



NORTHERN ARIZONA
UNIVERSITY

College of Engineering, Forestry & Natural Sciences

School of Forestry

Welcome to the 50th Anniversary edition of our Forest Seasons Newsletter! It was way back in the fall of 1958 that the School of Forestry was established. During that first fall semester, the school consisted of one faculty member, Dr. Charles O. Minor, and six students. From that humble beginning, the School of Forestry has grown into a truly world-class teaching and research institution that has graduated over 1700 students. Another 250 “future alumni” are currently enrolled in one of our four undergraduate or graduate degree programs.

We had a great time commemorating our anniversary over the past year. Our main events took place during homecoming weekend last October. We hosted a barbeque at the Centennial Forest Field Campus and held the Foresters’ Ball at the new High Country Conference Center. Photos of the festivities can be found on pages 4 and 5 of this newsletter. Additional event photos, as well as pictures taken over the school’s 50-year history, can be viewed in the Alumni and Friends section of the School of Forestry’s website: nau.edu/forestry.

Another significant undertaking was the production of a 33-page booklet, entitled *School of Forestry: Celebrating a Half-Century of Teaching, Research and Innovation*. Nine chapters—colorfully illustrated with pictures from our archives—provide an overview of the school’s early years and how it has developed into the institution it is today. We also catch up with some of our alumni, and explore what may be in store in the school’s future. The booklet was written by Professor Emeritus Ernie Kurmes, with additional content provided by Executive Director Jim Allen. We also had considerable help from staff who selected and organized photos. This booklet is available for \$15 and we hope many of you will be interested in owning your own copy.

We also developed a short video of the school’s history that can be viewed on our website, and created a whole line of 50th Anniversary memorabilia items—pens, mugs, t-shirts, caps, key chains, and bookmarks—that can be purchased from our website. You can also contact April Sandoval by email (April.Sandoval@nau.edu) or by phone at (928) 523-6666.



A sample of our 50th Anniversary memorabilia.



Students and faculty who participated in the 1960 summer camp. (Photo courtesy of Doug Smith, BSF 1962).

From the Executive Director

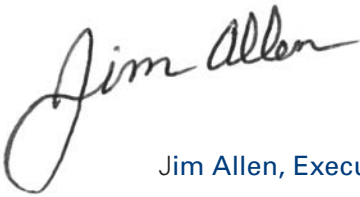
Dear Alumni & Friends,

Like all of the other 49 years of our school's history, our 50th year was one with both significant accomplishments and significant challenges. I was particularly pleased this year to see two of our faculty, Michael Wagner and Aregai Tecle, receive well-deserved recognition for their many professional contributions. (Check out the photos and captions at the bottom of this page for more details about the awards these two received.)

A very important accomplishment, and one for which I have many of you to thank, is that the school far surpassed its goal of reaching \$1 million in endowed scholarships. In fact, I'm already wondering if we can reach \$2 million! A story on the progress we've made in establishing scholarships can be found on page 6.

The foremost challenge this year was the budget situation, which affected the entire university and many other organizations in Arizona and across the country. The biggest impact we have felt so far is the inability to replace faculty and staff who recently resigned (Steve Hart, Dave Ostergren, and Pablo Parysow from our faculty; Lauri Patton and Jay Thompson from our staff). It hurts to lose all these excellent people, and even more so at a time when replacing them is not possible.

While it looks like the tight budget situation will persist for at least another year or two, I am confident that we will nonetheless continue to make great strides and that the quality of our educational and research programs will continue to improve. One reason for my optimism is because of our great students. Once you've had a chance to read the stories on page 3 and the top of page 6, I bet you'll agree that the quality and spirit of these students is as strong now as it has ever been.



Jim Allen, Executive Director



Regents' Professor Michael Wagner received the Sir William Schlich Memorial Award at the Society of American Foresters National Convention for his contributions to policy and international forestry in Reno, Nevada. November, 2008.



Professor Aregai Tecle received the Outstanding Service Award from the Arizona-Nevada Academy of Science at their annual meeting in Tucson, Arizona. April, 2009.

Forestry Club Activities - Erin Saunders, (BSF 2009)

This year has been a major success for the Forestry Club. We were heavily involved in activities within the School of Forestry, the university, and the greater Flagstaff community.

We held a student work-day fundraiser. Forestry faculty "bought" students to do any sort of yard work for them. The money we raised helped pay for a few club members' trip to Panama to study tropical forest ecosystems.

The club was also involved in several volunteer projects. We organized a community cleanup day in the Centennial Forest, volunteered for the Easter food drive to benefit local Flagstaff food banks, and delivered six truckloads of wood to a local food bank.

As part of an ongoing mission, we reached out to younger kids in an effort to encourage interest in forestry and the outdoors. This year's educational activities included going into the local elementary schools to read to classes, helping with the Kids for Conservation booth at the Coconino County Fair, and leading a field trip of local 3rd graders to the San Francisco Peaks to discuss forest ecosystems.

The club also found time to have fun. We organized a student-faculty BBQ at a local park that had plenty of food, horseshoes, and axe throwing; and we held a very successful Christmas party in December.

Many of these events have been recorded in the School of Forestry's Annual Yield, or yearbook. It was produced this year – for the first time in more than 10 years.



Zac Massey (BSF 2009) with 3rd graders on a trip to the San Francisco Peaks.

Society of American Foresters Convention - Erin Saunders, (BSF 2009)

This past November, the student chapter of the Society of American Foresters (SAF) and the NAU Forestry Club sent 24 members to Reno, Nevada for the SAF national convention. We thoroughly enjoyed the numerous presentations and speakers who discussed the challenges facing our profession: changing policies, agendas, goals and economics, as well as changes in global climates, vegetation patterns, and natural disturbances.

We are proud of the student quiz-bowl team which defeated the University of Minnesota in the first round before losing a hotly contested match to North Carolina State in the 2nd round.

Our club president was the grand prize winner of the photography competition. The winning photo was on the cover of the Journal of Forestry's March 09 issue. Most of the students and a few NAU faculty and staff made a day trip to Lake Tahoe, where we spent time hiking, enjoying the diversity of such a different ecosystem, and playing in the water.

The convention was a topic of discussion for weeks afterwards, and students are already excited about next year's convention in Orlando, Florida. We would like to thank all of those who supported us in our efforts to get to Reno.



Some of the students and staff that attended the Society of American Foresters national convention, during their day-trip to Lake Tahoe.

50th Anniversary Celebrations



Kevin Barrett, Nathan Cordova, Sean Considine (BSF 2009), and Jerry Elian (BSF 2009) volunteered to help with the Foresters' Ball.



Bill Hart (left, BSF 1975) with Professor Emeritus Charles Avery.



Bill Schultz (left), Jay Schultz (former faculty member), and Regents' Professor Wally Covington.



Rich Hofstetter (faculty member, front left) and his wife Karen London lead a line dancing lesson for Andi Thode (faculty member), her husband Heath Norton, and Pat Hall (PhD 2001).



Professor Aregai Tecle, Professor Emeritus Mert Richards, Steve and Debbie Andariese, County Supervisor Matt Ryan, and Negisti Tecle enjoy the BBQ dinner.



Student volunteers prepping the outdoor kitchen for the BBQ. From left to right are Lee Lawrence, Cory Nations (BSF 2008), Connor Church, Ty Nietupski, Karin Kralicek, Andrew Leach, and Ryan Thomas.

50th Anniversary Celebrations



Gary Allegretto (BSF 1982) performed a few numbers with the Tommy Dukes Band.



Student volunteers Sean Considine, Charles Machula, and Andrew Leach posing near the registration table.



Gisela McCormick with Professor Bob Larson and his wife, Jan.



Charlotte Minor (BSF 1982 and daughter of founding dean Charles Minor) with faculty member Marty Lee.



Professor Emeritus Mert Richards, Gisela McCormick (former Assistant to the Dean), and Gary Allegretto.



Former Dean David Patton (left) with his wife Doris, Alice Stephenson, and John Stephenson (BSF 1964).



Jennifer Boggs (student), Cheryl Miller (Education Coordinator), April Sandoval (Administrative Assistant), and Erin Saunders (BSF 2009).

Timber Sports - Erin Saunders, (BSF 2009)

The NAU Timber Sports Team is back after an absence of more than a decade. The team competed in two Association of Western Forestry Clubs (AWFC) conclaves—traveling to Missoula, Montana in the spring of 2008, and Arcata, California in the spring of 2009.

Though lacking equipment and training, the team managed to place in two events in Missoula. After a semester and a half of practice with newly acquired equipment and a practice field on the Centennial Forest, the team made a good showing



Michael Gould, Andrew Nordquist, Sean Bothman, Kari Potter, Joy Brown and Denver ("Dr. H") Hospodarsky at the conclave in Arcata, California.

at the Arcata conclave this past spring, placing in three events and competing strongly in many more.

The team was awarded a new axe for showing great improvement. We are beginning to recruit for next year—planning fundraisers, and seeking long term sponsors to support the continued improvement and longevity of the team.

The team will be traveling to Fort Collins, Colorado next spring for the 71st AWFC Conclave, and has also been invited to attend a smaller collegiate competition in California next year.

New Forestry Scholarships

In the last issue of this newsletter, we included a story about several newly established scholarships. We reported a total for endowed scholarships of about \$840,000 and expressed the hope that we would soon reach the \$1 million mark. As of April of this year, our endowed scholarships total just over \$1.4 million! This is an exciting development and one that will continue to yield tangible benefits to School of Forestry students for many years to come.

The Ernie Kurmes Scholarship was recently founded by former dean David Patton and his wife Doris. It recognizes Professor Emeritus Ernie Kurmes for his more than 40 years of service to The School of Forestry and Northern Arizona University. Many other individuals have contributed to this scholarship, including those who bought raffle tickets for a beautiful quilt made by Professor Kurmes' wife, Dr. Pat Hall.

Another scholarship was established by Jeffrey Thompson (BSF 1998) in honor of his parents, Steve and Toni (Walser) Thompson, who both passed away in 2005. They were raised in Williams, Arizona, and were married for nearly 40 years. Jeffrey established the scholarship to honor both the impact his parents had on so many people's lives, and to recognize how much they valued education, nature, and assisting others.

A third new scholarship was established by the American Conservation Experience (ACE) (website: usaconservation.org), a non-profit conservation corps based in Flagstaff that offers opportunities for both American and international volunteers to take part in challenging outdoor projects in national parks, national forests, and other lands in the western United States. ACE has been involved in a trail project at the Centennial Forest, and recently received praise for their excellent work restoring a trail at Walnut Canyon National Monument that was heavily damaged by a huge rock fall.

Our total endowment has increased by the creation of new scholarships and through donations to existing ones. We would welcome your help as we strive to build up our endowed scholarships and thereby help our students to cover the ever-increasing costs of their education. Please contact either Jim Allen (928-523-5894, James.Allen@nau.edu) or Bonnie O'Donnell (928-523-8765, Bonnie.ODonnell@nau.edu) if you are interested in establishing a new scholarship or contributing to an existing one.

Alumni Notes

James Mehrwein, BSF 1970

After graduation, Jim spent two years in the army before starting his career in forestry with Southern Pacific Land Company in Mt. Shasta, California. He also worked for Masonite Corp. in Ukiah, California for three years before joining the consulting business of Mason, Bruce and Girard, Inc. in 1982. He opened his own consulting business, McKenzie River Associates, LLC, in Eugene, Oregon in 2001. Jim works with clients throughout the Pacific Northwest and in Hawaii. His company specializes in forest inventory utilizing the Forest Projection and Planning System (FPS) software produced by the Forest Biometrics Research Institute, and also participates in the Microsoft Partners program, specializing in Small Business Server and workstation setup and maintenance. James and his wife Sue began walking/running marathons two years ago and completed their fourth marathon in Portland last October. He highly recommends this for aging baby boomers!

Jim Greene, BSF 1971

After a 32-year career with the state of Montana in forestry, and as the state director for Disasters and Emergency Services, Jim retired in 2004. Currently he does consulting and contracting work for the Department of Homeland Security through several companies, mainly on FEMA projects related to emergency management exercises and preparedness. Jim enjoys hunting, scuba diving, photography, and fishing in Mexico. He recently shared a number of photos from his days as a forestry student, which are posted in the 50th Anniversary photo gallery section of our School of Forestry website.

Bob Joslin, BSF 1974

It has been 10 years since Bob retired from the Forest Service. He has remained active, serving on the Fremont County, Wyoming, Planning Commission for five years. He has also been active with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the Wyoming Foundation for North American Wild Sheep. He and his good buddy Bob Jacob spend as much time hunting, fishing, and horseback riding as they can. Bob retired as the forester for the Wind River Indian Reservation five years ago. They've even had other

NAU alums up there hunting with them—Ken Vensel, Ken Broyles, John Kirkpatrick to name a few. "Life is good and we continue to enjoy," says Joslin. "We would get down to Flag for a reunion sometime but you always hold them during hunting season."

Leon Metts, BSF 1987

Leon is the regional timber sale forester for the western region of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. He is also a member of the interagency Arizona Central West Zone Type II Incident Management Team, for which he serves as the supply unit leader. Although based in Phoenix, Leon is a member of the White Mountain Apache Tribe and spends as much time as he can back in the White Mountains at a home he maintains in Pinetop.

Adcharaporn Pagdee, PhD 2003

"Going to NAU and SOF was like a destiny. Six years at the school passed so quickly and was full of experiences," says Pagdee. After graduation in 2003, Dr. Pagdee returned to her home-country: Thailand. She is now working as a faculty member at the Department of Environmental Science, Khon Kaen University, Thailand. She teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in ecology, ecological economics, forest ecology, and other courses relating to ecosystem management. Dr. Pagdee is involved in research projects that address natural resource management, especially community-based resource management, and economic valuation.

Evan E. Hjerpe, MSF 2002, PhD 2006

Evan is a resource economist for The Wilderness Society (TWS) in Anchorage, Alaska. He is designing and implementing a research program focused on the sustainable management of the Tongass National Forest in southeast Alaska. He is also involved in providing economic analysis for public land management plans and contributes to nation-wide economics research as part of TWS's Ecology and Economics Research Department. Evan's work in Alaska has allowed him to experience a range of forests, from coastal temperate rainforests to interior boreal forests, along with all the accompanying mountains, glaciers, and wildlife. He can be reached at evan_hjerpe@twc.org.

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 ForestryAlumniInfo@xdl.nau.edu or by regular mail c/o Jim Allen, Executive Director, at the address listed on the back page of this newsletter.



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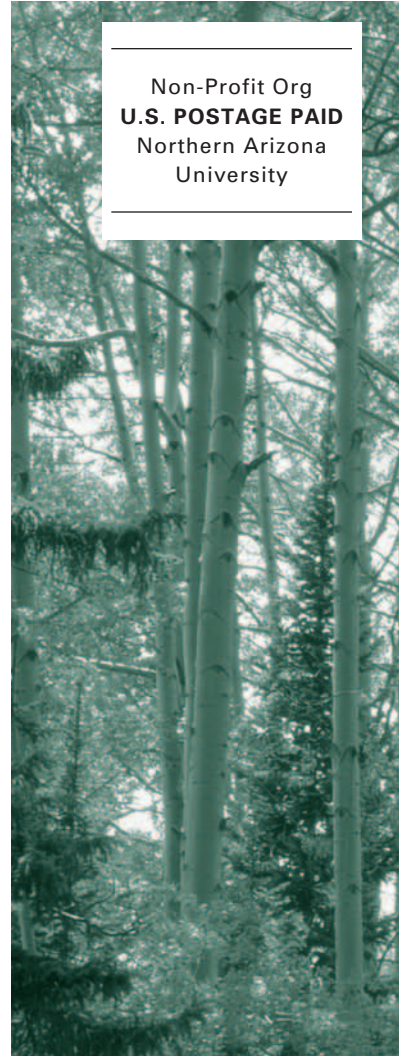
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Then and Now

*T*hey're baaacckk! After at least a decade-long hiatus, School of Forestry students are once again involved in timbersports competitions. On the left is a scene from the 1960s (from left to right are Charlie Scheier, BSF 1963, Bob Wagenfehr, BSF 1966, and Jerry Piles, BSF 1965) and on the right is Andrew Nordquist (BSF 2009) competing at the Association of Western Forestry Clubs conclave held recently in Arcata, California.



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
Or visit the following websites:
School of Forestry nau.edu/Forestry
Centennial Forest nau.edu/CentennialForest
Ecological Restoration Institute nau.edu/eri

