



School of Forest Resources
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BRANCHING OUT

University of Maine School of Forest Resources Newsletter

UMaine Composite Facility Named Champion for Economic Development

The University of Maine's wood composite facility has been hailed a Champion for Economic Development by the **Maine Development Foundation**.

The **Advanced Engineered Wood Composites Center** was presented the award last fall at MDF's 30th annual meeting at the Augusta Civic Center.

"The award belongs to every faculty, staff and student that's worked in the AEWCC," said **Habib Dagher**, the Center's Director. "We're pleased and really humbled that the Maine Development Foundation has selected us for this wonderful award."

The award exemplifies the AEWCC's commitment to research, education and economic development that focuses on material science and structural application of hybrid composites. One of the Center's goals is to actively pursue commercialization, entrepreneurship, and job creation in Maine and beyond.

Over the last seven years, the AEWCC has helped more
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UMaine graduate student Kate Beaumont adjusting LVDT to measure sample displacement during a boat hull structural test.

Director's Welcome



This is my first newsletter as new Director of the School of Forest Resources. I am gratified by the wonderful support that I have received from students, faculty, and many from the state's forestry community since taking over on July 1, 2008. I am honored to be serving the School in this important position.

I come to this position after being a silviculture professor and Director of the Cooperative Forestry Research Unit (CFRU) at UMaine for the past ten years. As a result, I am familiar with Maine as well as most of the leaders of the state and regional forestry community. This background has allowed me to appreciate the great importance of forest resources to the economy, environment, and future of Maine. I also bring forest research experience from the Pacific Northwest and Canada that help me understand the North American context for Maine's forest resources and industry.

There are few places in the U.S. where forest resources education and research are more important than in Maine. It is my goal during my tenure as Director *to maintain and strengthen the reputation of UMaine's School of Forest Resources as one of the nation's top forest resources teaching and research institutions.* Maine's forests will face a number of challenges and opportunities over the coming decades, and the School must work hard to produce graduates and research information that will help industry and government address both.

On behalf of the faculty, I want to thank **Dr. Steve Reiling**, who served as Interim Director of the School from July 2006 – 2008. Steve did a fantastic job getting the new School of Forest Resources "off the ground." Successfully blending two academic departments is a tough duty. Steve did it with such grace and diplomacy that the transition was seamless. We wish Steve the very best with his sabbatical at Virginia Tech.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like additional information about SFR.

Robert G. Wagner, Director
Email: bob_wagner@umenfa.maine.edu
Phone: 207-581-4737

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 human 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 mast-head). Thanks to the dozens of Alums that sent in suggestions, we always enjoying 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 Woodsmen T-shirt and SFR baseball cap.

Students Receive Top Honors



Gloria Oporto

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.



Benjamin Jones



Xinfeng Xie

Dr. Xinfeng Xie recently obtained his Ph.D. at UMaine 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!

SFR to Host Maine 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 Finals. 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 pursuing 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 Stevens Hall, Room 101, Orono, ME 04469-5754, telephone (207) 581-1226 (voice and TTY).



www.forest.umaine.edu



Service Project at Leonard's Mills

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 freshmen 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

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than 80 Maine companies through spin-off endeavors from the lab, the development of new products, or by improving already existing products.

"That's what caught people's attention," Dagher said, noting that MDF received 48 nominations for the award from across the state. "We're truly humbled that we were selected among this long list of deserving companies and groups."

The three other organizations named Champions for Economic Development were The Jackson Laboratory, Poland Spring Bottling Company, and Unum.



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 instructors **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 professors **Doug Gardner**, **Al Kimball**, **Rob Lilieholm**, **Bob Wagner** and **Jeremy Wilson**. **Robbins Lumber** in Searsmont hosted a day-long tour of their white pine mill and woodlots, followed by a trip to the **Maine Center for Furniture Craftmanship** in Rockport. Thanks to everyone that helped to make this year's camp a success!



SFR Fishing Tournament

Graduate students easily trumped the faculty in our 1st Annual SFR 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 Seymour** 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.



UMaine Forestry Alum Bob Crowley Wins CBS "Survivor"

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!

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 Penobscot 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.crsf.umaine.edu/ECANUSA.

New Faculty Profiles



Dr. Anthony Halog

Dr. Anthony Halog 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

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.

A Flash from the Past...



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)