CAFES welcomes new faculty!

This past fall 2012, CAFES welcomed three new faculty members across three of our departments --- Agricultural Economics, Animal and Food Science, and Plant and Earth Science. Here’s a snapshot of each of these three new CAFES faculty!

**Allison Gale**, assistant professor of Geology in the Plant and Earth Science department, comes to UW-River Falls with an enthusiasm evident from her whirlwind of experiences --- from studies at Harvard University and the University of Maryland where her research focus was underwater volcanos and mid-ocean ridges, to an internship at the Smithsonian Institute studying meteorites and geological expeditions to Yellowstone, Iceland, and Chile. Gale appreciates the teaching-centered focus of CAFES, has enjoyed working with students in her classes and looks forward to providing her students with more hand-on, undergraduate research experiences in the field. New to the Midwest as well as to UW-River Falls, she is excited to explore the geology of the rocks in this area of the United States.

**Amy Radunz** is an assistant professor in the Animal and Food Science department with a focus on Beef Cattle Production, teaching such courses as Beef Production and Feedlot Production. Having grown up in Hutchinson, Minn., she is no stranger to the Midwest. After some teaching experience at Ohio State University where she received her Ph.D., Radunz worked in industry as the Wisconsin Beef Cattle Extension Specialist for three years. During this time she enjoyed the contact with producers and industry professionals, but wanted the opportunity to have a greater influence on the next generation of upcoming professionals. Radunz is excited to bring her regional Wisconsin-focused contacts and industry experience to the classroom and looks forward to impacting the beef cattle industry from a new perspective. Her semester holds several upcoming projects, including the St. Croix Valley Bull Test Open House this March, and she looks forward to even greater involvement in the future.

New faculty member **Jim White**, assistant professor in Agricultural Economics, may be new to the world of teaching but, after 15 years of business and public policy experience, is certainly not unfamiliar with the intersecting fields of business and agriculture. White finds that he immensely enjoys teaching and interacting with students, helping students discover their career goals, for example, his Professional Selling class, which explores sales as a potential occupation. He looks forward to increasing his involvement in student organizations --- for example, leading a group of Ag Economics students to compete in an agribusiness case study competition this June at the World Forum and Symposium of IFAMA. This, along with looking forward to the completion of his doctoral dissertation this summer at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, promises to make this year an exciting and active one!