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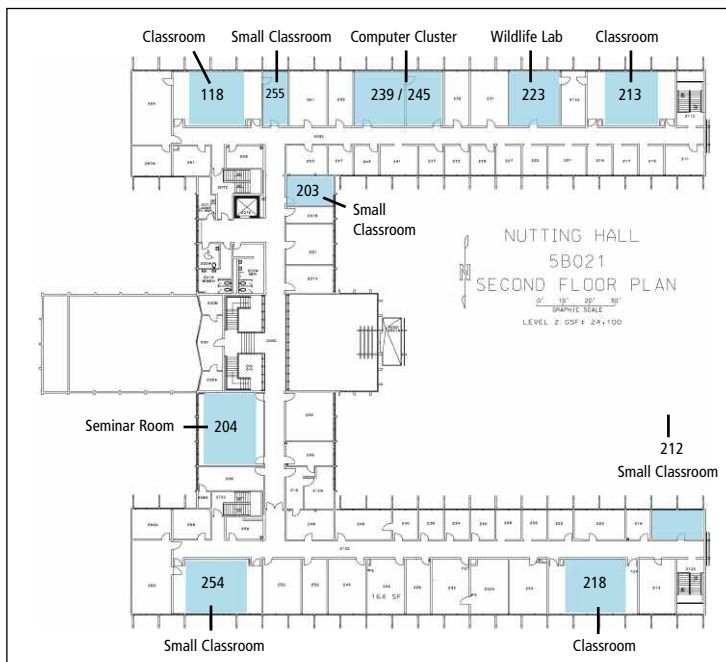
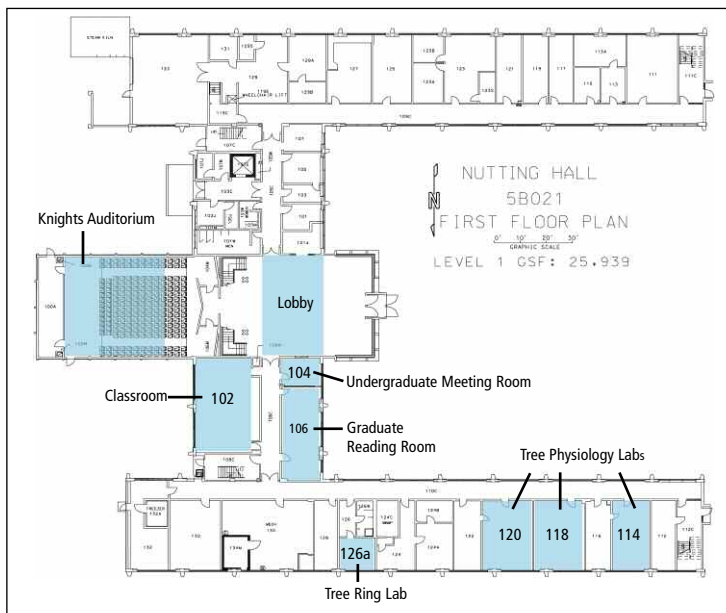


# BRANCHING OUT

University of Maine School of Forest Resources Newsletter

## Nutting Hall Renovation *continued from page 1*

Rooms available for naming are shown in blue, and include the lobby and atrium, as well as many labs and classrooms.



## Student Honors and Activities



Brandon Harriman    Amanda Bailey    Yucheng Peng

**Brandon Harriman** and **Amanda Bailey** received top academic honors from SFR. Brandon was awarded the **Robert I. Ashman Award**, and Amanda received the **Dwight B. Demeritt Award**. Congratulations Brandon and Amanda!

Graduate students **Alper Kiziltas** and **Yucheng Peng** earned Honorable Mention and a cash prize for their posters at the Society of Plastic Engineers Polymer Nanocomposites conference at Lehigh University.

SFR supported a number of students attending professional conferences last fall. Undergraduate **Sean Hutchinson** attended the 7th World Forestry Institute's timberland investment conference in Portland, Oregon. Undergraduates **Henry Kay** and **Eli Shank**, along with master's students **Patrick Lyons**, **Erika Gorczyca**, and **Emma Shultz**, attended the Society of American Foresters Annual Convention in Honolulu, Hawaii.

## Faculty in the News

**Dr. Jessica Leahy** has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure. Congratulations Jessica!

**Dr. Barry Goodell** recently left UMaine to lead Virginia Tech's Department of Wood Science and Forest Products.

**Dr. Anthony Halog**, Assistant Professor in Industrial Ecology and Life Cycle Analysis at SFR, received the prestigious Organization for Economic Cooperation Development Research Fellowship to conduct his research project on sustainable forest bioenergy at the Finnish Forest Research Institute last summer.

## Director's Welcome



Welcome to another issue of *Branching Out!* This newsletter is one way we keep in touch with our alumni about what is happening at UMaine's School of Forest Resources.

First, we were very saddened with the sudden loss of two of our close alumni who were very active in Maine's forestry community. **Steve Coleman** and **Hugh**

**Violette** were both members of the Cooperative Forestry Research Unit's Advisory Committee, and actively contributed to our program in a variety of ways. We dedicate this issue of *Branching Out* to Steve and Hugh (see insert).

The SFR faculty has worked hard over the past year to revise our curriculum, and we have received positive feedback from a number of our alumni. The new curriculum, which includes many new and revised courses, includes three majors – Forestry; Parks, Recreation, & Tourism; and Forest Operations, Bioproducts & Bioenergy. Implementation is scheduled for Fall 2012.

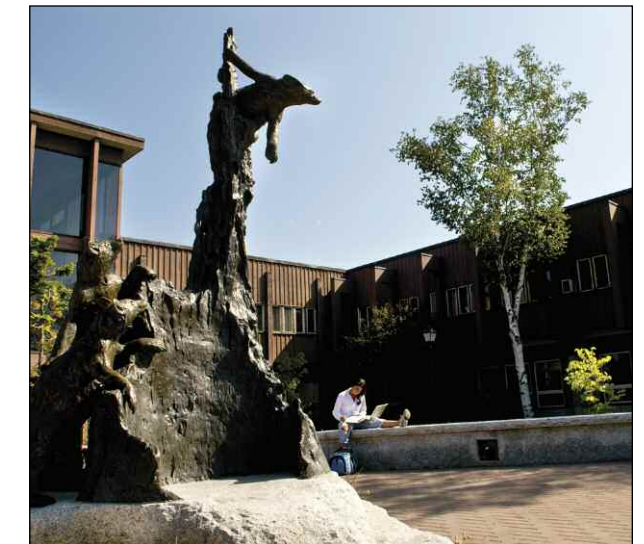
A much needed energy renovation to Nutting Hall also is underway. Based on public support from a 2010 bond measure, Nutting Hall will receive new windows, insulation, siding, and a new roof (see related story). Construction is scheduled to begin in May 2012 and be completed by September.

As part of the Nutting renovation, we have had an open invitation to name classrooms or laboratories with an endowment that will allow us to do critical renovations of Nutting's interior. I am thrilled to report the first named laboratory in Nutting Hall – the **Barbara Wheatland Geospatial Analysis Laboratory** (see related story). The new laboratory will include 30 computer workstations with state-of-the-art hardware and software, furniture, and lighting. This new lab will help ensure that our graduates have the best training in GIS and geospatial analysis – areas critical to sustainable forest management.

As always, thanks again for your continued support, and feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the School.

*Robert G. Wagner*

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



## Nutting Hall to be Renovated

Big improvements are coming to Nutting Hall thanks to funding from the State of Maine's Energy Bond Issue of 2010. The renovations will include heating and cooling updates and the replacement of insulation, siding, roofing, and nearly 600 windows on the exterior of the building.

Campus visitors might have noticed the absence of the trees around Nutting this year. As part of the renovation process, the trees were removed to allow better access to the building. Wood from the trees was partially sold as biofuels, and the rest was sent to the Woodsman's Team to cut and sell as firewood.

According to Professor **Louis Morin**, "nearly 100 tree species native to Maine will be planted by volunteers for use as an outdoor classroom after the completion of the project."

Renovations will begin May 1st of 2012 and are scheduled to be completed by September 29th. Tree planting will take place soon thereafter.

*continued on back page*



SFR grad student Alper Kiziltas shows Governor Paul LePage the engineered wood-composite, ballistic-panel material developed at UMaine to help protect US soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan.

scenarios for Maine's forestlands, advanced engineered wood composites, and family forests. A number of legislators and Governor LePage visited our display. Kudos to the graduate students who represented us so well!

### Students Showcase Forest Resources

The School of Forest Resources brought several of our students to Augusta to show legislators and **Governor Paul LePage** how important forest resources are to Maine's economy. Graduate students **Mason Earles** (M.S.), **Michelle Johnson** (Ph.D.), **Alper Kiziltas** (Ph.D.), and **Patrick Lyons** (M.S.) went to the Hall of Flags in the State Capital building to showcase the research they are doing on life cycle analysis of wood-based biofuels, future



### School of Forest Resources Hosts Job Fair

Our annual Summer Outdoor Job Fair turned out to be a promising venture for the School and outdoor employers around the region. A wide range of

employers attended, including forest industry, government agencies, environmental consultants, summer camps, arborists, and non-governmental organizations. Employers were pleased with the turnout and the quality of the applicants, and some opted to hold on-site interviews immediately following the job fair. The success of the event was in large part due to the efforts of UMaine's SAF student chapter, SFR and Wells Center staff, and funding from the School.

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).



Bob Wagner leads CFRU discussion

### CFRU Fall Field Tour

A diverse group of landowners, managers, forest products companies, conservation organizations, and state agencies had a first-hand look at forestry research during a tour hosted by UMaine's **Cooperative Forestry Research Unit**. Around 90 attendees representing 8.5 million acres of Maine's working forests participated in the tour, which was sponsored by **Plum Creek Timber Company**. Organizations included **Baxter State Park**, **The Nature Conservancy**, **Maine Bureau of Parks & Lands**, **Forest Society of Maine**, **Katahdin Forest Management**, **Prentiss & Carlisle** and others.

The tour provided an opportunity to discuss pressing issues facing Maine's forests, and showcased results from forestry research in the areas of wood supply, economics, forest pests, harvesting and wildlife. The centerpiece was a visit to the Austin Pond site established in 1977 to study regeneration methods in forests affected by spruce budworm. There, participants saw the productivity gains from herbicide treatment and pre-commercial thinning. CFRU has more than 30 member organizations and was created in 1975 to leverage the resources of forest landowners and researchers in finding effective, science-based solutions to forest management challenges.



### UMaine Woodsmen's Team

The Woodsmen Team won 1st place last year competing against Unity College, the University of New

Hampshire, and the University of New Brunswick. The Team is looking forward to an exciting spring semester as they prepare for the Annual Home Meet on March 24, and practice for the Northeast Collegiate Spring Meet Championship at Dartmouth in early April.



### The Power of Community Service

Advanced undergraduates in **Roger Merchant's** Principles of Tourism Planning & Management applied classroom learning in two Maine communities. An earlier class had conducted a "First Impressions" tourism assessment for the Town of Greenville. In 2011, students worked with Milo-Brownville on a Tourism Sustainability Plan to help promote tourism and economic development. Integrating community service with academic learning yielded multiple benefits. Students gained real-world experience, communities gained credible information with application to local tourism action plans, and the whole UMaine engagement relationship was significantly enhanced for all partners.

"Foresters face conflicts about competing forest uses. Coming into this class, I only saw the logging point of view. This course has given me insight into the views of tourists and outdoor recreationists, and some skills to bridge the conflicts between these interests."

— Justin Soucy, SFR student

### Barbara Wheatland Geospatial Lab

UMaine forest resource students will have access to state-of-the-art geospatial technology thanks to the Maine Timberlands Charitable Trust (MTCT), which generously provided a \$200,000 gift to create and endow the **Barbara Wheatland Geospatial Analysis Laboratory** in Nutting Hall. The new lab will guarantee that nearly 200 SFR students have the best GIS and geospatial analysis training—training which is so critical to sustainable forest management. The new lab will include 30 computer workstations with the latest hardware and software, furniture and lighting. The lab will be established as part of the Nutting Hall renovation that is occurring during the summer of 2012.

The MTCT was established after Ms. Wheatland's death in 2010 to support forest management, as well as related education and research. Barbara was a member of the Pingree family, which owns and manages extensive timberlands in Maine, and was deeply committed to the conservation of Maine's timberland and research that can promote economic development and environmental quality.



### Acadian Internship in Regional Conservation

Nearly a dozen students from around the world participated in the inaugural offering of the Acadian Internship program held at **Acadia National Park** last summer. This innovative program combined formal coursework offered for credit through UMaine's Summer University with a 4-week paid internship with the goal of fostering landscape-scale stewardship across Downeast Maine. Students came from as far away as South Africa to participate. Intern sponsors included the **Downeast Lakes Land Trust**, the **Downeast Salmon Federation**, the **Washington County Council of Governments**, and the **Quebec-Labrador Foundation**. Students worked on projects ranging from stream restoration and parcel mapping, to sustainable agriculture and public outreach. Professors **Rob Lilieholm** (SFR) and **Megan Gahl** (Bates College) organized the program, which included guest lectures by nearly two dozen speakers. The Acadian Internship Program is sponsored by the Quebec-Labrador Foundation, **Schoodic Education and Research Center**, the **Frenchman Bay Conservancy**, and the University of Maine, and is offered in partnership with Acadia National Park. Planning is underway for the summer of 2012 (see [acadianinternship.wordpress.com](http://acadianinternship.wordpress.com) for more information).



From left to right: Dr. Susan Hunter (UMaine Provost), Doug Denico (Director, Maine Forest Service), and Dr. Paul Ferguson (UMaine President) in front of Maine Forest Service helicopter.

### New UMaine President Tours Maine Forests

UMaine's new President, **Dr. Paul Ferguson**, got an aerial view of the importance of Maine's forests to the state's economy, identity, and future. SFR Director **Dr. Bob Wagner** organized the trip for President Ferguson and **Provost Susan Hunter**. **Doug Denico**, Director of

the Maine Forest Service, graciously hosted and served as guide using one of the state's helicopters. The tour went north around Baxter State Park and Moosehead Lake, viewing forest and mill operations. **American Forest Management** also provided a view of ground-based forest operations near Old Town.