

Student Honors and Activities

Undergraduate student **Matthew Scaccia** (Parks, Recreation and Tourism) was chosen to attend the Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow (CLfT) conference in Vermont this September. CLfT is a professional development program that focuses on conservation education and hunting awareness. It is a four-day workshop that blends interactive classroom discussion with field experiences, giving participants an opportunity to engage with leading natural resource professionals and conservationists.

SFR's **Binod Neupane** was one of 10 Ph.D. students from around the world selected to attend a special summer course on sustainability for coupled human and natural systems organized by the University of Hokkaido in Japan. While there, Binod participated in a poster session describing his research. In June, Binod won the best 1st Time NAC-SETAC Poster Presentation award at the North Atlantic Chapter of the Society for Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry conference in Rhode Island.

Yucheng Peng won 1st place in the 2012 Forest Product Society (FPS) Wood Award competition for a paper he authored. The Wood Award is intended to recognize and honor outstanding research conducted by graduate students in the field of wood science and wood products. The Wood Award is the most prestigious FPS award for graduate research.

At the Society of Plastics Engineers' (SPE) Automotive Composites Conference and Exhibition (ACCE), graduate student **Alper Kiziltas** received the SPE ACCE Graduate Scholarship and the Best Poster award. Each year, only two students in the U.S. are selected for this scholarship through a rigorous process based upon each student's research.



Doctoral students **Spencer Meyer** and **Michelle Johnson** gave an invited presentation on their alternative futures modeling research at the Harvard Forest's conference on future forest scenarios.

Michelle Johnson and
Spencer Meyer discuss the
lower Penobscot River
project

Molly Lizotte, Student Newsletter Editor

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Faculty in the News

Drs. Jeff Benjamin and **Rob Lilieholm** received tenure and Jeff was promoted to Associate Professor. Congratulations Jeff and Rob.

A publication co-authored by **Professor Stephen Shaler** has received both the First Place George Marra Award for Excellence in Writing and the Markwardt Wood Engineering Award. These awards by the Society of Wood Science and Technology (SWST) and the Forest Products Society (FPS) will be presented in Beijing, China, and Washington, D.C., at each organization's annual conventions.

Professor Douglas Gardner has been elected as a Fellow in the Society of Wood Science and Technology (SWST), and was recognized for this honor at the SWST Annual Meeting in Beijing, China, in August. To qualify as a Fellow one must have offered significant contributions to the SWST and the profession of wood science and technology.



Branching Out

University of Maine School of Forest Resources Newsletter Fall 2012



Director's Welcome

Welcome to another issue of *Branching Out*. It has been an unusually dynamic summer and fall for the school. The renovation of Nutting Hall is nearly complete and it looks fantastic. New siding, roof, windows and insulation have transformed the building. Construction of the new **Barbara Wheatland Geospatial**

Analysis Laboratory is underway, and **Plum Creek** has generously endowed the interior renovation of Room 204 — our most widely used conference room.

At our awards ceremony last spring, 58 students received \$220,000 in scholarships from more than 60 named funds. The **George Houston Scholarship** alone provided \$103,000 — nearly doubling our awards. **Albro Cowperthwaite, Jr.** (1976 B.S. in Parks Management) received the Distinguished Alumni Award in recognition of his long career promoting recreation and tourism in Maine's North Woods. And, a very generous donation by **Dr. Robert J. Weir** and **Jane Carter Weir** will establish a new Forest Resources Professorship in coming years.

Last spring, we conferred 35 B.S. degrees (up 20 percent from the past 5-year average), and 20 graduate degrees (18 masters and two Ph.D's., double the 5-year average). We also have one of the largest incoming classes in years — 32 new students. **Dr. Jeff Benjamin** was awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, and **Dr. Rob Lilieholm** was awarded tenure. Congratulations to Jeff and Rob. Unfortunately, **Drs. Jeremy Wilson** and **Anthony Halog** left UMaine to pursue other career options, and **Dr. Tom Brann** retired. All positions are being replaced — including one in Nature-Based Tourism to strengthen our Parks, Recreation and Tourism Program; and a new position in Carbon and Climate Dynamics in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service. Finally, after several years of planning, this fall we initiated the new curricula for our three new majors.

As always, feel free to contact me if you'd like more information about the school. We greatly appreciate your continued support.

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Nutting Hall nearing completion, September 2012

Nutting Hall Renovations

There are some big changes in Nutting Hall this Fall as a large renovation project is underway. Construction began May 7 and is scheduled to be completed October 20. So far, 584 windows have been replaced, exterior wall systems have been insulated, new siding has been applied, and buttresses have been modified. A higher R-value insulation has been installed on the roof, as well as a new roof system. The old and outdated ventilation system has been removed from the roof and a new, more efficient ventilation system has been installed. Nutting's main auditorium has new trusses to reinforce the roof, as well as new heating, air conditioning and ventilation systems. Over 40 new heating zones can be found throughout the building, and 2nd floor offices have been provided with the duct work needed to install individual out-of-window AC units if desired. A new fire alarm system is in place to ensure the highest level of safety.

Plans for the renovations continue into the Spring Semester when students and faculty will gather on Maine Day, April 24 2013, to plant nearly 100 native tree species around the building for use as an outdoor classroom. Alumni, family and friends are welcome to participate.

forest.umaine.edu





Bennet Leon, SFR Representation at ACF National Conference

Students Showcase Forest Resources

This past June, **Bennet Leon**, a graduate student working towards a Master of Forestry degree, attended the Association of Consulting Foresters National Conference in Grand Rapids, Mich. Bennet developed an interest in the National Conference while attending Maine ACF chapter meetings in Waterville. In Michigan, Bennet attended a two-day course on practical business aspects and ethics of consulting forestry. He toured a local hardwood sawmill and a 600-acre certified tree farm composed of mixed hardwoods and white pine forest.

Attending the conference would not have been possible without the assistance of ACF, the School of Forest Resources, and Bennet's advisor, **Dr. Jeffrey Benjamin**. Many thanks to the Chair of the Maine ACF chapter, **Todd Caldwell**, for his assistance in making this trip possible.

"Connecting with and asking questions of seasoned foresters was invaluable. There is much to learn from their experience," said Bennet.



UMaine Woodsmen's Team

The Woodsmen's team hosted a fun and exciting Home Meet last March before respectfully finishing-off the season at Dartmouth College for the Northeast Collegiate Spring Meet Championship. Spirits are running high as the men's and women's teams begin to practice for the Fall Semester at Roger F. Taylor Hall. High levels of interest from the incoming Freshman class, paired with a strong force of knowledgeable returning upperclassmen competitors, will make for a successful season. During the Fall Semester, the team will compete at Unity College, Paul Smith's College in New York, and the University of New Hampshire.



High school students working on tree measurements at the Envirothon Field Day

SFR Hosts Envirothon Field Day

This past April, set amongst the trees at the Demeritt Forest, students from over 30 high schools in the state attended a Field Day for Envirothon — a competition sponsored by the NRCS Soil and Water Conservation District. The competition tests students' knowledge and skills related to forestry, wildlife, aquatics and soils. Students traverse from station-to-station to take a written and/or oral exam on each core subject area, and the team with the highest total score wins the State Meet with an option to compete at the National Meet. SFR hosted a regional competition in 2011 and the state competitions in 2009 and 2012, as well as many Fall Field Days. At each of the past seven state competitions, SFR has awarded a scholarship to a student newly enrolled in an SFR major. **Professor Bill Livingston** has generously contributed his time to the program, with the help of undergraduate and graduate students in SFR. The most recent Fall Field Day was held October 11, 2012 at Demeritt Forest.

SFR Student Scholarship Ceremony Awards over \$200,000

The School of Forest Resources Student Awards Ceremony held in April of 2012 was a huge success, with over \$200,000 in scholarship money distributed among current and incoming students. There were over 100 people in attendance, including award recipients and their guests, faculty and staff, donors and distinguished alumni. In all, 32 undergraduate students received awards, as well as seven graduate and 10 incoming students.



Cooperative Forestry Research Unit

The Cooperative Forestry Research Unit (CFRU), housed within the Center for Research on Sustainable Forests, is supported by over 30 of Maine's largest forest landowners, managers and wood processors representing over 8.3 million acres of forestland. Since 1975 these stakeholders have been working with scientists to solve some of the most

pressing issues facing the industry, beginning with the spruce budworm outbreak of the 1970s and 1980s. Today's CFRU research projects are diverse and explore various aspects of silviculture, forest growth and yield, and wildlife habitat. As in years past, the CFRU continues to rely on a large crew of student workers each summer to carry out field research around the state. Many SFR alumni can include a summer working on a CFRU field crew as part of their early forestry experience.

In Memoriam

Edward S. Connors, Class of 1980

A longtime employee of Superior Paper Co. in Bangor, Edward Connors was also a cherished husband, son, father, papa, brother and friend to all. At the time of his death, he was employed by C & L Aviation Services. He embraced life to the fullest. He valued family and friends and was a devoted caregiver to his loving wife of 27 years. Ed was also known as the mayor of the neighborhood in his hometown of Hermon, Maine.

George D. Carlisle, Class of 1935

George Carlisle notably served as treasurer, president and chairman of Prentiss & Carlisle Co. — a Bangor-based timberland owner and management company. George was a Fellow of the Society of American Foresters, and a Director of the American Pulpwood Association. He was a loyal and generous alumnus of the University of Maine and served on the University of Maine Foundation. George received an honorary Doctor of Science from UMaine in 1986, along with the prestigious Black Bear Award and the A.D. Nutting Award. SFR and the Maine forestry community will be forever indebted for his leadership, generosity and service.



2012 Acadian Internship has Global Reach

Sixteen interns from the U.S. and eight other countries took part in the 2012 Acadian Internship in Regional Conservation held at the Schoodic Education and Research Center (SERC) in Acadia National Park. The program combines formal coursework with a four-week paid internship assisting various nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) across Downeast Maine and southwest New Brunswick. Under the leadership of SFR's **Dr. Rob Lilieholm**, students from Brazil, Ethiopia, the U.K., Hungary, Ireland, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine and the U.S. received instruction in conservation theory, tools and methods from a diverse set of faculty, local experts and guest lecturers. Participating NGOs included the **Downeast Lakes Land Trust, Downeast Salmon Federation, Frenchman Bay Conservancy, Maine Sea Grant, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Marine Environmental Research Institute, and The Nature Trust of New Brunswick**. The program wrapped-up with formal project presentations and a fund-raiser attended by nearly 200 people featuring "Bert and I" humorists **Bob Bryan** and **Tim Sample**.

"[The Acadian Internship] is one of the premier opportunities in North America for students motivated to gain hands-on experience with the emerging large landscape conservation paradigm," says **James N. Levitt**, Director of the Program on Conservation Innovation at the Harvard Forest, Harvard University and Chair of the Executive Committee of the Quebec-Labrador Foundation/Atlantic Center for the Environment.

The Acadian Internship Program is a partnership of the Quebec-Labrador Foundation, the Schoodic Education and Research Center Institute, the University of Maine, and Acadia National Park.