The group has helped secure grants and other funding for projects to improve riparian areas, or areas around streams and rivers, in northwestern South



Photo credit: Robyn Schweitzer

**Pictured L-R: Steve Robinson, president of the National Association of Conservation Districts, Garrett Schweitzer of the Perkins County (SD) Conservation District, James Earl Kenamer, Ph.D., NWTF chief conservation officer, and Gary Burger, NWTF forester.**

Dakota. Riparian areas are prime habitat for both game and non-game species including bald eagles, wild turkeys

and many types of waterfowl and mammals, and also are important to the economics of rural communities and the livelihood of livestock producers and other land managers.

Projects completed to restore riparian habitat include planting cottonwood trees and native shrubs, fencing critical riparian habitats, and supporting research by South Dakota State University to determine the most tractable and financially prudent riparian restoration methods and techniques.

"The Northwest Area Conservation Districts of South Dakota understand how important riparian areas are for wildlife, and the members have worked hard within their counties to make riparian improvements," said Jared McJunkin, NWTF regional biologist for South Dakota. "Their continued support will be critical to the success of the Northern Plains Riparian Restoration Initiative in South Dakota. This partnership is an excellent example of the great things we can do when we work together."

Source: press release from NWTF

## Update on Our Scholarship Program

The last issue of the Wildlifer's Log frequently referred to changes. Changes certainly have occurred within the SDSU scholarship program, and those changes certainly affected the Department. The University instituted a new computer software program to award all scholarships, including those in the Department. As a result, much of the flexibility in scholarship awards and timing were taken from the Department. On the other hand, the system has truly organized the scholarship program across the campus.

The Department now must select scholarship winners during April of each year. Students are then notified of the awards during summer, and the funds are deposited in their University accounts at the start of fall and spring semesters for the upcoming academic year. As a result, our students learn during summer which scholarships they have earned, and much of the "surprise" has been taken out of our fall Buffalo Banquet (our scholarship banquet).

At the 2009 Buffalo Banquet we awarded scholarships from 25 different donors, including the South Dakota Trappers Association Award, Wilbur Allen Scholarships, Brookings Wildlife Federation, Dr. Gerald Spawn Memorial Scholarship, Sioux Falls Izaak Walton League Scholarship, Lake Campbell Wildlife Club Scholarship, South Dakota Conservation Officers Association Scholarship, Bjorklund Memorial Scholarship, Norgren Memorial Award Scholarship, McCook Lake Izaak Walton League Scholarship, Larry and Jo Kallemeyn Scholarship, David Bartling

Scholarship, Edward Crozier and Caryl Kinkner Crozier Scholarship, South Dakota Walleyes Unlimited Scholarships, Streeter Scholarship, Madison Izaak Walton League Scholarships, Robert Eng Scholarship, Steven Zearth Scholarship, Heartland Pheasants Forever Scholarships (both undergraduate and graduate), Gay Simpson Memorial Award, Wildlife M.S. Graduate Student of the Year, Fisheries M.S. Graduate Student of the Year from the Great Plains Fishery Workers Association, the Lloyd Fredrickson Memorial Awards for the Outstanding Fisheries and the Outstanding Wildlife Ph.D. students, and the Kjellsen Hunting Heritage Award. All but three of these scholarships are endowed, with funds coming to our students through the SDSU Foundation.

Despite the low return on investments due to the economic downturn, we still were able to provide over \$33,000 in scholarships to Departmental students! Most alumni realize that the Wilbur Allen scholarship is our biggest program, and it provided us with \$15,000 that we were able to use to help support the scholarships for 21 of our students! Overall, scholarship support was provided to 42 students: Allen Stegeman, Amanda Prouty, Angela Jarding, Austin Norton, Blake Gipson, Bobbi Adams, Bradley Yaremko, Brett Kleinschmitt, Brianna Gaughan, Brynn Parr, Chris Houck, Christopher Dekker, Andrew Dierks, Christopher Uphoff, David Trimpe, Emily Gaston, Emily Guldan, Emma Kanaan, James Haynes, James Knutson, Jesse

Lewno, Jonathan Quast, Julianna Gehant, Justin VanDeHey, Kelly Morrison, Kip Rounds, Kristin Sternhagen, Kristopher Stahr, Kyle Hubert, Kyle Mosel, Matthew Weegman, Nick Docken, Ryan DeVore, Ryan Park, Sam Cahoy, Shilo Peer, Spencer Lind, Travis Schaeffer, Trevor Barthel, Troy Dale, Troy Grovenburg, and Zachary Pawlowski. One of the advantages of the new system was that several smaller scholarships could be awarded to a single student to increase their financial aid.

*The Wildlifer's Log is Published Annually by the*  
**Department of Wildlife  
 and Fisheries Sciences**

South Dakota State University,  
 Box 2140B, Brookings, SD 57007-1696

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No state funds were used in printing this publication. 12/09

# Dr. Ray Linder

## (1922–2009)

Ray served as the second Leader of the South Dakota Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit from 1967 to 1985. He received an Honorary Doctor of Science from South Dakota State University (SDSU) in 1990. Ray was recognized as a Distinguished Graduate of Wildlife Ecology at Iowa State University. He was a Phi Beta Kappa (1953) at the University of Nebraska.

Ray was an instructor in SDSU's old Department of Zoology and Entomology from 1960 to 1962 and, after receiving a Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska, came back to SDSU as an Assistant Professor in the new Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from 1964 to 1967, after which he was Unit Leader until his retirement in 1985.

Ray was much recognized for his service to professional wildlife societies. He was president of the state Wildlife Society and the South Dakota Wildlife Federation. He was the "father" of the Brookings Wildlife Federation. Ray served and was recognized by various organizations at national and international levels – including The Wildlife Society (three Outstanding Service Awards, Professional Biologist of the Year, Council member), National Wildlife Federation (Board of Directors), South Dakota Wildlife Federation (Governor's Award 1988), Ducks Unlimited, North American Waterfowl Management Plan, National Park Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Environmental Protection Agency (pesticide consultant), Wildlife Management Institute, National Audubon Society, Nebraska Game and Fish Commission and Soil Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Special Achievement Award, Black-Footed Ferret Recovery Team Leader), Prairie Wetlands Technical Council (Chairman), and South Dakota Academy of Science (Proceedings Editor). He was fond of saying, "If you want your Academy to be good, support it."

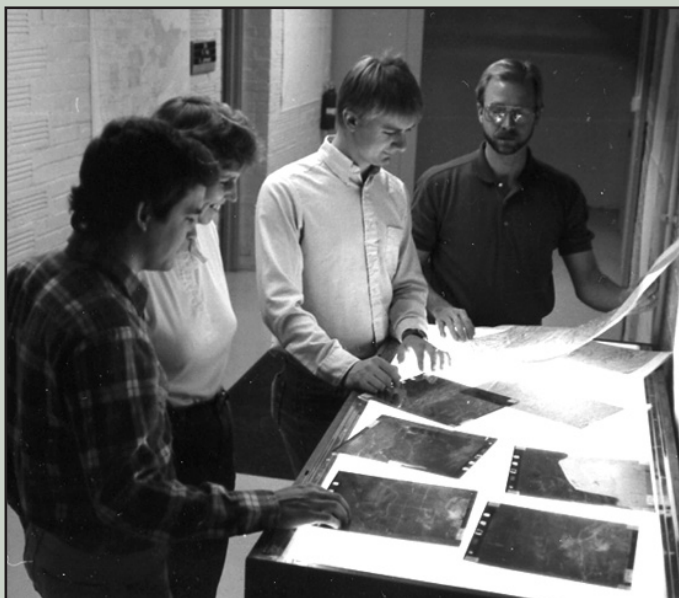
Ray was recognized as Conservationist of the Year by the South Dakota Wildlife Federation and was acknowledged when the Coop Unit received the Federation's Conservation Educators of the Year Award on the 45th anniversary of the Coop Unit program in



**ABOVE: Ray Linder and Graduate Student Ken Higgins, MS 1967**



**The NWI office in the early 1980s, a trailer beside the boat storage barn north of campus, and the NWI team (led by Howard Browers in 1995) going over aerial photographs before delineating and classifying wetlands by stereoscopic analysis.**



South Dakota in 2003. Ray and Betty were present to receive the award with the Unit staff at the Annual Meeting of the Federation in Brookings.

Ray's 66 graduate students are spread across the nation in wildlife careers with state and federal agencies and universities. Ray will be remembered by his students because of Toastmasters. He pushed many reluctant students into the group to the benefit of their careers and their ability to speak effectively to the public about wildlife science. Ray started the tradition of communication excellence that remains in the Department today.

Ray's work on endangered species, wetland inventory, and pesticide impacts is widely recognized and represents a distinct contribution to wildlife management. His 101 publications appeared in science journals and popular journals. It is hard to imagine these days, but his 1968 article "What is Ecology?" (South Dakota Conservation Digest [35(1):5-8]) helped bring holistic thinking about wildlife and habitat into South Dakota's management agencies.

Ray had 17 publications on pesticides and wildlife, 14 on wetlands, and 14 on prairie dogs and black-footed ferrets. His other publications covered a variety of wildlife – including bobcats, grouse, pelicans, badgers, Canada geese, rabbits, sparrows, deer, and coots. His last publication in 1991 was on prairie dog poisons and non-target animals.

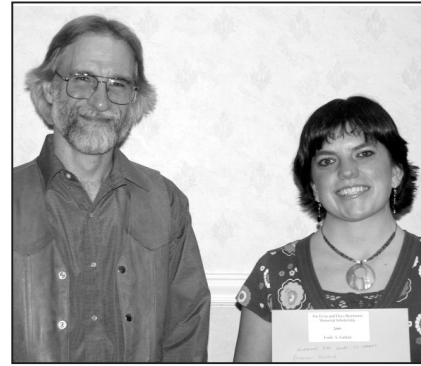
Ray had the foresight to begin work on prairie pothole wetlands in the 1980s before the other scientists and the public realized the need for a basic inventory of wetlands and an assessment of their functions and values. The SDSU wetland science team has been closely allied with the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) and has remained an important program of research, teaching, and service in the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, supporting three to six full time photo-interpreters, graduate students, and undergraduate technicians who help with the NWI map distribution center. Today the NWI team conducts national-level monitoring and has contributed greatly to understanding wetland status and trends. Because of Ray's work we have an inventory of South Dakota wetlands and an understanding of their ecological and economic value.



# 61st Annual Buffalo Banquet

The guest speaker for our Buffalo Banquet this year was Dr. Rob Neumann (Ph.D. at SDSU in 1994). After holding academic positions at the University of Connecticut and Southern Illinois University, Rob moved to the private sector and currently is managing editor for *In-Fisherman* magazine. He spoke at the banquet on the means by which *In-Fisherman* communicates science to the public.

LEFT: Rob with one of his favorite fish – the northern pike.



**ELVIN & ELOYS BJORKLUND MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP:**  
Dr. Dan Hubbard and Emily Guldan



**LLOYD FREDRICKSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP—OUTSTANDING PH.D. STUDENT IN FISHERIES:**  
Justin VanDeHey and Dr. Chuck Scalet



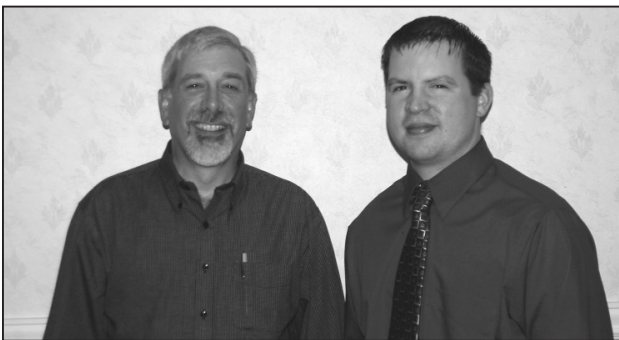
**STEPHEN M. ZEBARTH SCHOLARSHIP:**  
Ryan DeVore and Dr. Katie Bertrand



**MCCOOK LAKE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE SCHOLARSHIPS:**  
Chris Houck, League Rep Sid Wagner, and Bobbi Adams



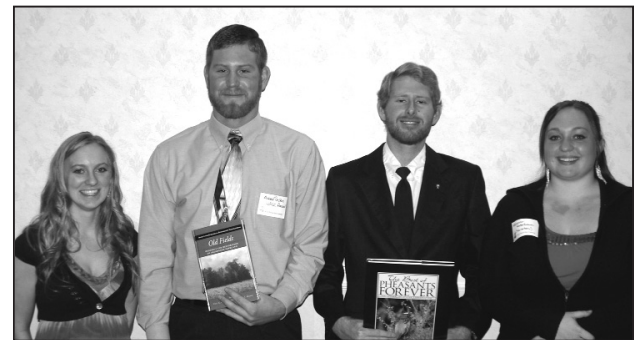
**SIoux FALLS CHAPTER IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE SCHOLARSHIP:**  
Jesse Lewno and Rep Mike Perrizo



**GREAT PLAINS FISHERY WORKERS ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP—OUTSTANDING M.S. STUDENT IN FISHERIES:** Dr. Mike Brown and Travis Schaeffer



**WILBUR ALLEN SCHOLARSHIPS:** Front (left to right) Kris Stahr, Brynn Parr, Brianna Gaughan, Bobbi Adams, James Knutson; Back (left to right) Zac Pawlowski, Julianna Gehant, Ryan DeVore, Blake Gipson, Jonathan Quast (also Buffalo Banquet Chairperson).



**WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES CONSERVATION CLUB OFFICERS:** Treasurer Brynn Parr, President Mike Sellers (also won Club's Outstanding Senior Award), Vice President Vincent Koenig (also won Club's Outstanding Junior Award), and Secretary Rebecca Rosenbaum



**WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES SECRETARIAL STAFF:** Carol Jacobson, Terri Symens and Di Drake – 46+ combined years of truly outstanding service



**OUTSTANDING WILDLIFE M.S. GRADUATE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP:**  
Dr. Susan Rupp and Angela Jarding



**SD WALLEYES UNLIMITED SCHOLARSHIPS:**  
Rep Jeff Decker, Kip Rounds, Ryan Park, Bobbi Adams, Julianna Gehant, and Rep Woody Tiggelaar

# Faculty and student awards

(undergraduate students in bold font)

- Adams, B.M.** 2009. Equal Opportunity Section Travel Award, American Fisheries Society.
- Adams, B.M.** 2009. Sauger Scholarship, Dakota Chapter, American Fisheries Society.
- Adams, B.M.**, K.N. Bertrand, and M.L. Brown. 2009. Joseph Nelson Undergraduate Mentorship Award (SDSU): *Genetics of Invasion: Applying Molecular Tools to an Aquatic Nuisance Species*.
- Berry, C.R., Jr. 2009. USGS STAR Award (Special Thanks for Achieving Results) for outstanding productivity as a scientist and Leader of the South Dakota Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit.
- Chipps, S.R. 2009. USGS STAR Award (Special Thanks for Achieving Results) for outstanding productivity as a scientist and Assistant Unit Leader of the South Dakota Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit.
- Galster, B.J.** 2009. Schmulbach Scholarship, Dakota Chapter, American Fisheries Society
- Grovenburg, T.W., J.A. Jenks, R.W. Klaver, S.P. Rupp, and C.N. Jacques. 2009. White-tailed Deer Productivity: Population Ecology of Neonates. Best Student Paper, Annual Meeting, South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society, Oacoma, SD.
- Grovenburg, T. W. 2009. Outstanding Wildlife Ph.D. Student, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, South Dakota State University.
- Hayer, C., S. Chipps, and J. Stone. 2009. Relationship of Water Quality, Land Use, and Watershed Characteristics to Mercury Concentrations in Top-Level Fish Tissues. Best Student Poster Awards – AFS Water Quality Section, 139<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, American Fisheries Society, Nashville, TN.
- Howell, J.**, M.J. Weber, and M.L. Brown. 2009. Griffith Undergraduate Research Award (SDSU): Juvenile Feeding Ecology of Invasive Common Carp and Native Fishes: Potential for Prey Resource Competition.
- Jansen, A.C., B.D.S. Graeb, and D.W. Willis. 2009. Effect of a Simulated Cold-front on Hatching Success of Yellow Perch Eggs. Best Student Poster Award (co-winner), 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Dakota Chapter, American Fisheries Society.
- Jansen, B.D. 2009. Outstanding Ph.D. Graduate Student of the Year Scholarship. South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society, Chamberlain, SD.
- Jarding, A. 2009. Outstanding M.S. Wildlife Student, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, South Dakota State University.
- Jarding, A. 2009. Travel award for the annual The Wildlife Society annual meeting in Monterey, CA for the following poster presentation: Jarding, A., S. P. Rupp, L. E. Schmitz, and J. A. Jenks. "Factors That Influence Elk Sightability in the Black Hills, South Dakota."
- Jenks, J.A. 2009. "2008 Distinguished Researcher" award for the College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences, South Dakota State University.
- Jenks, J.A. 2009. Award for Professional Excellence, Department of Wildlife Ecology, University of Maine.
- Jensen, K.C. 2009. Past-president's Award from the South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society.
- Maves, A. 2009. Selected as an alternate for the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program for her project entitled, "Developing Sustainable Harvest Strategies for Cellulose-Based Biofuels: The Effect of Intensity and Season of Harvest on Migratory Songbirds."
- Peterson, N.R.**, J.A. VanDeHey, and D.W. Willis. 2009. Determination of Bluegill Size and Age at Maturity in Southeastern South Dakota Impoundments. Best Student Poster Award (co-winner), 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Dakota Chapter, American Fisheries Society.
- Pierce, L.A., B.D.S. Graeb, and J. Sorensen. 2009. Evaluating Stocking Success of Paddlefish in Lake Francis Case, SD. Co-Best Student Paper Award, Dakota Chapter American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting, Bismarck, ND.
- Robling, K.A. 2009. National Collegiate Athletic Association Post-Graduate Scholarship, NCAA, Indianapolis, IN.
- Runia, T.J. 2009. M.S. Student of the Year award from the South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society.
- Schaeffer, T.W. 2009. Outstanding SDSU M.S. Student, Great Plains Fisheries Workers Association.
- Schaeffer, T.W., D.E. Spengler, C.W. Schoenebeck, M.L. Brown, and S.R. Chipps. 2009. Compensatory Growth and Metabolic Responses of Female Yellow Perch Subjected to Symmetric Feed: Fast Cycles. Co-Best Student Paper Award, Annual Meeting, Dakota Chapter, American Fisheries Society, Bismarck, ND.
- Swanson, L.** 2009. Awarded the Christine Stevens Wildlife Award through the Animal Welfare Institute for a study entitled "Urban Canada Goose Management Using Non-Invasive Barrier Techniques."
- VanDeHey, J.A. 2009. Skinner Memorial Travel Award, American Fisheries Society.
- VanDeHey, J.A. 2009. Outstanding Fisheries Ph.D. Student, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, South Dakota State University.
- VanDeHey, J., M. Fincel, and S. Chipps. 2009. Nonlethal Sampling of Walleye and Yellow Perch for Stable Isotope Analysis: A Comparison of Three Tissues. Best Student Poster, 139<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, American Fisheries Society, Nashville, TN.
- VanDeHey, J.A., M.J. Fincel, and S.R. Chipps. 2009. Non-lethal Sampling of Walleye and Yellow Perch for Stable Isotope Analysis: A Comparison of Three Tissues. Co-Best Student Paper Award, Annual Meeting, Dakota Chapter, American Fisheries Society, Bismarck, ND.
- Willis, D.W. 2009. President's Fishery Conservation Award, American Fisheries Society.
- Wuellner, M.R. 2009. Distinguished Service Award, American Fisheries Society.

## Enrollment reaches 12,376 at South Dakota State

The largest-ever freshman class and a jump in graduate students boosted fall 2009 enrollment at SDSU to 12,376 students, the 10th consecutive record for enrollment. The numbers show a 3.2 percent increase in fall-semester head count at SDSU. That total includes 2,135 new freshmen and a record 1,445 graduate students, up 8.3 percent from last year.

More than 70 percent of the incoming first-year students graduated from high school with grade-point averages above 3.0, according to office of admissions data. Moreover, 47 percent of the new students scored 24 or higher on the ACT entrance examination.

The 3.2 percent increase in students at SDSU corresponds to a 3 percent increase in the full-time equivalency, a statistic that calculates an assumed full-time enrollment based on credit hours. The correlation shows continued growth among full-time students, according to Marysz Rames, vice president for student affairs.

South Dakotans comprise 67 percent of the student body at SDSU. However, South Dakotans only compose 48% of

the undergraduates in the Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences program.

### UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT FOR FALL 2009

Official fall 2009 enrollment for our undergraduate program was 263 students, which continues a slight decrease from the peak of 275 in 2007. While increased student numbers bring some benefits and likely contributed to our two new faculty members in the past 4 years, class sizes are larger than we historically taught. As a result, a slight decline in enrollment allows the faculty members and staff to breathe a small sigh of relief – not much, but a little.

### GRADUATE ENROLLMENT FOR FALL 2009

Graduate enrollment remains stable at 58 students, with 18 Ph.D. students. These numbers are quite similar to the past few years, although we anticipate a slight increase in the next year or two as our assistant professors become a little more active in research.



# ALUMNI NEWS

**DON HAMMER (BS 1968)** — December 2008: Joan is Cowbelle's Newsletter Editor and historian and worked all the fundraising events, made the scrapbook and chaired several Cowbelle's activities. Don is still secretary for the local birding festival ([www.wingsoverwillcox.com](http://www.wingsoverwillcox.com)) and he co-leads two field trips. He served as president and publicist for the Sunsites Gem & Mineral Club. He also taught lapidary and did silver smithing classes every week last spring. In the new heated metal shed he is able to cut and polish rocks and make jewelry during bad weather days or in the evenings. Hoping this finds you in good cheer.

**HENRY (MS 1984) and ANNETTE (Dray, BS 1986) DREWES** — Annette completed her Doctorate degree from the Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in August 2008. Her dissertation used a regional landscape ecology approach to understand harvest, distribution and management of wild rice (*Zizania palustris*) across the Upper Great Lakes Region. Through interviews, field visits, GIS and surveys she compiled a current assessment of harvester movement and patterns across tribal, state and treaty-ceded lands. She is currently teaching at Bemidji State University while coordinating the development of a non-profit or-

ganization (Save Our Rice Alliance or SORA) for the conservation of natural wild rice and the harvesting community it supports. Henry is still Regional Fisheries Supervisor for the Minnesota DNR and we continue to reside in beautiful Bemidji, where our two girls Sam (18) and Bailey (16) are active in soccer, nordic skiing, track and of course, hunting and fishing.

**RACHEL (MOCKLER) SAMERDYKE (MS 2004)** — Married on December 6, 2008 to Paul. Rachel is a Private Lands Biologist for the USFWS in Portage, WI and Paul is a WI DNR wildlife biologist.

## What are our Ph.D. Graduates from the Last Academic Year Doing Now?

**TERESA ZIMMERMAN:** In June 2008, I was offered a position as an Assistant Professor in the Range Management program at Chadron State College (CSC), located in northwestern Nebraska. In August 2008, I completed my Ph.D. from South Dakota State University and began my new position at CSC. At CSC, I am responsible for teaching the courses required for the Wildlife Management minor along with a few other courses in Range Management and Biology. I am also the mentor for the CSC Wildlife Club and an advisor to three graduate students working on bighorn sheep, swift fox, and deer research projects in Nebraska and Colorado. Our program at CSC currently has 34 students minoring in Wildlife Management and recently accepted a donation of 64 shoulder and full body mounts of North American and African wildlife from Cabela's. In May 2009, I was accepted into the Leadership Institute with The Wildlife Society and was elected President of the Great Plains Natural Science Society. Since my return to Nebraska, I have been actively involved with the Nebraska Chapter of The Wildlife Society where I am currently serving as the Nebraska Natural Legacy Project liaison and am running for a position as an at-large board member for the Chapter.

**TREVOR SELCH:** In November 2007, I accepted a position with Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks as the Fisheries Pollution Biologist based out of the headquarters office in Helena. My position involves conducting fisheries research statewide on contaminant related issues, water quality, and fish consumption advisories. Even though Montana is "The Last Best Place," we still have water quality issues, including Butte, the largest superfund site in the country. If I could have any job, anywhere I wanted, it would be here! My job is so unique because I get to be out in the field, conduct research in my lab, and also represent the Department on committees and in the political arena (ok, this gets old sometimes). I could

spend a lifetime here and only see a fraction of this amazing State! In the fall you will find me chasing the elusive wapiti with the stick and string at locations that will remain confidential.

**CHRIS SWANSON:** In May 2009, my wife, our two boys and I made the long move (approximately 1,200 miles) from South Dakota to Mississippi to accept a position with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. My position at St. Catherine Creek NWR has allowed me to diversify my experiences relating to wildlife management. It has been very enjoyable working in a bottomland hardwoods ecosystem in the Mississippi River delta. I am responsible for assisting with all refuge operations and coordinating the biological program on the refuge. My wife and I are expecting a baby next spring and we are excited to see what the future holds.

**JEFF JOLLEY:** I accepted a position as a Supervisory Fish Biologist with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Columbia River Fishery Program Office in Vancouver, Washington. I am the team leader for the non-salmonid research and management group. My team is currently investigating ecology, distribution, and manage-

ment of Pacific lamprey and western brook lamprey in the mainstem Columbia and Willamette rivers as well as tributaries in the Cascade ranges. Specific investigations include detection probability, habitat use, and mainstem hydropower passage rates. In addition, the team is investigating the ecology, distribution, and life history of the western pearlshell mussel in the Columbia and coastal river drainages.

**CASEY SCHOENEBECK:** During April, I began a unique assistant professor position at the University of Nebraska at Kearney in which half of my time is dedicated to teaching fisheries courses for the distance MS program and the other half is dedicated to applied fisheries research in cooperation with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. My first research project will investigate the predator prey dynamics between age-0 walleye and gizzard shad in a large irrigation reservoir. On the personal side of things, Robyn and I were married this past June and have purchased our first home in Kearney. Our two pointers, Daisy and Gypsy, miss chasing those South Dakota pheasants!

### ALUMNI INFORMATION

#### *We enjoy receiving news and photos from our alumni.*

Have you moved, accepted a new position, married, given talks in your community, received an advanced degree, or had an addition to your family? Let us know. Send information to Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, SDSU, Box 2140B, Brookings, SD 57007 or email [terri.symens@sdstate.edu](mailto:terri.symens@sdstate.edu). We look forward to hearing from you.

#### DEPARTMENT WEBSITE

Our Department Website is updated on a daily basis.

CHECK IT OUT AT:

<http://wfs.sdstate.edu>

# Dr. Les Flake and Others Author Books

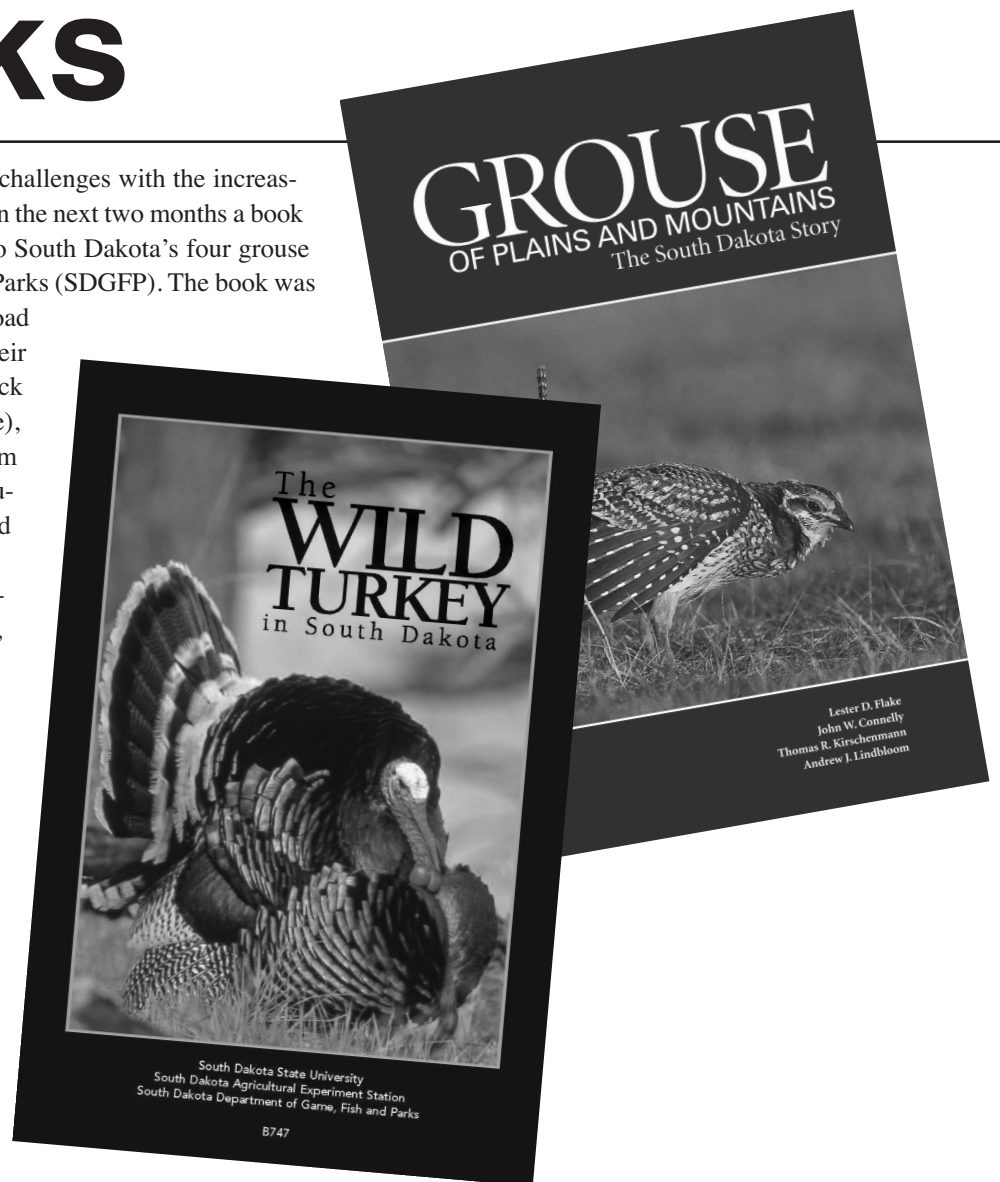
South Dakota's native grouse are beautiful and interesting birds that face major challenges with the increasing tillage of grasslands and disturbance or loss of their habitats in other ways. Within the next two months a book (*Grouse of Plains and Mountain—The South Dakota Story*) devoted specifically to South Dakota's four grouse species will be available through the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP). The book was written to increase interest and appreciation for grouse species and is written for a broad audience. The authors are hopeful the book will help in conserving grouse and their habitats. The book is coauthored by Les Flake (retired from Department in 2003), Jack Connelly (Principal Wildlife Research Biologist, Idaho Department of Fish and Game), Tom Kirschenmann (Chief of Terrestrial Resources, SDGFP), and Andy Lindbloom (Regional Wildlife Manager in charge of grouse surveys, SDGFP, Pierre). These authors have been involved with grouse through research, surveys, and hunting and have a deep interest and appreciation for these remarkable birds.

An array of topics is covered in the book including historical and current distribution, physical characteristics, behavior, mobility and habitat, nesting, brood rearing, survival, population monitoring, harvest statistics, hunting, habitat loss, and future trends. The book is loaded with beautiful photos of grouse and grouse habitats, to encourage interest by a broad readership. Even though the book is meant for a general audience, grouse specialists, wildlife administrators, conservation officers, ornithologists, and other wildlife professionals will find much of interest in this book. A second photo-filled book titled *The Wild Turkey in South Dakota* was also written in 2006 by Dr. Flake, along with four former students.

As soon as the new book is published, both books can be ordered online at the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks website (under Online Shopping/Books, or under Publications).

Les and four coauthors are currently working on a book on ring-necked pheasants for the SDGFP that is scheduled for completion in the next two years.

Les Flake lives in Springville, Utah and enjoys hearing from former students—he can be contacted at 801-491-0854 or e-mailed at [ldflake@yahoo.com](mailto:ldflake@yahoo.com).



## New Distance Education Faculty Member



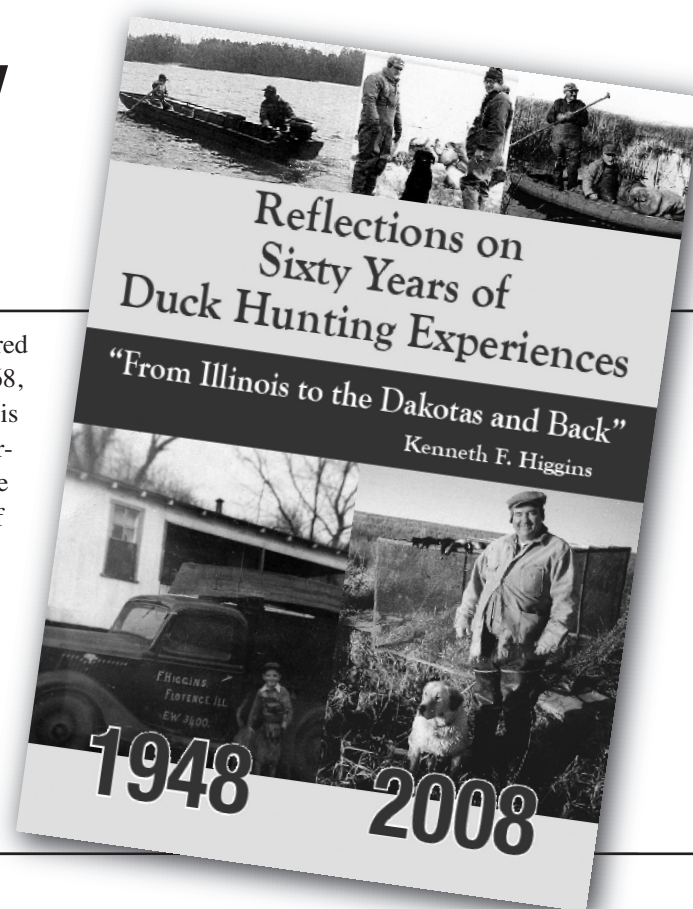
**WITH THE CONTINUING INTEREST IN DISTANCE AND EXTENDED EDUCATION**, the University allowed our Department to hire a temporary, non-tenure track assistant professor. Melissa Wuellner, who completed her Ph.D. in fall of 2009, agreed to accept a 17-month “trial” position. Melissa will treat the position as a post-doctoral opportunity, as we will be required to document the value of and contribution of our distance education courses. Melissa has previously taught online sections of WL110 Environmental Conservation and developed and taught the online WL220 Introduction to Wildlife and Fisheries course. She has applied for a SD Board of Regents grant to allow her to also develop an online WL230 Wildlife and Fisheries Techniques course. The WL110 course was first developed as a

service for the Nursing Upward Mobility program. We receive much demand for the online version of the course, but most of those students are enrolled at SDSU, so the University views their enrollment as simply being a switch from classroom to online, which is not additive for the University in terms of tuition collection. Thus, Melissa will need to recruit enrollment for the various courses from outside SDSU to determine outside demand. At the end of spring semester 2011, the Provost and Dean for Continuing and Extended Education will determine whether the position can be continued on a permanent basis. Meanwhile, SD Agricultural Experiment Station Director John Kirby did provide us with 0.1 FTE of research appointment so that Dr. Wuellner can also initiate a research program for the Department.

# Higgins and a New Waterfowl Book

Here's some more "good news" from the Department for 2009! Dr. Higgins, an alumnus (MS 1967) and a Professor Emeritus of our Department, has authored another book (see cover photo). The book is scheduled to be available in mid-to-late December. Much like his earlier book *Childhood Memories from the West Bank of The Illinois River*, this new book entitled *Reflections on Sixty Years of Duck Hunting Experiences: From Illinois to the Dakotas and Back* captures several true-to-life experiences he had with family, friends and an assortment of dogs. The book contains plenty of humor and photographs of duck hunting ventures in the Dakotas.

First edition copies of both books can be ordered from Ken at "Books by Ken Higgins," PO Box 168, Volga, SD 57071. The price for either book is \$15/copy plus \$3 shipping and handling. For orders of two or more books, Ken will cover the S&H costs. Ken has always donated a portion of the proceeds from his book sales in support of the future of wildlife and fisheries resources. For example, during 2009 Ken donated nearly \$1,000 to the Tony Dean Memorial Land project in South Dakota and three dozen or more copies of his book were donated to professional society fund raisers in the U.S. and Canada during the past two years.



## REVIEW CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

sors, researchers, state and federal agency managers and administrators, and for-profit and not for-profit business women and men.

With this strong foundation and the desire to continue to move forward, the Review Team suggests that SDSU's WFS continue to enhance Departmental activities focused on their national and international reputations in teaching and research, while expanding that reputation to wildlife and fisheries extension. The Department needs to create sustainable funding sources to build additional capacity, allowing faculty greater flexibility to be innovative and creative. WFS should continue to pursue a cultural balance across the Departmental community, creating a staff development plan, particularly for research and teaching professionals (e.g., additional faculty, post-docs, and visiting professors) that maintains continuity, productivity, and diversity levels.

The undergraduate program has a strong and nationally recognized curriculum for the education of wildlife and fisheries professionals. Undergraduates feel that faculty attention and interaction are high through curriculum advising each semester, sophomore and senior seminars, experiential learning activities, and The Wildlife Society (TWS) and American Fisheries Society (AFS) student chapter activities on campus. Successful undergraduate placement combined with the relatively low tuition for both in-state and out-of-state students increased enrollment 50% since 2001. Some faculty growing pains exist with this increase, including heavy teaching and advising loads, and limited time to develop effective teaching strategies and tend to the individual needs of students. Continued growth in this Department, given the existing faculty resources, would prove detrimental to the educational experience. Faculty productivity may also suffer (e.g., publications, grant writing).

WFS's graduate students generally are satisfied with their experiences in the Department. Some Ph.D. students could take full-course responsibility for Departmental un-

dergraduate classes, thereby helping to reduce faculty teaching loads. It is critical that the Department considers health benefits for graduate students conducting field research at remote sites under demanding conditions. The Department should strive to offer a richer array of graduate level courses that provide for a complete program and timely completion of graduate programs. By considering non-traditional approaches for courses with low enrollment, for example, regional partnerships for certain course offerings and opportunities to create course offering efficiencies across the University, the Department could meet graduate program demands. Indeed, even existing levels of faculty-graduate student interactions will be difficult to maintain without additional faculty or reduced faculty workloads.

Meeting greater demands for extension expertise and improving the efficiency of extension program delivery requires, the Review Team believes, a commitment of the current faculty to building Departmental capacity in extension. Faculty need to investigate the advantages attributed to the specialist model at other academic institutions to create the position description most beneficial to WFS. This specialist could address a wide range of contemporary environmental issues important to many of the Departmental challenges. Faculty should identify the issues with help from their stakeholders, focus on tangible objectives and goals to meet the Departmental mission and vision, and form broad-based teams to develop a systems approach toward addressing the issues.

Faculty in the Department appreciates and values international research, education, and extension activities. The WFS Department has considerable strength through internationally experienced faculty, with commitments to internationalize the curriculum and their students. They need to continue to recruit students for international experiences, infuse international aspects into coursework and promote international aspects in research projects.

Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, through increased

private giving, are effectively converting and building facilities to establish state-of-the-art laboratories, storage space and space for teaching, extension, and field research since the last review. Faculty act as effective entrepreneurs toward acquiring needed equipment. They generously train and provide access to graduate students and staff both inside and outside of their programs. WFS should continue to work with their Office of Development to expand private giving for additional equipment purchases, space renovation, additional graduate student support, and internal funding capabilities to stimulate collaborative activities focused on efforts to improve their standing in applied fisheries and wildlife management and ecology.

### REVIEW TEAM MEMBERS:

Dr. James Dobrowolski, National Program Leader, Rangeland and Grassland Ecosystems, USDA-CSREES, Washington, DC

Mr. Tony Leif, Director, Wildlife Division, South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, SD

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Dr. Thomas Lauer, Director, Aquatic Biology and Fisheries Center, Department of Biology, Ball State University, Muncie, IN

Dr. Gary San Julian, Professor of Wildlife Resources, Extension Wildlife Specialist, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA

Dr. Leandro E. (Steve) Miranda, Mississippi Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Mississippi State, MS

Dr. Lois Tschetter, Assistant Department Head for Undergraduate Nursing, College of Nursing, South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD

Dr. Charles Dieter, Professor, Department of Biology & Microbiology, South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD

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## SDSU Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences students excel at meetings

by Jeanne Jones Manzer, News Editor — University Relations

In February, our Department students and faculty members gave oral and poster presentations at the Dakota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society annual meeting in Bismarck, ND and the South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society meeting in Oacoma, SD.

Undergraduate students who took part in the American Fisheries meeting included Bethany Galster, Ryan Andvik, Bobbi Adams, Jonah Dagel, Andrew Ahrens, Travis Brezden, Kyle Mosel, Nick Peterson, Kip Rounds and Andrew Wuestewald.

Graduate students with an oral or poster presentation included Justin VanDeHey, Mark Fincel, Dan James, Will Schreck, Cari-Ann Hayer, Lucas Borgstrom, Landon Pierce, Matthew Hennen, Travis Schaeffer, Daniel Spengler, Casey Schoenebeck, Melissa Wuellner, Thomas Bacula, Casey Schoenebeck, Stephanie Shaw, Will French, Andy Jansen and Michael Weber.

Faculty members who gave presentations included Steve Chipps, Brian Graeb, Charles Berry, Mike Brown, Katie Bertrand, Donald Auger and Dave Willis.

Doctoral student Mike Barnes won the outstanding professional presentation award. There was a tie for Best Student Presentation. Doctoral student Justin VanDeHey, working with Ph.D. student Mark Fincel and faculty advisor Steve Chipps, received one of the awards, while master's student Landon Pierce and advisor Brian Graeb won the other. The Best Student Poster Award went to undergraduate student Nick Peterson. He was assisted by Ph.D. student Justin VanDeHey and faculty advisor Dave Willis.

Oral presentations at the South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society in Oacoma

included presentations by Nick Docken, Joshua Smith, Troy Radtke, Nathaniel Baker, Marcus Gray, Troy Grovenburg, Mitch Greer and Brian Jansen. Faculty members included Susan Rupp, Jonathan Jenks, Charles Dieter and Larry Janssen. Troy Grovenburg and advisor Jon Jenks won the Best Student Presentation Award.

The South Dakota Chapter named Travis Runia the Outstanding Master's Student of the Year and Brian Jansen as the Outstanding Ph.D. Student of the Year. Kent Jensen served as Chapter President for 2008–2009.



The Dakota Chapter of American Fisheries Sciences at SDSU delivered oral and poster presentations at recent meetings winning a number of awards. The group includes, back row, from left, Tom Bacula (hidden), McLain Johnson, Will Schreck, Will French, Nick Peterson, Andrew Wuestewald, Matt Petersen, Jonah Dagel and Luke Schultz. Third row, from left, Ryan Andvik, Kip Rounds, Bobbi Adams, Melissa Wuellner, Justin VanDeHey, Dan James, Kyle Mosel, Mark Kaemingk and Dan Spengler. Second row, from left, Tyler Berger, Brian Bissel, Nikki Lorenz, Bethany Galster, Matt Hennen and Andy Jansen. Front row, kneeling or sitting, from left, Andrew Ahrens, Assistant Professor Brian Graeb, Landon Pierce, Nathan Kuntz, Mark Fincel, Cari-Ann Hayer, Luke Borgstrom and Travis Schaeffer. Not pictured, Ryan Schmaltz who also took part in the meetings.

## Assistant Unit Leader position to be advertised!

Some great news on the Unit front as we go to press; we are on the verge of advertising for our vacancy in the South Dakota Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit! The position description indicates that the scientist will focus her/his research on applied wildlife ecology with an emphasis on landscape ecology, including climate change impacts on terrestrial or wetland systems, to assist the conservation community with the direction of future management decisions. Spatial analysis, structured decision making and adaptive management processes are expected to be utilized in developing research protocols to address resource management issues. We hope to increase interaction between the Department and the EROS Data Center. Stay tuned for further news on the Unit – many changes are in the works and we will summarize those in the next issue of the Wildlifer's Log.