By better understanding the economic, ecological, and social dimensions of bioproducts production in Maine, I decided in 2007 to return to graduate school at UMaine to study forest ecology and natural resource economics in an effort to better integrate these two perspectives in order to address pressing environmental issues. My M.S. dissertation was on the production of carbon nanotubes and is now working in the laboratory of Professor Barry Goodell as a Post-Doctoral Research Associate. Xinfeng's dissertation was on the production of carbon nanotubes from wood and plant fiber. Carbon nanotubes currently are very expensive to produce and are in high demand. Producing them from wood fiber offers some exciting opportunities for future use of forest products. Congratulations to Dr. Xie!

Students Receive Top Honors

Wood Science Ph.D. student Gloria Oporto took 1st place in the graduate student poster competition at the Society of Wood Science & Technology's annual Meeting in Chile. Gloria's poster, coauthored with her dissertation adviser Doug Gardner, described her research with wood plastic composites manufactured from hot water extracted wood.

Wood Science senior Benjamin Jones was recently awarded the J. Harry Rich Scholarship for $1,500 by the New England Kiln Drying Association. Ben has a strong interest in bioenergy systems, and has been strengthening his background and education in the development of pellet manufacturing systems.

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Graduate Student Profile

Jim Marciano

I received my B.S. in economics from Goucher College in 1992, followed by an MBA from the University of Massachusetts in 1997. After graduation, I spent 10 years with a large East Coast insurance company underwriting hedge funds, venture capital funds, investment banks, and asset managers. Throughout my business career, I spent much of my free time in the woods, where I’ve always felt a deep connection with the land. Over time, as I juggled between the business and natural worlds, it became increasingly clear to me that our current economic structure is unsustainable in both an economic and ecological sense. For this reason, I decided in 2007 to return to graduate school at UMaine to study forest ecology and natural resource economics in an effort to better integrate these two perspectives in order to address pressing environmental issues. My M.S. research examines the socioeconomic factors influencing the viability of bioproducts production in Maine. My hope is that by better understanding the economic, ecological, and social dimensions of new forest-based industries, we can accelerate our transition toward a more sustainable, renewable resource-based economy.

“Name the Newsletter” Contest

We received nearly 50 suggestions for naming our new Newsletter. After two rounds of voting by students, staff and faculty, the winning entry is "Branching Out—University of Maine School of Forest Resources Newsletter" (see front page masthead). Thanks to the dozens of Alums that sent in suggestions, we always enjoy hearing from you! And a special thanks to Patrick Scholz and Jamie Weaver, who both suggested the winning entry. As winners, they will each receive a UMaine Woodsman T-shirt and SFR baseball cap.

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SFR to Host Mainie Envirothon Competition

Maine's 2009 Envirothon competition will take place on May 28th at the Orono campus. Envirothon is a state- and nation-wide environmental competition where high school students test their knowledge of natural resources and current environmental issues. Last year, we had over 40 teams from 30 Maine high schools participate. The top three teams from each Regional Envirothon go on to compete at the State Final. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Tish Carr, Envirothon Coordinator, at (207) 495-2392.

In complying with the letter and spirit of applicable laws and pursing its own goals of diversity, the University of Maine shall not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, including transgender status or gender expression, national origin, citizenship status, age, disability, or veteran's status in employment, education, and all other areas of the University System. The University provides reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities upon request.

Questions and complaints about discrimination in any area of the University should be directed to the Director of Equal Opportunity, the University of Maine, 5754 North Street Hall, Room 101, Orono, ME 04469-5754, telephone (207) 581-1226 (voice and TTY).
Leonard’s Mills, located in Bradley, Maine, represents the successful efforts of a community in the 1790s that could work together, and it also reflects the successful efforts of today’s community to learn more about our heritage. The living museum now plays a useful role in helping the School of Forest Resources build a sense of community for its undergraduate students. Last September, the current students joined the efforts of the incoming undergraduate class as they cleared away brush and debris from the grounds of Leonard’s Mill and surrounding trails.

Forty-two students and five faculty worked the afternoon to help prepare the grounds for a busy autumn. The hard work also helped everyone become acquainted with new faces, and the day was the first of many more common experiences for new and returning students. The prediction of heavy rains was fortunately a bit premature, and the work could be completed without the need for rain suits or wet jackets. The group returned to Nutting Hall for a demonstration by the UMaine Woodsmen’s Team, followed by some Pat’s pizza provided by the Maine Division of the Society of American Foresters. The success of the day will likely lead to an annual event for the School as part of celebrating the start of a new academic year and the welcoming of new students.

Cover story continued from page 1

Tanglewood Camp

Introducing new students to forest resources, and more

Incoming undergraduate students once again began fall semester a week early to experience “Camp” at the Tanglewood 4H Camp and Learning Center in Lincolnville. Professor Bill Livingston and graduate student instructor Will Mercier, Spencer Perry, and Nicole Mercier guided 28 new students as they learned compass and pacing, axe use and fire making, forest type mapping and inventory, ecology, and trail maintenance. An important goal of camp is to ease the transition to college. Indeed, after a week in the woods enjoying camp meals, evening soccer, and smoky campfires, students develop lasting friendships and return to campus with a strong support network. “One class won’t ensure the success of a new student,” says Livingston, “but the Tanglewood Camp has clearly provided them with a good start that reflects positively on themselves and the School.” Camp programs included appearances by professor Doug Gardner, Al Kimball, Bob Lilieholm, Bob Wagner and Jeremy Wilson. Robbins Lumber in Searsport hosted a day-long tour of their white pine mill and woodlots, followed by a trip to the Maine Center for Furniture Craftsmanship in Rockport. Thanks to everyone that helped to make this year’s camp a success!

SFRI Fishing Tournament

Graduate students easily trumped the faculty in our 1st Annual SFRI Fishing Tournament. The widely anticipated event attracted 27 entries to the banks of the Stillwater River adjacent to campus. Graduate student Julia Briedis caught the largest fish (15.5” pickerel and a 14.5” bass). Professor Bob Wagner caught the largest fish among the faculty (13” bass). Grad student Matt Olson caught the greatest cumulative length of fish (66.7” over 7 fish), followed by Julia (62.3’ over 5 fish). Among faculty, Bob Wagner caught the greatest cumulative fish (21.5” over two bass), and Al Kimball caught the smallest fish (+4” baby bass). Bob Seymour won the Klutz Award for breaking his rod tip, banging his head on the boat ramp gate while launching his canoe, snagging three lines at once, and forgetting to charge his trolling-motor battery. Thanks to all that participated! And a special thanks to Bob Seymour and his wife Carol for hosting the post-tournament celebration.

ECANUSA Conference a Success

On October 17-18, over 140 forest scientists, graduate students, managers and policy makers convened at UMaine for ECANUSA—a two-day conference to foster communications across the US-Canadian border about forest science issues relating to the Acadian Forest. ECANUSA is a terrific venue for graduate students to present their research, and this year 57 students participated. The Conference’s theme centered on the impacts of climate change and bioenergy. Four keynote addresses, 56 oral presentations, and 36 posters brought together state-of-the-art knowledge from all corners of the Acadian Forest. School of Forest Resources and USDA Forest Service folks organized a field tour to the Producer Experimental Forest to showcase the decades of long-term ecological and silvicultural research. Conference organizers Bob Wagner and Spencer Meyer would like to thank all the SFR faculty, graduate students, alumni and others who helped make ECANUSA 2008 a success. ECANUSA was sponsored by SFR, the Cooperative Forestry Research Unit and the Center for Research on Sustainable Forests. For more information see www.csf.umaine.edu/ECANUSA.

New Faculty Profiles

Dr. Anthony Halogy joined the School of Forest Resources in July of 2008. Prior to joining UMaine, Anthony was a Visiting Researcher at the Canadian National Research Council, where he used quantitative and systems-based approaches to assess the sustainability of new technologies in the Canadian oil sands industry. Anthony received his doctorate in economics with a focus in sustainability and environmental management from the University of Karlsruhe in Germany. Later, he participated in advanced postgraduate training at the United Nations University in the area of sustainability science. Anthony’s research is wide-ranging, allowing him to work with academic and industrial scientists in addressing the sustainability of products and services—particularly those derived from forest resources. Next fall, he will be offering a course on life cycle assessment.

Dr. Melissa Baker joined the School of Forest Resources in August of 2008. Melissa received her Ph.D. in forestry with an emphasis on outdoor recreation management and protected area planning from the University of Montana. While there, she also received a certificate in natural resources conflict resolution. Melissa’s research is focused on understanding the recreation behavior of visitors of parks and public lands. Her most recent work includes a multi-year study at Glacier National Park evaluating visitors’ decisions toward alternative transportation. Melissa is currently teaching an upper division and a lower division course in outdoor recreation management. In the spring she will be teaching a senior-level course on sustainable tourism and a newly developed course on park systems of the world.

Robert Crowley (B.S. 1975) was recently named the winner of the 17th episode of CBS Survivor: Gabon–Earth’s Last Eden. Bob, 57, is the oldest contestant to ever win the show, and took home a $1 million prize. Crowley lives in Portland, Maine, and teaches high school physics in Gorham. Described as a cross between Indiana Jones and Robinson Crusoe, Crowley loves the outdoors and is always ready for adventure. Past exploits include first mate on a Smithsonian vessel, USDA entomologist—even a stint as a “skunk re-locator.” He’s also been active with his local teachers’ union. When not on an adventure, Bob’s interests include journal writing, story-telling, photography, bone collecting, archeology, and camping. A hearty congratulations to Bob from all of us at Nutting Hall!

University of Maine Woodsmen’s Team (May 1974)

George Jones and Joel Swanton (Team Captain) sawyers, assisted by (left to right) Frank Conlon, Dennis Burnell, Bob Stevens, and Dana Hall. (Photo by David Parker)