Good afternoon and thanks for joining us I'm Judy Simpson. The rules in responsibilities of most university professors extend beyond the classroom. For instance you often hear new stories about academic research. In addition professors are expected to publish their work and make presentations at conferences and professional meetings at the national and international level. This afternoon we're going to get some insight on the work of professor outside the classroom. Joining me is UVM Professor Betsy green. In addition to a teaching and contributions to this program professor green is a researcher who has presented her work around the world. Always great to see you.

Betsy.: Great to be back.

Judy.: So you're going to share with us some of the professional work you do outside the classroom?

Betsy.: Yes it's interesting because all these projects and programs that we've talked about on the show actually have been presented to other people throughout meetings and professional meetings throughout the country too. I thought I would share some of the meeting part but also some of the tours and fun aspects of those meetings as well.

Judy.: Excellent where we going to start?

Betsy.: Home starting an Austin Texas. I presented at the community of practice meetings so the horse quest meetings we've talked about several times this is all of the other communities of practice so the people building the sites from Financial Security to all of family's food and fitness to extension disaster network. All of the people teaching and learning about better ways to improve their part of the site and I presented on developing a COP toolkit to facilitate increased utilization. So teaching the extension people that are not actually involved in this how to use the site and how to find what they need so they will turn around and be more able to have their clientele use the site. The site tour on this was actually when you fly from Burlington you end up having to go a few different places before you get to your site. Especially when it's Texas. I had to be there a day early and my friend from Texas Jan Dawson who is a horse safety person decided to show me a little bit of Texas into me to the why O ranch in Kerrville. This is an exotic game ranch down in Texas and you can see it has the wild west look. Longhorns and everything else. Then we had a chance to go out to go out on a night wildlife viewing safari. Down in Texas lease a giraffes
wildebeest all kinds of animals. It was a great experience and of course that picture was taken at about the night as the sun was going down. That was a side should not associated with the meeting but just an awesome experience.

Judy.: A chance to see the environments. Tell me a little bit about your next meeting which was in Sweden?

Betsy.: Yes Oopsalla Sweden. That was the International Society for equitation sciences. I presented the horse quest information there but this was exposing them to the product and what we've been doing. The website is open and we have the title slide of the presentation that I did. It was really interesting because at this meeting their talking about behavior welfare care of the animals training in all those things associated but also the education. So we talked about this option home for them and of course anyone can get on the website and they do. It was interesting because the Swedish people were also developing a similar site and they were very excited because they could go take information from here and we can potentially share information there. They had a learning day during that meeting and the next slide shows some of the students at StromSholms national academy demonstrating some of the methods that they use for training and on the top PC and instructor showing a rider how they can find their balance. That seat she sitting on with their hands on her head that was like a wiggly chair. They had it set up so that after you saw this everyone could try this to see their balance. It was pretty interesting because you say it in you have to be balanced or you fall off.

Judy.: Why is this so important when it comes to riding?

Betsy.: The horse has a natural balance in usually when we as riders get on we end up having uneven balance so it inhibits their movement and is not going to be as comfortable for them so if we can get a balance eat that can actually ride them better and make them more comfortable and the more well-rounded as a rider. One of the other things that they did there's another picture from the suite in trip. They had thermal saddle pads. Those pictures on the bottom you can see on the left is blue greens and yellows and that was a fairly balanced saddle or rider.

Judy.: You can see that both sides are pretty much the same.

Betsy.: Yes but on that right picture there's some red spots so either a saddle doesn't fit or somebody is sitting on their right seat bone harder than their left so they're unbalanced. They're going to make their horse unbalanced. It was a way to show the riders and show us exactly how there's documentation when they say no I'm not sitting to the left yes you are.

Judy.: Also it's important to fit the saddle to the horse too.

Betsy.: Absolutely because the horse is going to have different confirmation depending on their breed muscling age whenever and if you have a saddle that doesn't fit correctly it's going to make them uncomfortable and definitely takes away from their welfare.

Judy.: It could make them a little cranky.

Betsy.: Yes it could.
Judy.: Your most recent professional meeting have kept you in the country?

Betsy.: Yes. I was in Murfreeboro Tennessee. The first meeting there was actually two professional meetings tied together. This first meeting was the National Association of equine affiliated academics. And they call it the naea.

Judy.: Appropriate.

Betsy.: That's actually the teaching focusing on the teaching educational end of our industry and the academic industry. I was presenting a poster on our teaching program and think creative ways that we found to get students doing more critical thinking and thinking and looking an opening their mind two other options beyond what they're used to for their own opinion our view. We had a lot a great discussion and of course this was also the meeting where we had topics on discussion on their welfare of course is an unwanted things. When they talked about the issues and problems there were things like opposing views neglect and abuse. Too many horses the blame. Too many breeding this and that. The things and we're focusing on how do we try and educate and how do we have and let people know the options and choices and work all for the welfare of the horse.

Judy.: It's interesting because a lot of the focus when you're a horse owner or involved in horses is what's the horse doing now. You don't think down the road what if something happens and I have to find a new home or I make passes paid or the state side can financially afford the horse and you don't think about that when you're caught up in buying the horse or working with a horse.

Betsy.: Right. And people that want to be the horses and all that we have issues that we have to deal was so we're looking at not throwing blame or opposing views we're looking at education to improve the welfare of these forces that we have right now here and now.

Judy.: And he found traveling throughout the country that there are a lot of this is a problem throughout the country?

Betsy.: Oh yes absolutely. It's happening everywhere for many reasons. You can throw blame in many different directions but we just have to figure out how to deal with it. The other meetings there with the main meetings that these were tied tied the to or in the equine science society meetings. That we had actually three presentations there. The site you're looking at you might recognize because we talked about it here. The wild horse gather and that was actually a really interesting to have folks have the experience is that your viewers actually saw. We also had two other presentations one that was on the extension by my pure from Nebraska Cathy Anderson. Then another one that was from on our equine safety grant. That was by Karen weight at Michigan State. I was tide to three presentations and I made one. On that tour we actually had 1/2 day tour and that was two another kind of controversial topic in the horse industry. The Tennessee walking worse because we're in part of Tennessee walking horse land. That picture you see there is from the celebration where the champion show is. I actually blew up those pictures because if you can see 1965 triple threat and 1977 super stock those were Tennessee walking horses that I actually breed. I got to handle and breed mayors from Morehead state university 100 years ago when I was doing my undergraduate. I was seeing all of these forces up and the lights when I just saw them down in the breeding show. It was really cool to see that. Of course the picture you see out there now I think it was waterfalls farm that was a big breeding show. They have what they called the big lake courses which is the controversy. You can
see that force in the picture there is the same horse that Karen Malinowski from raptors is letting that stallion sniff her little Dalmatian purse. It was really interesting because there's views about the use of these horses issues where their actually.

Judy.: Their gait is unusual because their feet are so high up. It's almost an unnatural gait. And that's the big issue.

Betsy.: The gait itself as a walk. Even at that level it is a walk and it's interesting because when they put those show shoes on it's almost like when we have our Elton John shoes you see people walking around.

Judy.: Speak for yourself.

Betsy.: Even then the audience there was a the equine academics there was an extreme gamut of use whether that was humane acceptable or not. Spouse really interesting.

Judy.: Now I know your favorite meeting took place in November?

Betsy.: Yes I went to meetings International Committee of equine exercise physiology meetings in South Africa. Cape town South Africa. I was actually a collaborator on a presentation that was done by Rutgers that's been done here carry Williams. Her graduate student had done the work and she was presenting that. I help them with some of that stuff and it was really cool because we got to go to South Africa two presents and to see these meetings with all this exercise physiology. Which is what I did the research and years ago. It was really exciting meeting great interacting with all these folks and I had actually presented my P HD research in Australia years before at the same meetings so was neat to go to those. Carey Williams from Rutgers and grad student Daniel marsh and I went down to Kruger park and spent a few days on the safari. We actually had two days twice a day driving tours through this game area. It was not a hunting area but the animals did whenever they want it so the sole horse. Animals eating kill two whenever. I have several pitches of that.

Judy.: Let's take a look.

Betsy.: We have some neat pictures. We saw wildlife from babies to bucks to everything but a course we always look are the big five and that's the predators. The next one you see the rhinos which of course have some issues with people trying to poach there's a baby rhino there. We saw the zebras. They're not one of the big five but they were one of our big eight.

Judy.: I would say so. You've got to see a zebra.

Betsy.: It was a little bit chilly so though zebras for having a big time plane bucking around running. Some of the people that were there said O their fighting. It was just too young Males that we're doing as horses to so it was interesting to explain to them that's just normal play behavior. You can see it took that picture.

Judy.: You're getting a little too close Betsy I think.

Betsy.: It was a rebel camera but it wasn't a giant lens we were pretty close. So that lie in their look like he had to pay and we're laughing because.
Judy.: He'll also looks pretty well fed so there's not a big threat there.

Betsy.: Yes he had a bad rug. Of course you know they're we're not very bothered by as but we had to stay seated even if somebody started to crouch to get a better picture the driver would say sit down. It was just incredible. We kept on seeing picture after picture. These guys were wild dogs and they were really cute as you can see. They're lying there in a pack of three. And he was just walking across the road and it shows you that they are wild. These guys are pretty close to extinct so I guess we're very lucky to have seen them. How about a 6 to 8 months old little guy here. And of course if you look that guy has a little bird taking out of this ear. That's an African buffalo. We were corrected that they're not water buffalo.

Judy.: Good as I would've said water buffalo.

Betsy.: We did and heard that quickly. Of course a day old baby elephant. Is that not the cutest thing you've ever seen? And the last thing we actually had an experience of elephant whisperers for example where we get a chance to interact with these guys. It was really a neat experience.

Judy.: It's going to be hard to top that.

Betsy.: It was incredible.

Judy.: Are you writing a or publishing a new work now?

Betsy.: I have meetings that have presentations coming up in July. Actually just got an abstract accepted in Holland at those Isis equitation science meetings in October so I have a lot coming up.

Judy.: great thanks so much for being with us today.

Betsy.: My pleasure.

Judy.: That's our program for today I'm Judy Simpson will see you again next time on across the fence

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