



# FOREST SEASONS

Summer 2013

The Newsletter of the  
NAU School of Forestry

## Native American Youth Education and Outreach

With help from the School of Forestry, youth living on the Hualapai tribal lands in northwestern Arizona are engaging in locally-relevant science. Through a series of activities conducted with the Boys & Girls Club of Peach Springs, kids have been learning about the importance of fire in ponderosa pine forests such as their local Hualapai Forest, and how scientists use tree rings to study an environment's history.

This spring, fourth graders at Peach Springs Elementary School participated in a research project that included learning how trees grow and what tree rings can tell us about past climate and fires. They then headed out to their local forest to collect data, which they brought back to the classroom to analyze.

At parents night on May 20, students showcased what they learned, including forest management activities such as prescribed burning and thinning, as well as the many values the tribe associates with the forest. This work is part of an



Fourth grade students collect tree cores during their field trip to the Twenty Pines area of the Hualapai Forest.

integrated research, educational, and outreach project that aims to help the Hualapai Tribe manage their forest lands in a changing climate.

The project infuses research on local lands into extracurricular activities and school curriculum to help train the next generation of Hualapai foresters and environmental scientists.

Funded by the United States Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, the project is the focus of Dr. Amanda Stan's post-doctoral work in the School of Forestry. Professor Pete Fulé serves as Amanda's post-doctoral advisor.



Left: Children in the Boys & Girls Club of Peach Springs participate in an activity simulating how trees compete for resources.



Right: Fourth grade students record data.

# Executive Director's Message

Dear Alumni and Friends:

As always, there are far more things that I'd like to tell you about the School of Forestry than we can fit in an eight-page newsletter. Our faculty, staff, and students have been busy and innovative here in our beautiful forestry building, in the woods of Northern Arizona, and around the world.

In addition to our "bread and butter" work in the areas of teaching and research, we are getting increasingly involved in outreach. One of the newest examples is Dr. Amanda Stan's work with youth on the Hualapai Reservation (featured on the first page of this newsletter). Although the School of Forestry does not have a formal extension-related mission, I believe this type of work is vitally important.

Since I last wrote to you in the pages of *Forest Seasons*, we have had a number of key personnel transitions. Among others, we've said goodbye to our Administrative Associate, April Sandoval; our Student Services Coordinator, Erin Saunders; and our Centennial Forest Manager, J.J. Smith. These three have been replaced by Karen Blalock, Susan Bierer, and Cheryl Miller, respectively. We have also been very fortunate to hire two new tenure-track faculty members: Dr. Matthew Bowker in the areas of forest soils and ecosystem ecology, and Dr. Andrew Sanchez Meador in the areas of forest biometrics and ecosystem modeling, who was also hired into a joint position with the Ecological Restoration Institute. We also have a new research faculty member, Dr. Kevin Grady, and several new post-doctoral research associates. We're excited to have all these new people, and hope to feature their work in upcoming newsletters.

Sincerely,

*Jim Allen*



Pictured above: The School of Forestry received a grant from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture's National Needs Fellowship program to fund and train graduate students to interpret, synthesize, and communicate current research findings to forest managers. Professor Tom Kolb is leading this project with assistance from faculty members in the School of Forestry and School of Communication. The graduate student recipients of this grant are pictured (from left): Jake Baker, Jessi Ouzts, Serra Hoagland, Gennaro Falco, and Marvin Victor.

Left: Erin Saunders received her BSF in 2009 and, until recently, served as the School of Forestry's Student Services Coordinator. Erin is now a graduate student in the School of Forestry working with Professor Carol Chambers to investigate how bats use burned forests.



# Student Highlights



From left to right: Dr. Denver Hospodarsky, Katelynn Jenkins, and SAF President Bill Rockwell.

## SAF Student Chapter Does it Again!

For the second time in four years, the student chapter of the Society of American Foresters (SAF) has won the SAF's Outstanding Student Chapter Award. Club President Katelynn Jenkins and Faculty Advisor Denver Hospodarsky were on hand to receive the award at the SAF National Convention in Spokane, Washington last October. Thirty other NAU students went to the convention, where they staffed an exhibit, competed in the Quiz Bowl, and attended many technical sessions.

## Eastern Forest Health Class Offered

With financial support from the U.S. Forest Service, Associate Professor Richard Hofstetter led a class for 10 forestry students to study Eastern forest health issues first-hand.

Professor Hofstetter and the students spent a week in North Carolina. Their visit included trips to:

- the Forest Service's Bent Creek Experimental Forest and Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center
- the Renaissance Computing Institute at UNC-Ashville
- the Cradle of Forestry
- a portion of the Appalachian Trail



Ten students participated in the Eastern Forest Health class and Dr. Richard Hofstetter (second from right, in dark jacket).

- the Coweeta Long Term Ecological Research Center

They were joined for part of the course by Professor Tom Kolb.

## PCMI Students Return

Seven students have entered the Peace Corps Masters International (PCMI) program since it began in 2008. The program typically involves spending one year taking classes at NAU, two years of service in the Peace Corps, and one additional semester of classes upon the student's return. To date, four students have successfully completed their two years of Peace Corps service, each in a



PCMI student Trason Hirsch (standing) lectures at a workshop in Dedza, Malawi.

different country. Robert Sather was our first student to graduate, completing his degree in May 2012. Sather served in Zambia with his wife Marie. Benjamin Caulum served in Ghana and completed his degree in December 2012, and May 2013 graduate Wanda Bruhns served in Mexico. Trason Hirsch completed his service in Malawi in April, and he will re-enroll in classes this August. These students have worked on projects as diverse as aquaculture, agroforestry, and conservation of national parks.

# Alumni Making a Difference

Over the years, many of our students have been the beneficiaries of scholarships established by alumni of the School of Forestry. The School of Forestry recently added two new scholarships: the Thompson Family Forestry Scholarship and the Doug and Linda Ransom Smith Endowment.



Steve and Toni (Walser) Thompson

## Thompson Family Forestry Scholarship

Jeffrey Thompson (BSF, 1998; see alumni update on page 7) established the Thompson Family Forestry Scholarship to honor his parents, Steve and Toni (Walser) Thompson. Steve and Toni were high school sweethearts raised in Williams, Arizona. Following their educations at Arizona State University and Saint Joseph's Nursing College, respectively, they lived for many years in Prescott, Arizona before both passed away in 2005. Steve and Toni

impacted many people's lives through their Christian faith. They were strong believers in education, nature conservation, and assisting others, and Jeffrey has established this scholarship in part to help continue that vision. They are survived by three children, seven grandchildren, and five great grandchildren.

Because of his parents' deep roots in Arizona, Jeffrey has specified that



Steven Granroth (left) was the 2013 recipient of the Thompson Family Forestry Scholarship, which was presented by Associate Professor Richard Hofstetter.

this scholarship will be awarded to a graduate of an Arizona high school who has maintained a high grade point average and who demonstrates financial need. This scholarship was first awarded in 2010.



## School of Forestry Welcomes a New Development Officer



Darren D'Attilio joined the Northern Arizona University Advancement Office in August 2012. This spring, Darren was assigned to help

advance the School of Forestry through philanthropic support. With over fifteen years of fundraising experience in scholarship support and endowments and facility enhancements, Darren is excited to assist the faculty and staff of the School of Forestry program and provide its students with the best possible experience while attending NAU.

In addition to working with the School of Forestry, Darren oversees the Development, Marketing, Corporate Sales, and Ticket and Communications Departments for the NAU Athletics program. Prior to arriving at NAU, Darren spent fourteen years at the University of Texas in El Paso, where he last served as the Senior Associate Athletics Director for Development and External Operations.

If you are interested in learning more about fundraising initiatives involving the School of Forestry, please contact Darren D'Attilio at [Darren.Dattilio@nau.edu](mailto:Darren.Dattilio@nau.edu) or 928-523-3095.



Doug and Linda Ransom Smith

## Doug and Linda Ransom Smith Endowment

Douglas (Doug) Smith is one of the School of Forestry's earliest alumni. In 1959, he transferred to NAU (then called Arizona State College) from Tarleton State College in Texas and graduated in 1962. While in the forestry program, Doug served as president of the Forestry Club during the 1960–61 academic year, and was a member of the Student Senate, among many other activities.

After graduation, he went on to a 30-year career with the U.S. Forest Service, which culminated in a position as Forest Supervisor of the Modoc National Forest in California.

Doug told us that he greatly appreciated the assistance he received from Dr. Charles O. Minor, the founding dean of the School of Forestry. Dean Minor evaluated Doug's

transcript personally, accepted him into the program, and provided him with a scholarship that offset the cost of his out-of-state tuition.

To show his appreciation for the help from Dean Minor, Doug and his wife Linda have chosen to provide a scholarship that will help other out-of-state students, who have a considerably higher tuition cost than their in-state counterparts. Other criteria for the Doug and Linda Ransom Smith Endowment include: a grade point average of 3.0 (out of 4.0) or better, involvement in student activities, demonstrated leadership in forestry organizations, and demonstrated financial need.

The Doug and Linda Ransom Smith Endowment was awarded for the first time at the Honors Convocation on April 26.

The School of Forestry is raising funds for its first endowed professorship, which has been named in honor of the late Dr. Charles O. Minor and his wife, Mary. As the first faculty member and founding dean of the School of Forestry, Dr. Minor had a profound impact on the program's development. He was known as a teacher and administrator who cared deeply about the program's

students. A classic photo of Dr. Minor (see below) depicts him the way he was known to many of our alumni—as a person who loved being in the field, teaching and interacting with students.

## The Charles O. and Mary Minor Forestry Professorship

Mary Minor was typically involved in a behind-the-scenes capacity, but she also made many contributions to the School of Forestry. She is remembered fondly by

the alumni, faculty, and staff who had the opportunity to get to know her.

Endowed professorships are very valuable tools for retaining top-performing faculty. They help faculty members become even more productive by providing additional funds for research and presenting findings at scientific conferences. If you are interested in learning more about this initiative, or if you would like to make a gift, please contact Darren D'Attilio at 928-523-3095 or [darren.dattilio@nau.edu](mailto:darren.dattilio@nau.edu).





# Alumni Updates

## **Stewart Pequignot, BSF, 1968**

In 2011, the National Association of State Foresters (NASF) named their urban forestry award after Stewart. Every five years, this award is renamed in honor of an individual who has made a significant contribution to the field. Stewart served as the Illinois State Forester from 1993 to 2002, was active in the NASF, and served on the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council. He and his wife Annette live in Mahomet, Illinois, and in his retirement he has been exploring interests such as artisan bread making. He is also working part-time at Prairie Fruits Farm and Creamery, where he makes goat-milk gelato.

## **Thomas Heinlein, MSF, 1996**

Thomas recently transferred to Canon City, Colorado, where he is serving as the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Front Range District Manager. Prior to joining the BLM in 2008, Tom was employed as a research fire ecologist with the NAU Ecological Restoration Institute, a biologist with the National Park Service Arctic Inventory and Monitoring Network, chief of natural and cultural resources and assistant park superintendent for Western Arctic National Parklands, and superintendent of Bering Land Bridge National Preserve.

## **Jeffrey Thompson, BSF, 1998**

Jeffrey is an Area Forester with the Tennessee Division of Forestry. His area includes Overton, Clay, and Pickett Counties, which are located in the northern part of the state, along or near the border with Kentucky. In contrast to

the ponderosa pine forests surrounding NAU, he now works mostly with upland hardwood forests, which contain mainly oak, hickory, maple, yellow poplar, American beech, ash, walnut, and black cherry. He writes management plans for non-industrial private forest landowners, fights wildland fires, inspects timber harvesting operations for water quality compliance, conducts educational outreach activities for people of all ages, and assists communities in their urban forestry management.

## **Lindsey Quam, BSF, 2000**

After graduation, Lindsey worked at Los Alamos National Laboratory for seven years, where he was engaged in a wide variety of tasks, including rehabilitation work following the Cerro Grande Fire, fuel mitigation efforts, timber inventory, and emergency management. Since 2007, he has been employed by the New Mexico State Forestry Division, first as a forester on a district in the northern part of the state, where he aided private landowners with management plans, timber harvests, and wildfire suppression. In 2011, he became the Forestry Division's Assistant Fire Management Officer, a position that involves work with counties, municipalities, and tribes across the state. Lindsey and his wife live in Santa Clara Pueblo, New Mexico.

## **Jacob Dyer, BSF, 2006**

Jacob is currently living in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma and working with the Oklahoma Forestry Services as a Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) forester. This has provided a great opportunity for him to be in the field and to conduct rigorous forest inventories, to challenge his dendrology skills, and see some beautiful parts of his home state. Jacob recently celebrated his fifth wedding anniversary with his wife Sarah. He reports that he is just doing what he



Stewart Pequignot (left) poses with Paul Ries, the winner of the urban forestry award that now bears Pequignot's name.

always does: going for hikes anywhere there are trails, listening and watching for birds, bugs, plants, and trees, and enjoying life.

## **David Pederson, MF, 2010**

David is an Assistant Project Manager II with the Natural Resource Management (NRM) Program at Colorado Mountain College in Leadville, Colorado. He oversees the natural resource management student internship program and works with other NRM faculty and staff to design, fund, and complete environmental-based projects. Some projects he manages include: water quality and soil monitoring and sampling, abandoned mine site characterization and remediation, wetland delineation, snowpack sampling, biological monitoring, river bank restoration, habitat design and re-vegetation, and flow rate monitoring. David and his wife are thrilled to be raising their family in a small town and to be in the middle of the great outdoors.



**NORTHERN ARIZONA  
UNIVERSITY**  
*College of Engineering, Forestry & Natural Sciences*

**School of Forestry**

PO Box 15018

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Logging Sports team members at the conclave in Missoula, Montana. Alvie Marcellus (in back, with white beard), who has competed professionally in logging sports, dedicated considerable time and effort to helping the team improve its skills, as did the team's advisor, Dr. Denver Hospodarsky.

The Logging Sports team participated in the annual conclave of the Association of Western Forestry Clubs, which was held in April in Missoula, Montana. Of NAU's 20 team members, 11 men and four women competed in 20 events. Senior David Gouveia (far right) earned first place in the caber toss and choker race competitions and also won the prestigious Stihl Timbersports Western Regional competition. Daniel Howland, Kyle Niederer, Natalie Wilson, Katriana Joyce, Marissa Cunningham, and Thomas Roland earned second to sixth places in 12 other competitions.

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.

Please feel free to call us at 928-523-3031 or visit us at [nau.edu/forestry](http://nau.edu/forestry) or on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/NAUForestry>