

# DREAMLAND

Department of Rangeland Ecology And Management

April 2008

## Fond Farewell

When Dr. William “Bill” Krueger first announced his retirement in January of 2006, there were many who wondered what the Department was going to do. There were many who could not imagine the Department without him.

Spring of 2007 revealed the answer, as Dr. Michael Borman stepped up to serve as Interim Department Head.

With the future planned for, Dr. Krueger stepped down for a well deserved rest.

Peers saw him off at a retirement party held at OSU.

Later, family and industry friends shared an evening of celebration with him and Peggy at the Adair Village

Officer’s Club. There were many tributes, songs, and stories passed around as befitted a man of so many years of dedication.

There were also a few practical jokes to celebrate the occasion. John Buckhouse designed a removable tattoo for guests to wear that had the initials WCK inside a heart with a scroll.

Dr. Michael Borman assumed Interim Department Head leadership in mid April and has not slowed down since.

The DREAM team future is looking bright with exciting new times impending!



Dr. Krueger, at his retirement party.

## DREAM Team Welcomes Two More

This fall the DREAM Team welcomed two stellar members of the range community into it’s fold: Dr. Ricardo Mata-Gonzalez and Dr. Craig Carr.

Changes in the Department’s faculty and the shifting of faculty to cover Extension duties while Dr. Borman serves as Interim Department Head left the Department

needing knowledgeable individuals to help teach tomorrow’s range professionals.

Dr. Ricardo Mata-Gonzalez has joined the Department on a one-year contract to teach many of the courses formerly taught by Dr. Steve Petersen, who departed for BYU last spring.

Dr. Craig Carr is teaching many of the Dr. John Buckhouse courses as Dr. Buckhouse shifts his focus to Extension duties.

Read more about our new faculty on pages two and three.

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### Have a story idea?

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Welcome! Dr. Ricardo Mata-Gonzalez

## Meet Dr. Ricardo Mata-Gonzalez

Dr. Ricardo Mata-Gonzalez joined the DREAM team in the summer of 2007. Previously he worked as a consultant for CEEC and MWH, ecological and environmental firms in Fort Collins, CO. His general areas of expertise are plant ecology, arid lands, and eco-physiology. He ob-

tained a PhD in Range Science from Texas Tech University under Dr. Ron So-sebee in 1999 and an MS in Range Science from New Mexico State University under Dr. Rex Pieper in 1995. Dr. Mata-Gonzalez is a native of Mexico where he has worked as a re-searcher for the Colegio de

Postgraduados, Campus San Luis Potosi. He obtained a BS in Agronomy/ Arid Lands from Universidad Autonoma Chapingo in 1989. Ricardo is in charge of teaching environmental plant physiology, wildland plant identification and rangeland ecological theory.

## Update on the 61st SRM Annual Meeting

The 61st Annual Meeting of the International Society for Range Management was held in Louisville, KY, on January 26-31, 2008, in conjunction with the American Forage and Grassland Council. The joint meeting worked well!

There were 1500 participants at the meetings which dealt with a variety of rangeland and forage/grassland issues. Each day there were concurrent technical sessions featuring professional talks and posters—often running five simultaneously all day long! There were 13 full or half day symposia.

There were pre- and post-convention technical tours as well as several mid-week general interest tours. There

was a full array of student activities and contests for the high school and college/university student representatives. There were mixers, socials, and award ceremonies to meet, greet, and honor participants. The historic Galt Hotel served as a wonderful meeting place and the city held a myriad of attractions from museums to restaurants to race tracks for after hours. Oregon State University was well represented by a contingent of on- and off- campus faculty, students, and friends. The technical information which these individuals were able to share with the membership, as well as the new ideas and concepts which were gained from

the interaction of rangeland professionals from around the globe, will serve OSU well!!!

A CD with abstracts of the papers, posters, and symposia is available from the Society for Range Management at [www.rangelands.org](http://www.rangelands.org).



The 62nd Annual Meeting of the Society for Range Management will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico February 8-12, 2009. The theme will be “Merging Trails: Culture, Science, and Innovation.”



## Outstanding Young Range Professional Award

**Cynthia McArthur** of Silver Spring, Maryland was presented with the *Outstanding Young Range Professional Award* in front of friends, family, colleagues and peers at the Society for Range Management's 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting held in Louisville, Kentucky, January 26 - 31, 2008. The award is presented by the Society to an individual member who has demonstrated extraordinary potential and promise as a future leader in the range profession. It is presented as an encouragement for outstanding performance by young men and women entering the profession of range management. Cindy's role as a Range Management Specialist for the USDA Forest Service extends beyond knowing the appropriate scientific principles to apply. She works with a broad range of individuals and

groups and has facilitated resolutions in contentious situations while always maintaining professionalism and decorum. Cindy has made many contributions in the area of range management, including developing comprehensive and cooperative Allotment Management Plans in New Mexico and Oregon. These plans address resource concerns while maintaining ecologically and economically viable ranching operations. She was instrumental in improving management on the Murderer's Creek Wild Horse Territory in Eastern Oregon. She engaged members of the community to develop and implement a comprehensive ground based wild horse census. She coordinated efforts between the Forest Service, grazing permittees, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Bureau of

Land Management to update the Wild Horse Management Plan. Cindy has first hand experience fighting wildfires, treating noxious weeds and inventorying for cultural resources. She is a great role model for young professionals, and is among the best and brightest of the upcoming generation of rangeland managers! Cindy is now working in Washington, DC as the new Forest Service Liaison to the Society for Range Management. In addition to her professional accomplishments, she is a dedicated wife and mother who finds opportunities to share the wonders of the natural world with those around her. It was with great honor that the Society for Range Management presented Cynthia McArthur with the Society's 2008 Outstanding Young Range Professional Award.



OSU M.S. graduate, Cynthia McArthur, received the "Outstanding Young Range Profes-

## Meet Dr. Craig Carr

Dr. Craig Carr joined our faculty upon completion of his PhD program in the Department of Rangeland Ecology and Management at Oregon State University studying under Dr. Bill Krueger. Craig also has a Bachelor of Science degree majoring in Animal Science from the University of Alberta and a Master of Sci-

ence degree from Oregon State University majoring in Rangeland Resources. Prior to his foray into higher education, Craig was employed by the British Columbia Ministry of Forests as a District Range Agrologist in the Lillooet Forest District, and as a Regional Range Management Agrologist in the Kamloops Forest Region.

Craig is currently teaching several courses including desert watershed management, riparian ecology and management, range management planning, and rangeland ecology and management.



Welcome! Dr. Craig Carr

## Check It Out—DoctorRange.com

Dr. Sharrow is a Professor of Rangeland Ecology and Management at Oregon State University, where he has taught undergraduate and graduate level natural resources classes for the past 31 years.

Dr. Sharrow is the author of the website, DoctorRange.com. This natural resources knowledge site brings information out of the OSU classroom and into people's

hands around the world. Featured topics include agroforestry, range management, pasture management, and livestock as a tool in natural resource management.

Some of the newest topics on DoctorRange.com are; *Bioterracing with Agroforestry-Producing Crops, Protecting Soil, Forest Farming-Multilayered Production Systems, Managed Interactions-Plant Competition,*

*The 5 Most Common Agroforestry Practices, Succession-The Time Dimension of Land Management, Silvicultural Grazing-Livestock Helping Trees, Lowering Risk in Natural Resource Investments, and Socially Acceptable Natural Resource Management.*

New content will be added to the site over time, so please bookmark it and check back for new topics!



Dr. Steve Sharrow, publisher of doctorrange.com

## OSU Student Elected President

Each year at the international SRM meeting the students from the various universities and colleges meet to network, to give professional-level papers, and to compete in the plant identification, undergraduate rangeland management exam-URME, and public speaking contests as well as to participate in the Society's business, information exchanges, and social activities. There are about 20 universi-

ties and colleges from the US, Mexico, and Canada who are active and regular participants. The students have organized themselves into a group they call the "Student Conclave" and each year they elect officers who can keep the information flow going during the school year. Christine was elected Conclave Secretary a year ago and has been elected Conclave President

for the coming year. She is the second Conclave President which OSU has fielded. Her OSU predecessor was Brian Waldron in 1998. Christine has spent two years as a Rangeland Ecology and Management major at OSU-Corvallis and plans to complete her senior year at OSU-LaGrande.



Christine Boullister, elected President of student Conclave

## On the Spot Hiring— Success for Ryan Leary

Several federal agencies have successfully coordinated On-the-Spot Hiring programs at the SRM annual meetings in past years. This year was no different.

The entire process averages a total of four days from Sunday to Wednesday. Agencies are present on the first Sunday of the meeting

and circulate job outreach notices, as well as explain the agency hiring process to interested participants. By Monday, applications are received and the agencies begin their interviews. Twenty-one applicants, representing 14 different universities, qualified for the 454 RMS series.

We would like to congratulate DREAM's very own Ryan Leary on her success. She has accepted a job offer from the Nevada BLM. She will be stationed in the Carson City Field Office as a Rangeland Specialist with the responsibility for grazing allotments east of Carson City.



Ryan Leary, OSU's On-the-Spot Hire Success!!!

## Where Are They Now? Range Alumni Stories

**Robert Bolton received a B.S. in Range Management (now named Rangeland Ecology and Management) and Wildlife Science in 1978 from Oregon State University.**

What I have done since graduating from OSU:

Upon graduation in spring of 1978 I accepted a summer seasonal job with the USDA Sheep Experiment Station in Dubois, ID and worked with a team of three others to conduct a vegetation survey (weight estimate) in the Centennial Mountains on the Continental Divide between ID and MT. The vegetation survey was conducted to determine if domestic sheep grazing was overgrazing the range. This job was extremely rewarding and provided exposure to range survey methods; plus the opportunity to camp and work on a weekly basis in beautiful mountains and great wildlife habitat was a nice bonus.

In September 1978, I accepted a Range Conservationist position with the Bureau of Land Management in Elko, NV and worked for 3 years doing range administration and range site correlation with a soil survey. This was great experience to apply what I had learned in college and work with ranchers to develop allotment management plans, design and install various range improvements, and conduct rangeland monitoring. The range site (now ecological site) correlation work provided invaluable experience as it provided me a context for site potential to help prepare realistic and achievable objectives for grazing plans. This Range Conservationist position with BLM was the start of what has been a 30-year career with BLM.

1981 to 1984. I worked as the Supervisory Range Conservationist in

Elko, NV in two Resource Areas supervising 4-8 range conservationists. Even though supervision was my job, I was still involved in field work and helping train and mentor new range conservationists.

In 1984 I got married to Julie – a graduate from Cal Poly in CA in Natural Resource Management. Julie was working on a range survey for a private ranch. She, as explained further in this story, has also applied her college education to land and animal husbandry.

1984 to 1988. I worked as an Area Manager in Lakeview, OR and managed and supervised a staff of 5 permanent employees for a resource area of 1.6 million acres. In my opinion, working as Area Manager was the best of both worlds – I was able to get to the field and ‘read’ the land while having responsibility of making management decisions for conservation and public land uses.

1989 to 1993. As a result of a reorganization combining two resource areas, I became Area Manager of the new resource area (3.1 million acres) and supervised a staff of 22 employees. Again, Area Manager (now called Field Manager) was a great job. I valued the opportunity to learn from staff specialists on recommendations to improve land management. Together many decisions were made that improved management for wildlife, recreation, livestock grazing, and other disciplines. This was a very rewarding experience for me.

1994 to 2001. I served as the Noxious Weed State Coordinator for the BLM Oregon/Washington State Office (stationed in Lakeview). I worked with other District Office Weed Specialists to conduct weed inventory, weed treatment and develop partnerships with other agen-



Robert Bolton, OSU Alumni,  
with his Paint Stallion  
"Dances"

*"We are very  
blessed - I am able  
to write policy at my  
office job, and do  
management and  
application at home.*

*- Robert Bolton*

## Where Are They Now? Range Alumni Stories

cies and private industry to work on weed management. Our State Weed Team formed a task group and prepared the first OR/WA Noxious Weed Strategy that provided a framework (set of goals) to focus our time and budgets towards effective weed management. I had the privilege of working with exceptional and very driven individuals and organization on a common theme of noxious weed management. Many of these relationships I made during this seven years are still intact today. The common vision of working together on one of the top land management issues, and designing and implementing programs and projects to treat and restore our public lands was very rewarding.

2001 to 2003. In 2001, we took the big step and moved to the beltway where I worked as a Budget Analyst in the BLM Washington Headquarters Office in Washington DC. I had previously done two one-month details in the budget shop in the late 90's to understand how budgets are formulated and learn how to package budget proposals for needed programs. I enjoyed the details and when the opportunity for a budget position opened I applied. In this budget analyst position I was in charge of developing the Wildland Fire Management Budget for BLM including six programs: Pre-suppression, Suppression, Emergency Stabilization, Rehabilitation, Wildland Urban Interface and Non-Wildland Urban Interface. These were times of breaking new ground as we were

implementing the National Fire Plan that was signed in 2001. We regularly dealt with 3 to 4 fiscal budget years at a time, and worked with Program leads to help provide the funds needed for the state and field work. This 2 ½ years of budget experience was great!

2004 – Present. I worked as the Senior Rangeland Management Specialist in the Rangeland Division located in Washington, DC. My primary duties include national rangeland management policy and budget development by working with a very competent staff of Rangeland Management Specialists and coordinating with State Range Specialist Program leads. Even though I work for a Division Chief and ultimately the Director of BLM, my 'real' work is to help get resources (funds, policy, tools, direction) to the BLM Field Offices so they can improve land health and do the work they need. When I left Lakeview, OR to move to Washington, D.C. a good friend said don't forget us out here; I never have, as every morning at work I ask myself, what can I do today to help the Field Managers and their staff do their job better.

Having been raised on a wheat and cattle farm in north central Oregon (Dufur), I always wanted to have some property and livestock. While in Lakeview, Julie and I owned and operated a small farm and started raising Paint horses, and raised grass and alfalfa hay and pasture. Our family, including our 13-year old

daughter Nina, was very fortunate on our adventure to work in Washington, D.C. in that we purchased a farm in northern MD. Julie's occupation now is full time horse trainer and farmer - we not only raise and train Paints, but also raise grass-fed beef, lamb, and free range poultry. Our primary focus is on grass management - much different than western rangelands but we still apply the same rangeland management fundamentals and principles. We are very blessed - I am able to write policy at my office job, and do management and application at home. Our vacations are yearlong with the farm and animals! It's a great life!!

**Are you Range and proud? We want to hear from you! Where are you? Where have you been? It does not have to be exotic to be exciting! Drop us a line at [Rangelands@oregonstate.edu](mailto:Rangelands@oregonstate.edu) OSU Rangeland Ecology & Management, 202 Strand Agriculture Hall, Corvallis, OR 97331**