Introduction

Introductions in the past two editions of the Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station (WAES) Field Days Bulletin mentioned historic milestones and activities celebrated by WAES. While WAES continues to enjoy the next phase of its future, it comes with announcements of the retirements, promotions to other universities, and deaths of several contributing members of our team.

Pistol and Pete’s Boss Moves to Nebraska

Similar to the entire WAES team, the two-horse team of Haflingers—famously known as Pistol and Pete—were saddened by the news that their boss, Doug Zalesky, resigned his position as director of the Laramie Research and Extension Center (LREC) for a position with the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. It would be extremely difficult to argue with the suggestion that Dr. Zalesky was a great first director of LREC, having made the creation of LREC as seamless as possible. The Pistol and Pete project illustrated his commitment to serving as an ambassador for WAES, the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and the University of Wyoming. The University of Nebraska is fortunate to have Dr. Zalesky serve as director of its Eastern Nebraska Research and Extension (R&E) Center.

Departure of College Leaders

Professor Frank Galey announced his retirement from UW after serving for more than 16 years as dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Dr. Galey will continue his service as executive vice president and provost at Utah State University. Our college has enjoyed tremendous support and many successes during Dean Galey’s tenure. WAES and its four R&E centers will miss his support. Congratulations to Frank and very best wishes in the role of second in command at USU.

Professor Glen Whipple, associate dean and director of UW Extension, announced his retirement. Dr. Whipple has decided to enjoy a well-deserved retirement after 33 years of service, including as head of the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics and interim dean of the then College of Agriculture. The entire WAES community appreciates the numerous contributions made by Glen, and we wish him all the best.

Associate Professor Bruce Cameron, head of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, announced he will be leaving UW for a department head position at Louisiana State University. WAES is grateful to Dr. Cameron for his contributions to WAES. Good luck Bruce, and Geaux Tigers!

Passing of Two Fellow Scientists

WAES lost two major contributing scientists this past year.

Department of Plant Sciences Assistant Professor Gustavo Sbatella, who was stationed at the Powell R&E Center, died August 2, 2017, in a motorcycle accident near Las Vegas, Nevada, while traveling to a scientific conference in California. Dr. Sbatella was dearly appreciated by those whom had the pleasure of working with him. He had a remarkable connection with the growers and industry he served. Our thoughts are extended to Gustavo’s family, friends, colleagues, and students. Take care ‘Boss.’ More about Gustavo, including a photo, is in the Powell R&E Center introduction.

\(^1\)Director, Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station.
On March 6, 2018, Department of Animal Science Professor Stephen Paul Ford died peacefully at his home in Laramie. WAES was blessed to have a scientist of Dr. Ford’s caliber as part of its team of contributing scientists. We extend our thoughts to Dr. Ford’s family, friends, colleagues, and students. His dedication, talents, and service are greatly missed.

**What’s New?**

Department of Animal Science Associate Professor Scott Lake graciously agreed to serve as interim director of LREC. Dr. Lake is rapidly learning the complexities of the center while balancing life as a faculty member. We thank Scott for stepping up, and we look forward to his leadership.

In spite of their previous boss’ departure, Pistol and Pete plan to make several appearances with their new supervisor, Travis Smith. Many thanks to Travis and the team for continued efforts to represent WAES, the college, and UW across the state throughout the coming months. It is exciting to think about how such appearances will be captured in the next Pistol and Pete calendar.

Last year was one of the most well attended series of field days on recent record. We are looking forward to having audiences join us for another series of field days at R&E center locations this year: in Sheridan (Saturday, June 30), Powell (Thursday, July 19), Lingle (Wednesday, August 22), and Laramie (Saturday, August 25). Research at the four R&E centers, the UW-owned Rogers Research Site, and other locations in Wyoming are summarized in this bulletin.

On Tuesday, June 12, WAES is co-hosting the sixth annual Wyoming Forage Field Day at our Lingle location, the James C. Hageman Sustainable Agriculture R&E Center. More information is at www.uwyo.edu/uwe/forage-field-day/.

We are also co-hosting the Thunder Basin Research Initiative Field Day on Tuesday, August 21, in northeast Wyoming’s Thunder Basin. This field day will highlight a partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Research Service and the Thunder Basin Grasslands Prairie Ecosystem Association. For information about this event, contact UW Assistant Professor Derek Scasta at jscasta@uwyo.edu or 307-766-2337.

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*Travis Smith and our famous college ambassadors, Pistol, left, and Pete.*