Meet our new faculty!

Jarod Blades is a new assistant professor in the conservation program in the Plant and Earth Science Department. He just arrived from the University of Idaho where he earned his PhD in Natural Resources. He is currently working on several manuscripts for publication based on his research focused on understanding and communicating multi-scale climate change science to forest managers and community leaders. He will be working to develop courses related to fire ecology and ecological restoration in the coming years.

Assistant professor Sierra Howry joined the Department of Agricultural Economics at UWRF this fall, after teaching at Angelo State University in San Angelo, Texas for five years. She earned her PhD in Agricultural Economics at Oklahoma State University. She has a strong passion for teaching and undergraduate research. She was a McNair Scholar as an undergraduate at East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma and she will be working with the McNair Scholars program on campus. She has truly enjoyed the energy she has seen from UWRF students and looks forward to a great year.

Amber Remble just joined the Agricultural Economics Department after completing her PhD in Agricultural Economics from Purdue University. Her dissertation centered on modeling farm and sector level impacts of non-subsidy policy landscape and farm level decision-making. She spent a semester as a Visiting Scholar at the University of Bonn in Bonn, Germany.

Danielle Smars joined the Department of Animal & Food Science this fall, just weeks after completing her dissertation defense. She holds a PhD in Endocrinology and Animal Biosciences from Rutgers University. Her work in graduate school focused on equine exercise physiology. At Rutgers she was a teaching assistant for five different courses and advised their animal science intercollegiate competitive team. She values UWRF’s focus on teaching and its commitment to students. She has had a great time getting to know the students and faculty of CAFES and is enjoying life in the Midwest!

The Plant and Earth Science Department welcomed Jill Coleman Wasik, assistant professor of environmental science, this fall. She is no stranger to this region’s environmental research and water resources. In addition to receiving her bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees from the University of Minnesota, she was the Lab Manager for the St. Croix Watershed Research Station for 12 years. The Research Station is affiliated with the Science Museum of Minnesota. She taught as an adjunct at UWRF in fall 2012 and very much enjoyed the experience. In particular, she was intrigued by the earnest desire of UWRF students to learn and succeed in their classes. This energy is unique from other universities, she said.