



# SCIENCE IN ACTION Spring 2019 Newsletter

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## **From the Director**

USU's interdisciplinary Climate Adaptation Science (CAS) graduate program is two years old and has enrolled 27 students from 9 departments and 5 colleges! The first cohort of CAS students has published results of their collaborative Studio research, and students from both the first and second cohorts have published collaborative projects from internship experiences. Several students have completed their MS or PhD degree and moved on to employment or further education. Communication plans have included diverse activities and projects, including a recent dance performance, Heat Suite, on risks of and adaptations to protect against rising temperatures. Learn about the many things CAS students are doing here and at the CAS website. Attend the CAS All-Hands Meeting on April 26<sup>th</sup> to learn more about the program and what CAS students and faculty are doing.

-Nancy Huntly

## **News Highlights**

- Rachel Hager Selected as AAAS Mass Media Fellow
- Kirsten Goldstein Receives Jeanne X. Kaspersen Award
- Cohort 1 Trainee Jeff Haight Publishes CAS Internship Research
- Cohort 3 Hosts Public Event "Community Conversations on Climate Challenges" at Logan Library
- Huntly Co-Authors Fourth National Climate Assessment
- CAS and Other USU Faculty Work Toward Reducing USU Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Current news can be found on our homepage throughout the year.

## **Inaugural Cohort Publishes Studio Research**

Cohort 1's interdisciplinary research on fire frequency, fire managers' perspectives, and the economic impacts of wildfires on small towns is published in Volume 1, Issue 3 of the journal *Fire*.



"The Impacts of Wildfire Characteristics and Employment on the Adaptive Management Strategies in the Intermountain West" is co-authored by CAS students Liana Prudencio, Ryan Choi, Emily Esplin, Muyang Ge, Natalie Gillard, and Jeff Haight, and CAS faculty Patrick Belmont and Courtney Flint. The cohort worked together throughout the 2017-2018 academic year to conceptualize, carry out, and publish the research, along with guidance and insight from CAS faculty members.

Click [here](#) to view the paper, and [here](#) to learn more about the research process through an audio story produced by public radio editor Jennifer Pemberton.

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### **Students' Next Steps**

Students from the first cohort are beginning to graduate from USU and take their next steps.

Jeff Haight defended his thesis and began a PhD at Arizona State University with Drs. Sharon Hall and Jesse Lewis.

Muyang Ge defended her dissertation this spring and will join the faculty at Nanjing Audit University next fall.

### **Dance Performance Project by Kirsten Goldstein**

Cohort 2 student Kirsten Goldstein recently combined her background in dance with her thesis research to produce "Heat Suite: Dance & Science for Climate Adaptation" with Stephanie White, Andrew Boylan, Peter Howe, and five student dancers from USU's Dance Club and Theatre Arts Department. Goldstein reflected, "As a scientist, I questioned if I was doing my research justice. As an artist, I questioned if I was representing the research too literally. But when the lights went down and the music began, I knew I had represented both sides equally."



### **Student Internships**

CAS Cohort 2 completed their first internships in summer 2018, and cohorts 2 and 3 are preparing for summer 2019 internships.

Kirsten Goldstein is interning with USGS in Moab and working on a project related to heat risk perceptions in national parks. Her research contributes to improved human safety at places like Arches National Park, where number of days with extreme heat are increasing due to climate change.

Scott Zimmer is interning at the USDA-FS Rocky Mountain Research Station in Missoula, incorporating remote sensing and geospatial analyses into rangeland vegetation modeling. This research contributes to projections of climate change effects on rangelands, and monitoring of these effects. His internship expanded the scope of his thesis research, and allowed his host to collaborate on research in a new study system with a new agency.

Rachel Hager interned with the USDA California Climate Hub. She is part of a project to improve restoration efforts and stakeholder-researcher collaborations in California forests. The research group recently published a [Tamm Review](#) in the journal *Forest Ecology & Management*.

During Hadia Akbar's internship with the Upper Colorado River Commission, she was able to attend water management meetings where she saw firsthand how the commission works with diverse stakeholders to avoid water use conflicts.

### **Upcoming Events**

April 17	Communicating Science—Adrienne Moore	LIB 154, 11:30-12:30
April 26	All Hands Meeting	Eccles Conference Center 201/203
October 4	Fall Science-Management-Policy Exchange	Logan, UT