**School of Forest Resources Newsletter**

**Director’s Welcome**

This has been a busy and exciting year for the forestry program at the University of Maine. As many of you already know, the Departments of Forest Management and Forest Ecosystem Science merged in July of 2006 to form the new School of Forest Resources (SFR). The School serves as the academic home for five undergraduate programs: Forestry; Forest Ecosystem Science and Conservation; Forest Operations; Parks, Recreation and Tourism; and Wood Science. It also administers the Master of Forestry program and M.S. and Ph.D. programs in Forest Resources, and participates in UMaine’s Ecology and Environmental Studies program. We currently enroll about 135 undergraduate students, along with 45 graduates pursuing advanced degrees.

One of the School’s highest priorities is to maintain and enhance contact with you—our valued alumni. This Newsletter marks the beginning of that effort, and we plan to publish a fall and spring edition each year. As a group, the thousands of alumni of UMaine’s forestry program have been extraordinarily generous with their time and financial support, and have been instrumental in helping us ensure that our academic and research programs keep relevant in our rapidly changing world. We appreciate your dedication to our profession and UMaine, and look forward to an even more open dialogue with you in the months and years ahead.

There are many exciting things happening in the School, including the extraordinary opportunities provided by the $12-million George L. Houston Scholarship Fund, described in the next column. The Houston Fund is just the latest in a series of exciting forestry initiatives at UMaine, including the newly-created Center for Research on Sustainable Forests, the Advanced Engineered Wood Composites Center, the Cooperative Forestry Research Unit, and the $10-million National Science Foundation-funded Forest Bioproducts Research Initiative. Details about these programs and others appear elsewhere in this Newsletter. We hope you enjoy this edition of the Newsletter, and look forward to hearing from you soon. Best regards.

Steve Reiling, Interim Director

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**Forestry Events**

- **UMaine Homecoming**
  - October 12-14
- **Forest Products Society Annual Meeting**
  - October 19-21, Bangor Ramada Inn, Bangor, ME
- **Forestry Expo**
  - April 26, 2008, Portland Exposition Building
  - For more information contact Summer Allen at 207-581-3794 or visit www.cnf.umaine.edu

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**Students in the News**

Matthew Foster—Non-traditional Student Award

**SFR Faculty Receive Top College Honors**

This year, SFR faculty received top honors in the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry and Agriculture. Dr. Bob Wagner was recognized as the Pierce-Webber Outstanding Forest Resources Researcher. Dr. Jeremy Wilson received the Pierce-Webber Outstanding Forestry Teaching Award. Dr. Jessica Leahy was named both the College’s Undergraduate Advisor of the Year and Graduate Student Mentor of the Year. Dr. Barry Goodell was recognized by Oregon State University’s College of Forestry as its Outstanding Alumnus in 2007.

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**Nutting Hall gets a Facelift**

The courtyard in front of Nutting Hall has received a major facelift with the addition of a 9-foot bronze sculpture. Entitled “Cubscout,” the sculpture of three black bear cubs was designed and cast by noted Maine sculptor Forest Hart. Generous donations from a host of businesses and alumni supported the new granite-lined entrance to Nutting Hall in celebration of the School’s 100-year anniversary.

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**HELP! We need a NAME for the newsletter**

The winner will receive a SFR hat and UMaine T-shirt. Submit your entries to Dolores Stone at 207-581-2887 or email her at stone@umenfa.maine.edu

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**SFR Interim Director Steve Reiling announcing the Houston Award, flanked by SFR students Spencer Perry and Nicole Mercier.**

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**May Term “Summer Camp”**

We had a successful program, and for the first time in many years mother nature cooperated with mostly sunny weather. During the first week the students were exposed to and trained in the operation of over one million dollars worth of forestry equipment loaned to us by CAT Milton, Beauregard Equipment, The Oliver Stuarts and the University Forest. During the second and third weeks, the students worked with UMaine faculty and academia National Park staff to complete several projects, including timber cruising, re-vegetation of areas damaged by ATVs, and the mapping of roads and streams using GPS. They also milled over 2,000 board feet of lumber and restored a vista along a section of the Park’s carriage road at the northern end of Jordan Pond. A feature story on the vista restoration work appeared on Bill Green’s Maine (Portland’s WCSH TV station) on July 14, 2007. Contact us for a free CD of the program.

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**In complying with the latter and spirit of applicable laws and practices in our 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 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) 581-1126 (voice and TTY).**
The Center for Research on Sustainable Forests (CRSF) has just celebrated its first full year of operation under the direction of Dr. Bruce Wiersma. Formed to serve as an informational clearing house for forest scientists and the public, CRSF now houses the Cooperative Forestry Research Unit—a joint partnership between Maine forestry managers and UMaine since 1975. The CRSF complements UMaine’s new School of Forest Resources, and has over 30 cooperating faculty members across the University. Additionally, the center is a part of the Northeastern States Cooperative Research—a competitive grants program that funds research on the 26-million-acre Northern Forest, which covers much of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York.

In 2007, CRSF funded seven new research projects and one Ph.D. student. CRSF is also a member of Forests for Maine’s Future—a public education and outreach partnership with the Maine TREE Foundation, the Maine Forest Service, and the Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine. A Forestry Expo was held in Portland last fall, with a final planned for spring 2008. CRSF has also resurrected UMaine’s Munusungan Fund to support meetings and workshops related to forestry issues. Two half-day workshops were held last year, with one leading to the creation of a new long-term monitoring and prediction project named ForCAST, which is shaping up to be an exciting interdisciplinary endeavor for CRSF and its cooperating researchers.

Huston Fund continued from page 1

The Houston Scholarship Fund will be used to support and grow undergraduate and graduate enrollment in the School of Forest Resources. The generosity of Mr. Houston’s gift allows us to offer students a wide range of scholarships, including full and partial tuition, stipends for books and fees, opportunities for field study and international studies abroad, research and teaching assistantships, and more. In fact, the magnitude of Mr. Houston’s gift allows UMaine’s School of Forest Resources to quadruple its already generous scholarship programs, placing it at the forefront of forestry programs nationwide.

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