New Dean, Familiar Face for UM College of Forestry and Conservation (and new Director for the RM-CESU!

The University of Montana has hired a former College of Forestry and Conservation faculty member to serve as dean.

Tom DeLuca, who spent 12 years at UM, will begin his new duties on Jan. 1, 2017. He currently serves as the director of the University of Washington School of Environmental and Forest Sciences., as well as the Director of the Pacific Northwest CESU.

“I am thrilled to be taking on responsibility as dean of one of the best natural resource programs in the nation, and I am very happy to be coming home to Montana,” DeLuca said.

As a highly acclaimed soil scientist, DeLuca has an impressive research publication and funding record. In addition to his time at UM and UW, DeLuca has worked as a faculty member at Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania and Bangor University in the United Kingdom. DeLuca was also a senior scientist at The Wilderness Society for three years and senior research scientist at the Institute for Subarctic Alpine Research in Sweden.

“Given his depth of experience, and the broad support he received from faculty, staff and administrators, I am confident that Dr. DeLuca can successfully lead the College of Forestry and Conservation,” said UM Provost Perry Brown.

DeLuca already has outlined his goals in his new role.

“I intend to focus on three overarching objectives while getting up to speed on day-to-day functions: ensure an outstanding student experience; create conditions for faculty, staff and students to do their best work; and pursue a unified vision of how our college will continue to be a leader in sustainable resource management and research.”

The RM-CESU is excited and ready to welcome Tom DeLuca.
Contribution by the National Park Service, through the RM-CESU, to a recent Cover Article in *Science* on the Symbiosis in Lichens

The July 29, 2016 issue of *Science* includes an article that describes the discovery of yeast genetic material in lichen species collected from a number of locations worldwide, including Montana and Glacier Bay National Park in Alaska. The genomic and imaging analysis of these tree-growing lichens included contributions from two University of Montana biologists: Toby Spribille, University of Graz, Austria and University of Montana and John McCutcheon, Division of Biological Sciences, University of Montana, Missoula. The citation is T. Spribille, et al. 2016, *Basidiomycete yeasts in the cortex of ascomycete macrolichens*, *Science* 353: 488-492, which includes a number of international co-authors.

And an explanation of the importance of these findings to the understanding of structure and function in lichens is described in the on-line video, [http://www.sciencemag.org/video/lichen-mnage-trois](http://www.sciencemag.org/video/lichen-mnage-trois).

For more than 140 years botanists had described lichen as a symbiosis between an alga and a fungus. In the lichen species analyzed genetically during this study the authors identified yeast cells as part of the interior structure of the lichen. The role of this new “partner” in the symbiosis is still not clear.

The involvement of the Rocky Mountains CESU in this discovery was serendipitous. In 2011 biologists at Glacier Bay National Park (GLBA) contacted the University of Montana biologists to compile a list of lichen species in this southeast Alaskan park. Using NPS funding, and grants from a number of international funding sources, the authors collected and analyzed 15 different specimens, including species collected in GLBA as part of the RM-CESU task agreement. Another important objective of the GLBA lichen study was to establish long-term climate change monitoring plots for lichen species at selected alpine sites in the park. This result demonstrates how the funding of university partners to do “mission-relevant” science in parks and protected areas can lead to important discoveries of fundamental biological processes and taxonomy.

**PARTNER NEWS & EVENTS**

**National Park Service: Jennifer Carpenter Named Yellowstone Center for Resources Chief**  
Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Dan Wenk announced today that Jennifer Carpenter has been selected as the park's new chief of the Yellowstone Center for Resources (YCR). Carpenter has been acting chief since her predecessor, David Hallac, left Yellowstone in late 2014 to become the superintendent of the Outer Banks Group in North Carolina.

As YCR Chief, Carpenter is responsible for overseeing more than 100 permanent and seasonal employees. YCR was created in 1993 and is responsible for managing all park science and resource management operations—wildlife management, aquatic resources, vegetation, cultural resources, geology and physical resources, social science, environmental compliance, science communications, and research programs. YCR works to promote scientific research within the park and integrate that research into management decisions.
“Jennifer has an incredible connection to the resources and the long term preservation of Yellowstone,” said Wenk. “She will be a strong leader for natural and cultural resource protection with surrounding states and tribal governments.”

Jennifer has worked in Yellowstone since 2012, where she served as the Branch Chief for Compliance and Science Communications until 2014. Prior to arriving in Yellowstone, Jennifer worked at Grand Teton National Park, Lassen Volcanic National Park, and Bandelier National Monument.

Before joining the National Park Service in 2004, Jennifer worked as a biologist for several environmental consulting firms and for the Arizona Game & Fish Department. Jennifer obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from the University of Arizona and a Master of Science in Applied Ecology and Environmental Resources from Arizona State University.

Jennifer is a native of Colorado, although she grew up in Arizona. Jennifer lives in Mammoth, Wyoming with her husband, Dan Kowalski, a park law enforcement ranger, and their three year old daughter, Estelle.

Montana State University: Environmental historian named Wallace Stegner endowed chair at MSU  Mark Fiege, a historian known for his writing and thinking about the environment of the American West and the country’s national parks, has been selected as the Wallace Stegner Endowed Chair in Western American Studies at MSU.

Fiege, who is the author of critically acclaimed books in the area of environmental history, served as the Wallace Stegner Visiting Professor at MSU during the 2015 spring semester. His permanent appointment to the chair, a tenured full professorship, was announced by Nic Rae, dean of MSU’s College of Letters and Science. The Stegner Endowed Chair is housed in the college’s Department of History, Philosophy and Religious Studies.

“I am thrilled that we have been able to attract a scholar of Mark’s stature to MSU,” Rae said. “Mark’s appointment to the Stegner Chair in tandem with our new Western Lands and Peoples Initiative will establish MSU as a center of excellence for the study of the past, present and future of the North American West.”

Calendar of Events:

September 16–18, 2016: 2016 Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation Science and Management Workshop, Whitefish, MT. This year’s workshop theme is Whitebark Pine – Successes and Challenges in Managing the Jewel in the Crown of the Continent. Indoor presentations on Friday will be at the world-class O’Shaughnessy Center in downtown Whitefish. There will be hikes on Saturday and Sunday to Whitefish Mountain Resort and Glacier National Park. A presentation on the “Whitebark Friendly” ski area certification process, a tree climbing/cone collection demonstration and opportunities to participate in planting 5-needle pine trees in the stunning setting of Glacier National Park. Get up to date information on the Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation’s website.
October 4-6, 2016: 13th Biennial Scientific Conference on the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE), Building on the Past, Leading into the Future: Sustaining the GYE in the Coming Century, Jackson Lake Lodge in Grand Teton National Park. The Biennial Scientific Conference series, now in its 25th year, is dedicated to highlighting the challenges and success stories within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Since 1991, this conference has become the foremost scientific venue for researchers, conservation groups, and management partners with a shared interest in understanding the geologic, cultural, and biological resources of the region.

This year's conference focus is on deriving management lessons and applications from previous practices, recognizing trends, and anticipating future conservation needs in our quest to achieve one greater Yellowstone ecosystem. Throughout our region and across the globe, social-ecological systems are undergoing rapid changes that threaten wildlands and the biota they sustain. The National Park Service Centennial is an opportune time to reflect on our past, as we envision the future for the GYE. To learn more, visit the GYE Biennial Scientific Conference webpage.

October 20-21, 2016 River Restoration Course, Big Sky, MT. Montana Water Center is teaming up with the Gallatin River Task Force to provide a workshop on river restoration techniques. This will be a hands-on, two-day classroom and field course. We will examine the science and application of dynamic river restoration concepts and techniques with an emphasis on willow identification, harvest, and storage. We will also specifically address the use of willow lifts in restoration and bank stabilization projects. CEUs will be offered through MSU Extended University for those interested. Registration and course details available Aug. 15th at: River Restoration Course

November 7-10, 2015: National Wilderness Workshop, University of Montana, Missoula, MT. The focus of this year’s workshop will be on carrying out the Implementation Plan for the 2020 Vision. Areas of focus will be as follows: Communications, Wilderness Character, Partnerships for the Future, Training Models, and Building Capacity for Stewardship through Fundraising. To see agenda and register, visit the Wilderness Workshop webpage.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

For details, visit on Job Opportunities

Assistant Professor – Plant Sciences, Quantitative Genetics/Statistical Genomics, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT (screening of applications will begin 12/15/2016)

Assistant Professor in Sedimentology, Department of Earth Science, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT (screening of applications will begin 10/14/2016)

Assistant Professor in Igneous for Metamorphic Processes, Department of Earth Science, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT (screening of applications will begin 10/14/2016)

Department Head of Ecology, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT (screening of applications will begin 10/6/2016)

Assistant/Associate Professor - geotechnical engineering, Washington State University, Pullman, WA. (screening of applications will begin 10/1/2016)
Franktown District Forester, Colorado State Forest Service, Franktown, CO (closes 9/7/2016)


Assistant Professor – Agronomy/Applied Soil Microbiology, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT (screening of applications will begin 9/1/2016)

Ecological Statistician – Postdoctoral Researcher, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT (screening of applications will begin 9/1/2016)

Program Head, Landscape Architecture, College of Architecture, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID (closes 8/31/2016)

Field Research & Monitoring Coordinator, Colorado Forest Restoration Institution, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO. (screening of applications will begin 8/28/2016)

Distinguished Professorship and Endowed Chair in Stream / River Ecology Associate or Full Professor, Flathead Lake Biological Station, University of Montana, Polson, MT (screening of applications will begin 8/24/2016)

Indian Law and Clinic Faculty Position, Alexander Blewett III School of Law, University of Montana, Polson, MT (screening of applications will begin 8/22/2016)

Postdoctoral Researcher, Land Use Modeling, Human-Environment Systems Initiative, Boise State University, Boise, ID (posted 8/12/2016)

If you would like to post an announcement in the next RM-CESU Newsletter or on the website, please contact the RM-CESU Coordinator at rmcesu@cfc.umt.edu.