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UNIVERSITY

School of Forestry

Dear Alumni & Friends

I hope you enjoy this latest issue of Forest Seasons. As always, it was a challenge to decide what to include in this issue, given its limited space and the seemingly endless supply of good options for stories!

One of the things I am especially pleased to report is that the School of Forestry has been nationally recognized yet again for its research productivity. The story at the bottom of Page 3 highlights the results of two recent studies that put NAU in the top ranks nationally for research in forestry and the related field of conservation biology. The results only tell part of the story, though. You have to be around here on a day-to-day basis and also get out in the field with our faculty and students to truly appreciate all the hard work that goes into getting these results. Research productivity is based on years of hard work, including submitting grants for funding, recruiting good graduate students and advising them well, collecting hard-earned data in the field or lab, and the painstaking conversion of all that information into scientific publications, conference presentations and other products.

Another very positive development has been the growth in both the number and amount of money in our endowed scholarships. We are closing in on \$1 million in endowed scholarships, which is quite an achievement for our school and a huge tribute to all the donors who have helped make it happen. This is described in more detail on Page 4. We would love to have your help in reaching that \$1 million goal.

Finally, plans are coming together for our 50th Anniversary, which we will celebrate mainly during the 2008/2009 academic year and especially during Homecoming Weekend (October 24-26, 2008). We plan to kick off the celebrations this spring, however, at our Honors Convocation on April 18th. Among other things, we plan to present a video, which is currently in production, on the School of Forestry's first 50 years. Please consider participating in our 50th Anniversary celebrations, ideally by sending us photos and personal recollections of your time here and by joining us next fall for some of our celebratory events, most of which will take place during Homecoming Weekend.

Jim Allen, Interim Executive Director, School of Forestry

MARCH 2008

Forest Seasons

NAU Once Again a Big Presence at the SAF National Convention

A total of 31 students, along with five current or retired faculty members, represented NAU at the 2007 Society of American Foresters Convention in Portland. The very high student representation this year was due to a true team effort to raise funds to help with their expenses, and included several student-led fund raising events, a School of Forestry contribution, and a very generous \$5,000 in donations from alumni and friends specifically for this purpose. The donations, which came from David Schmidt (B.S.F., 1962), Phil Petersen (B.S.F., 1978), Vikki Scarbrough, and the Pine Canyon Club are greatly appreciated and made a huge difference to our students.

Some of the highlights of our participation in the convention this year included Professor Bob Larson's presentation entitled, Engaging Students with Current Multimedia Technology in Forestry 101 Class, and the students' participation in numerous events and activities, including the Quiz Bowl, Job Fair, technical sessions and assistance with the NAU booth in the exhibit hall. Another important highlight was the chance we all had to mingle with at least 26 School of Forestry alumni.

Our Quiz Bowl team had the benefit of a large & active cheering section this year!



Our booth, complete with an attractive new display, received a lot of attention.

Photo Gallery



Top Left: Professor Emeritus Ernie Kurmes recently received a certificate recognizing his 50 years of membership in the Society of American Foresters from Northern Arizona Chapter Chair JJ Smith.

Top Right: Denver Hospodarsky "took one for the team" as part of Xi Sigma Pi's recent fundraiser. Dr. Hospodarsky received the most votes from students, faculty and staff, each of which cost one dollar.



Bottom Left: B.S.F. student James White left us in January for his second overseas deployment as a Marine. This time he is stationed in Djibouti. Faculty and students made this display in his honor, which will hang in the Charles O. Minor Room until James' return.

Bottom Right: M.F. student Ben De Blois and Student Services Coordinator Jennifer Tsonis recently organized the first School of Forestry Job Fair. Twelve employers participated in this highly successful event.

Wilderness Management Class Works with Local Sheriff's Office

During the Fall 2007 semester, Dr. Marty Lee's Wilderness Management 445 class collaborated with the Coconino County Sheriff's Office to develop products that will be used to promote wilderness safety. As a part of this project, the class conducted surveys of people about to enter two major wilderness areas near Flagstaff - the Kachina Peaks Wilderness and the Red Rock-Secret Mountain Wilderness - in part to determine how well prepared they were for wilderness emergencies. The class then developed some materials to help educate wilderness users about the potential hazards faced by people trekking into the wilderness, as well as to inform them of the particular challenges involved in conducting search and rescue operations in wilderness settings.

The products developed by the class include a poster and handout, a summary of the survey results, and an insert for the Arizona Game and Fish Department's hunting regulations booklet. The Coconino County Sheriff's Office plans to use the material in future outdoor safety campaigns. Other agencies that participated in this project, and which may also use the materials produced by the class, include the USDA Forest Service, the National Park Service, and the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

Welcome to Wilderness...

Are You Prepared to RESCUE Yourself?



- **Help is more than just a phone call away.** It may take rescuers at least three hours to reach you. Be prepared to keep warm in case the sun goes down while you are waiting.
- **Make sure you have plenty of water - at least one gallon per person.** Dehydration is the biggest reason for hiker rescues in Arizona.
- **The southwest sun is INTENSE.** Expect at least 30 Temperature differences between day and night and up to 15 Temperature differences in sun and shade.
- **Weather changes quickly and unexpectedly.** Be prepared for extreme heat, extreme cold, high winds, and sudden storms all in the same day.
- **Remember to eat salty foods throughout your hike.** Sweats depletes your body--- content and you need to eat salty foods to replace it.
- **Do not hike alone.** Groups of three or more are strongly recommended. In case of injury, one person can go get help while the other stays with the injured person.
- **Make a hiking plan.** Have a destination in mind before you start. Always tell some one here you are going and how long you plan to be gone.
- **Always hike with a detailed map and compass.** The map at the trail head is not sufficient to guide you through the wilderness. Having a map will make it easier to communicate your location to rescuers.

10 Wilderness Essentials

1. Water - at least one gallon
2. Food - salty snacks, eat twice as much as normal.
3. First Aid Kit
4. Fire starting tools - matches, flint
5. Flashlight or headlamp - with extra batteries
6. Map and compass (or GPS)
7. Appropriate clothing - extra layers, rain jacket, hiking shoes, hat
8. Whistle, single mirror - for emergencies
9. Knife or multi tool
10. Sleeping bag or space blanket

Wilderness Facts

- Over 300 search missions are carried out in Arizona each year.
- Over 100 people are rescued from Arizona's wilderness areas each year.
- Of those rescued 88% are hikers.
- 42% of these rescues are medical rescues.



More Good News on SOF Research Productivity

In the February 2007 issue of Forest Seasons, we reported on the high ranking our School received for research productivity in a study published in the Journal of Forestry. That impressive result was reinforced in the past several months as the result of two additional studies.

The School of Forestry has been ranked Number 10 for 2007 among forestry programs nationally, based on an index measuring faculty scholarly output. The Faculty Scholarly Productivity Index ranks programs offering doctoral degrees at more than 350 universities and in 173 academic disciplines, based on the number of books and journal articles they published and journal citations, awards, honors and grants received. Also, NAU recently was ranked in the top 40 among 315 universities in the U.S. and Canada in conservation

biology research productivity. The results of this study, which were published in the journal Conservation Biology (2007, Volume 21, Issue 5), are due in part to research done by several School of Forestry faculty members and their students.

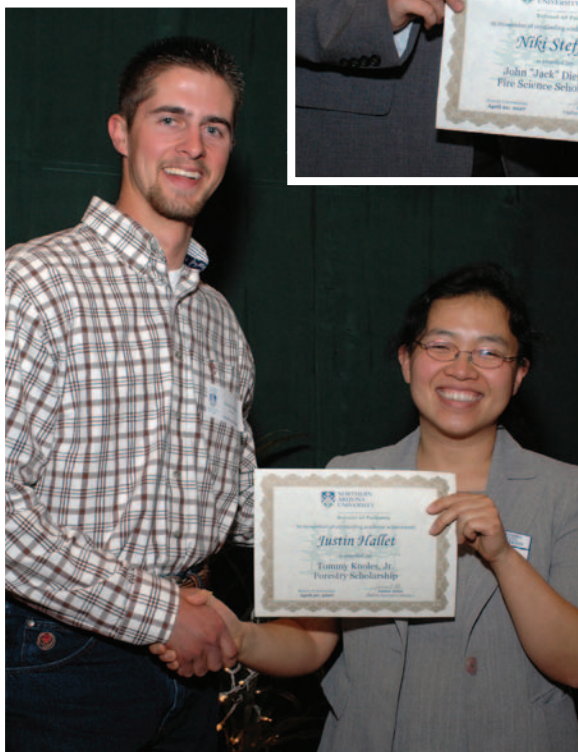
Results such as these reflect the School of Forestry's increasingly strong reputation for research in forestry and closely related fields. The School's emphasis on research has steadily increased in recent years, along with the development and growth of its graduate programs. Our strong showing is due to an outstanding group of faculty, very good quality graduate students, and the strong collaborations we have with partners such as the USDA Forest Service's Rocky Mountain Research Station and with the Ecological Restoration Institute.

Forestry Endowed Scholarships are on the Increase

Virtually all colleges and universities seek support from their alumni and friends to establish scholarships, both to provide financial aid for their students and to recognize them for their achievements. The ideal situation is when such scholarships are endowed, meaning that the principal is invested and part of the earnings generated from the investment is awarded each year to students. Once established, endowed scholarships are permanent and generate money for scholarships every year.

The School of Forestry is fortunate to have a number of endowed scholarships that have been established specifically for its students and are awarded each year at our Honors Convocation. These scholarships have been established for many reasons, such as in memory of a student, staff member or professor who has passed away, as a way of giving back to the School for the positive experience that a student had while here, to recognize students for particular accomplishments in areas such as academic performance or leadership, or to help students with specific needs (e.g., single parents who are struggling financially). One thing that is very exciting to us is the substantial growth in both the number of new endowed scholarships and the total amount of funds in these endowments, which is approaching \$840,000.

An example of an endowed scholarship that has recently been established is the Tom Heard International Forestry Scholarship. This scholarship was established by Kathleen Heard in memory of her father, who spent a lifetime as a mining engineer and was also a strong supporter of educational causes. The reason that Mrs. Heard chose to establish this scholarship within the School of Forestry is that her son, Justin Hallett, is currently a senior in



Justin Hallett receiving the Tommy Knoles Jr. Scholarship from Associate Professor Yeon-Su Kim.



Niki Steffen receiving the Jack Dieterich Fire Science Scholarship from Professor & Dean, Emeritus David Patton.

the School and has had a very positive experience here. Needless to say, establishing such a scholarship is not only going to benefit many future students, but is also an honor for the School's faculty and staff.

Another example of an endowed scholarship is the Wildlife Habitat Relationships Scholarship, which was established in 1999 by Dr. David Patton, the School's former Dean, using funds obtained from the royalties on his textbook by the same name. Recently, Dr. Patton and his wife Doris contributed additional funds to bring the total endowment up to \$10,000. The Pattons also recently contributed over \$5,000 to endow the Jack Dietrich Fire Science Scholarship.

Although we are pleased with the progress in developing scholarships for our students, we would love to have more scholarships that are fully endowed. Also, we have set an unofficial

target for ourselves of reaching a total of \$1 million in endowed scholarships within the next two years.

If you have an interest in establishing a new endowed scholarship, please contact either Jim Allen (928-523-5894; James.Allen@nau.edu) or our Development Officer, Connie Ott (928-523-0538; Connie.Ott@nau.edu). If you are interested in donating to an existing scholarship, please consider one of the scholarships listed on the accompanying envelope or consult the complete list of scholarships, which can be found in the "Alumni and Friends" section of the School of Forestry's website at www.for.nau.edu/cms. And thanks to all of you who have supported our students in the past!

SOF Faculty Members Take Sabbaticals

Every seventh year, faculty at NAU and most institutions of higher education become eligible to take a sabbatical leave. Contrary to some peoples' views of sabbaticals, they are most definitely not vacations! According to the NAU Faculty Handbook, sabbaticals are to be taken for "research and other creative endeavors, faculty renewal and/or retraining." School of Forestry faculty members have taken full advantage of this opportunity and have been involved in some very interesting sabbatical projects in recent years.

During the 2005/2006 academic year, for example, Associate Professor Pete Fulé spent his sabbatical year in Spain. With funding from the prestigious Fulbright Scholar Fellowship program, Dr. Fulé was able to spend the year working with colleagues from the University of Barcelona on a project aimed at reconstructing past patterns of fire in ancient Spanish forests. According to Dr. Fulé, there are many similarities between the arid mountain ecosystems of Arizona and the Mediterranean region of Spain, so this afforded him an excellent opportunity to make comparisons and to share expertise with Spanish colleagues working on similar issues. In addition to the work he accomplished while in Spain, another tangible outcome of Dr. Fulé's sabbatical was that it led to a Spanish colleague spending the 2006/2007 academic year here in the School of Forestry. Also, Dr. Fulé just returned from a brief trip back to Spain, where among other things he worked on plans for a course that will bring NAU students to Spain next spring.



Pete Fulé collecting material for an analysis of fire scars while on sabbatical in Spain.

Last year, it was Professor Paul Beier's turn for a sabbatical. Dr. Beier was also awarded a Fulbright Fellowship, which afforded him the opportunity to make two extended trips to Ghana. Dr. Beier's primary focus while in Ghana was on the endangered bare-headed rockfowl, a bird species that is found in dense tropical

forest and is therefore very difficult to study. Through the use of radio-telemetry, Dr. Beier and his Ghanaian colleagues were able to learn much more about this species use of habitat, its movement patterns, and its reproductive success. This information will be used to develop better conservation strategies for this species. While in Ghana, Dr. Beier also worked with local communities to create an eco-tourism project designed to allow visitors to view this "flashy and rare" species in its natural habitat. In between his trips to Ghana, Dr. Beier spent a considerable amount of time writing research



Top: Paul Beier with Naa Imoro Nandom Gomah II, the Paramount chief of Wechiau Traditional Area.



Right: Paul Beier with a blue-breasted kingfisher.

papers and working on software to help managers design wildlife corridors, which allow for the safe travel of species in areas where habitat is being lost to urban expansion, roads, and other types of development.

This academic year we have two faculty members - Dr. Margaret Moore and Yeon-Su Kim - on sabbatical. While both are staying closer to home, the work they are doing also promises to help with their own professional development as well as enhance both the School of Forestry's research and academic courses. Look for reports on their work in a future issue of Forest Seasons.

Alumni Notes

Brian Oswald, M.S.F., 1981

Dr. Oswald was recently appointed to the Lacy H. Hunt Distinguished Professorship in Forestry at the Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture, Stephen F. Austin University. Dr. Oswald, whose specialization is fire ecology and management, has been on the SFA faculty since 1995. He was the 2002 recipient of the Society of American Foresters' Carl A. Schenck Award for outstanding contributions to forestry education and served as President of the Association for Fire Ecology in 2007.

Mary Frances Mahalovich, B.S.F., 1983

After graduating from NAU, Mary Frances completed an M.S. in Forest Genetics at University of California, Berkeley in 1985 and a Ph.D. in Forestry and Genetics at North Carolina State University in 1990. She has spent her 17-year career with the USDA Forest Service and is currently Regional Geneticist for the Northern, Rocky Mountain, Southwestern, and Intermountain Regions. Her service visits take her across 11 states and 45 National Forests, providing her with many opportunities to work with fellow NAU forestry alums. Among her other accomplishments, she was the first person to develop a comprehensive restoration strategy in cooperation with colleagues in her Regional Offices and federal nurseries for whitebark pine. She is active with students as an advisor and affiliate faculty member at the University of Idaho and serves as a Steering Committee member of the Inland Empire Tree Improvement Cooperative. Mary Frances and her husband, John Snakenberg, reside in Moscow, Idaho, where she has an active backyard breeding program with Flemish Giant rabbits.

Jay Smith, B.S.F., 1994

Jay is a procurement forester with Middleton Lumber Company, LLC., for whom he purchases about 7 million board feet per year of hardwood logs and timber from landowners in western Tennessee. After serving on the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Forestry Association for six years, he was elected to serve as President in 2007. Although he enjoys his work in the diverse and productive forests of Tennessee, he and his wife miss the cool, dry air of Flagstaff!

Dan Mummert, M.S.F., 2000

Since 2004, Dan has been the Pennsylvania Game Commission's wildlife diversity biologist for Southeastern Pennsylvania. Dan says this is his dream job, as he is working to conserve his home state's 101 bird and mammal species of concern. Dan is married to Sara Tucker and they are very busy with their two daughters, Alex (2 years) and Sage (5 months).

Debra (Bernardos) Burns, M.S.F., 2001

Debra is the Wildlife Regional Supervisor in the Kansas City Region for the Missouri Department of Conservation. Debra is based in Blue Springs, Missouri and oversees the management of 77 Conservation Areas totaling 114,000 acres. She is married to Bob Burns and they are expecting their first child in May.

Heather (Shanes) Reading, M.S.F., 2001

Heather is a Field Representative in Land & Water Protection for The Nature Conservancy and is based in Prescott, AZ. In her job with TNC, she works cooperatively with private landowners, conducts biological evaluations of potential conservation properties, acquires conservation properties, and supervises a graduate student assistant researching pronghorn antelope in the Big Chino Valley. She recently negotiated the purchase of a 312 acre parcel of rare riparian habitat on the Upper Verde River near Paulden, which will be managed by TNC and called the Verde River Springs Preserve. She is married to Rich Reading; together they own and operate Pine Country Painting and Designs, LLC.

Shanna McCarty, B.S.F., 2004

After earning her B.S.F. from NAU, Shanna went on to earn her M.S. in Forestry at Louisiana State University. She works for Gulf South Research Corporation and lives in Baton Rouge, LA. Her job allows her to travel to Arizona and all over the United States. She also volunteers with Project Learning Tree and provides environmental education programs for local nonprofits. She is a member of the Louisiana Society of American Foresters and can be reached at shannamarie@hotmail.com.

Jason Corbett, M.S.F., 2005

Jason works for Bat Conservation International as their Southwestern Subterranean Programs Coordinator and is based in Tucson, AZ. Jason's job has him traveling around the Southwestern US coordinating and managing a variety of projects with Federal, State, and local agencies to protect several species of Southwestern bats and their roosting habitat in caves and mines. He is married to Patricia Corbett (NAU B.S. Microbiology 2004) and has two beautiful cats.

Mark Peyton, B.S.F., 2005

Mark is a wildlife assistant working for the University of Florida. He has been based in the Florida Everglades for about a year, where he is completing a mammal survey and working on projects to protect the American crocodile and to control Burmese pythons, which are not native but have become increasingly common in the Everglades in recent years.

Alumni Notes

*In Memoriam...***Don Povatah, B.S., 1997; M.F., 2005**

Don Povatah passed away on December 20, 2007, following a sudden stroke. Don was the Fire Management Officer for the Hopi Agency. He received a B.S. in Environmental Science from NAU in 1997 and was awarded a Master of Forestry degree in 2005. Don lived on the Hopi Reservation with his wife Delphine and their four children, Diane, Stephanie, Benjamin and Joshua. Don will be remembered as an outgoing and positive person who gladly shared his personal experiences as a Tewa-Navajo. As a graduate student he also became a role model for Native American students in the School of Forestry. Dr. Thom Alcoze served as his mentor and major professor.

Missy Givens, B.S.F., 2002

Following a lengthy illness, Missy, at age 27, passed away on June 1, 2007 at her parents' home in Thatcher, Arizona. As a student at NAU, she was a member of the Golden Key National Honor Society and the Society of American Foresters. She served as president of Xi Sigma Pi Honor Society and president of the Forestry Club. Following graduation, Missy worked as an environmental technician in Moab, Utah. She was subsequently employed by the Yavapai Prescott Indian Tribe, where the mission of her department was "to enhance, protect and preserve the natural resources, safeguarding all that is sacred and beautiful about our heritage and lands." Missy was characterized by an extraordinarily gentle spirit and strong will.

Matthew Manegold, B.S.F., 2008

Matthew was a 28-year-old senior in the School of Forestry, when he died in an automobile accident near Flagstaff on November 8th, 2007. Matt graduated in 1998 from Central Catholic High School in Reading, Pa., and then earned an associate's degree in science from Yavapai College in Prescott before transferring to the forestry program at NAU. A lover of the outdoors, he enjoyed hiking and climbing and has been described as a kind and gentle soul whose energy and spirit touched everyone.

Whatever Happened to the SOF Alumni Association?

*I*t has been some years since the NAU School of Forestry Alumni Association (aka the Alumni Council) has been active. An active alumni association could be beneficial both to our alumni and to the School of Forestry. It could help foster interactions among alumni and between alumni and the School of Forestry. It could also help raise the profile of our school, play a role in recruiting, and help ensure the continuing strength of the school well into the future. If anybody is interested in helping to revive this organization, please contact Jim Allen (928-523-5894; James.Allen@nau.edu).

We would like to include your update in an upcoming issue! Please send any info that you want us to print as an alumni note to forestry.alumni.info@nau.edu or by regular mail c/o Jim Allen, Interim Executive Director, at the address listed on the back page of this newsletter.



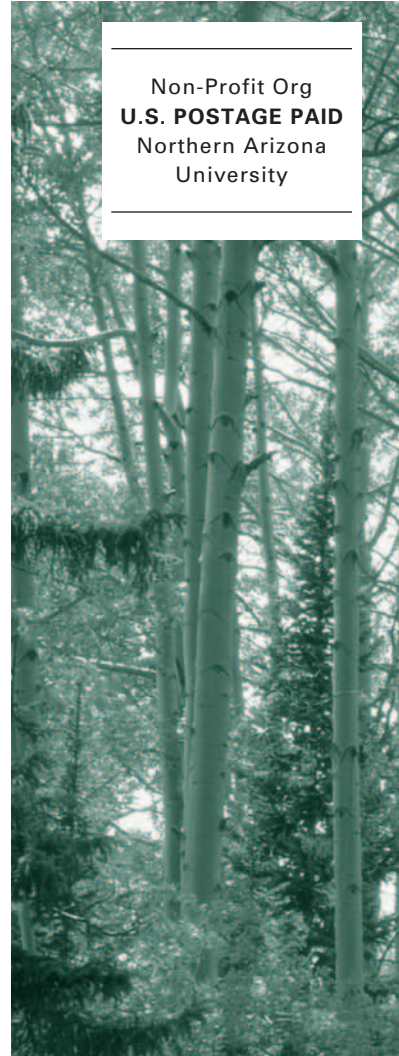
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Then and Now

*T*he School of Forestry has the privilege of occupying one of the best buildings on the NAU campus. While our original building, then called Frier Hall (left), served us well, the Southwest Forest Science Complex (right), which was completed in 1994, provides much more space for teaching and research. We share this building with two of our most productive partners – the USDA Forest Service's Rocky Mountain Research Station and the NAU Ecological Restoration Institute.



Forest Seasons is a newsletter for Northern Arizona University School of Forestry alumni and friends. We welcome your feedback on the newsletter and encourage you to stay in touch. Feel free to call us at: 928-523-3031
School of Forestry website : www.for.nau.edu
Centennial Forest website: www.for.nau.edu/CentennialForest/
Ecological Restoration Institute website: www.eri.nau.edu/cms/

