Endowed Chair & Professorship Report
2012-2013

Russell L. Rustici Endowed Chair in Rangeland Watershed Sciences

Dr. Randy Dahlgren
Professor and Department Chair
Land, Air and Water Resources

RESEARCH
I’m pleased to report that the Rustici Endowed Chair funding allows me to take research risks that I would not typically be able to take. It provides me with funding to seek preliminary research results that can then be used to compete for state/federal funding. Specifically, I use the proceeds to support a graduate student, conduct field work, laboratory research costs, extension activities, and contribute to formal stakeholder meetings.

TEACHING
The endowment proceeds fund one graduate student and several undergraduates as either paid research positions or as internships. I incorporate all of my rangeland watershed sciences research findings into both graduate and undergraduate courses.

STUDENT TRAINING
Currently the endowment is supporting the Graduate Student Researcher (GSR) and research activities of Katelin Alldritt who is a MS student in the Soils and Biogeochemistry graduate group. It has also paid for her to attend the Soil Science Society of America's annual meeting to expand her professional development. Katelin's research is focused on hillslope hydrology and nutrient transport in California oak woodlands. This research will inform pollutant transport dynamics in California rangelands and allow for the development of management practices to reduce pollutant transport from rangelands.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND/OR DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES
Most of the Rustici Endowment funds will continue to be used to fund my student through to completion of her degree. In future years, we hope to hire a post-doctoral fellow to assist in writing up research results from past research studies.

ACTIVITIES DIRECTLY SUPPORTED BY THIS FUND
- Graduate student support
- Graduate student travel to professional meeting
- Partial funding of service contract for analytical equipment
- Travel and supplies for field work
- Extension activities with California rangeland stakeholders

THANKS
I am very thankful for the financial support provided by the Russell L. Rustici Endowed Chair in Rangeland Watershed Sciences. The support has allowed me to pursue research questions and extension activities that are typically not funded by other sources. It allows me to take research risks that have often resulted in “high” impact research findings that have leveraged additional support from extramural sources. I look forward to continuing research on California rangelands that Russell Rustici saw as a critical need for the sustainability of the California ranching community.