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.

SER’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 first-time NAC-SFR’s Undergraduate Student Honors and Activities award at the North Atlantic Chapter of the Society for Technical Communication’s SETAC Poster Presentation award at the North Atlantic Chapter of the Society of Plastics Engineers’ (SPE) Automotive Composites Conference and Exhibition (ACCE) research. Doctoral students Matthew Scaccia and Michelle Johnson were selected for this scholarship through a rigorous process based upon each student’s 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.

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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 Markward 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.

Molly Lizotte, Student Newsletter Editor

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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 ACE: 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.

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 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.

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 & I 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 Prentis & 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.

Cooperative Forestry Research Unit

The Cooperative Forestry Research Unit (CFRU), housed within the Center for Research on Sustainable Forests, is supported by over $3 million acres of forestland, managers and wood processes 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.

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 Schools of 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 SERC’s Dr. Rob Littleholm, 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 School of Education and Research Center Institute, the University of Maine, and Acadia National Park.