

SFRC Newsletter

... for alumni and friends

Greetings from the SFRC



The SFRC Newsletter has a new format that retains the sections on friends, alumni, colleagues, faculty, students and staff, and adds sections on Instruction, Research and Extension. These new elements are the three missions of all land grant universities in the USA and each newsletter will present

recent highlights of the SFRC activities in these areas. We hope you find these to be of interest. Please let us know what you think and send us news to include in future issues.

It is a time of rapid change in forest resources with shifting land ownership patterns, changing land owner objectives, urbanization, globalization and more all creating new opportunities and challenges. A recent study (see next page under *Research*) shows that forestry is the highest value crop in Florida eclipsing citrus and horticulture. In fact, demand for forest products is increasing globally; yet, forested land area to meet this demand is decreasing. At the same time, there is growing awareness of the importance of the social and ecological services that forests provide (clean water, habitat for wildlife, aesthetics, recreation, biodiversity, carbon sequestration, etc.).

Now, more than ever, we need well-educated resource managers, scientists, land owners, conservationists, policy makers and citizens to address the issues confronting forest resources on local, state, regional, national and international scales. The SFRC makes contributions to these issues through: (1) Undergraduate programs that educate well-rounded, society-ready resource managers, conservationists, surveyors and mappers; (2) Graduate programs that produce tomorrow's scientists, policy makers and managers; (3) Research programs that create new knowledge and information to address issues of production, conservation and sustainability; and (4) Extension and outreach programs targeted at land owners, citizens, policy makers and youth to allow them to make informed decisions about forest resources.

To help keep the School's programs modern, targeted and effective, we conducted a strategic planning process involving faculty, staff, students, alumni, stakeholders, collaborators and administrators. The result is the SFRC's Strategic Plan that can be viewed at our website, www.sfrc.ufl.edu. We hope that this plan will help chart a course for the SFRC over the next several years. Further, we look forward to working with all of you to ensure that the School best serves the needs of our students, stakeholders and citizens. Please contact me or any of us in the SFRC at anytime with suggestions and guidance, and please stop by when you're in Gainesville!

Tim White, Director

New Program in the SFRC

Last year the undergraduate Geomatics program was welcomed into the SFRC as the third accredited major. Geomatics has been accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology since 1986 and has been at the University for over 30 years. The Geomatics program brought four new faculty and approximately 45 undergraduate and 20 graduate students into the SFRC. Geomatics is the integrated approach to measurement, analysis and management of the descriptions and locations of earth-based data. Data are gathered using many tools, such as satellites, air and sea-borne sensors, and ground-based instruments. Data are then manipulated and analyzed using advanced computer systems. The key link between geomatics and forestry is our connection to the land. Both programs deal with a variety of the same land-related issues including land management, environmental assessment, US Public Land Survey System and wetland delineation. Another connection is that both programs use the same tools, GIS for example.

Geomatics is involved in many forest resource related issues through research and professional work. Geomatics faculty are doing research

both locally and internationally. Scot Smith, one of the geomatics faculty group, worked on environmental impact assessments in Egypt, Hungary and other countries. Other research projects include monitoring large scale habitat for migratory birds for the St. Johns River Water Management District and the use of remote sensing to locate the ordinary high water line in Florida lakes for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.



Most of the geomatics graduates will join the surveying and mapping profession. Graduates are heavily recruited by industry as it is the only geomatics program in the state. This program is also essential because a four year degree is required to obtain a Professional Surveyor and Mapper license. SFRC looks forward to working with the geomatics program alumni and the Florida Surveying and Mapping Society.

The School of Forest Resources & Conservation Newsletter is published to inform alumni and friends. Comments and information to share should be directed to the Main Office: phone - (352) 846-0850, fax - (352) 392-1707, email - sfrc@ifas.ufl.edu. Visit our website at www.sfrc.ufl.edu.

Alumni Update Form

Please let us know of any notable milestones in your life.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Home Phone: _____
Email: _____
Business Title/Position: _____
Company/Institution: _____
Year(s) Graduated: _____
Degree: _____
Specialization: _____
Career Activities, professional honors/accomplishment,
noteworthy news:

Comments or Suggestions:

Mail to: Mae Funk
SFRC Academic Services Coordinator
PO Box 110410
Gainesville, FL 32611-0410
Fax: (352) 846-0950

Without the support of
alumni and friends
we could not maintain our
level of academic excellence.

Consider supporting your School.

There are many ways to contribute.

Time, OR
A Charitable Gift Annuity
that may increase your
retirement income and earn an income tax
deduction
(Must be 55 or older),

OR
Send gifts directly to:
School of Forest Resources
and Conservation
PO Box 110410
Gainesville, FL 32611-0410
Makes checks payable to the University of
Florida Foundation, Inc.-SHARE
and designate the SFRC.

Upcoming Events

Forest Stewardship Workshop: Cover Your A\$\$ets II-Cover Your Assets Too, July 14, 2005; 1-7 pm at the UF-IFAS Osceola County Extension Office. To register call 321-697-3000. For more information contact Chris at 352-346-1275 or cdemers@ifas.ufl.edu.

Grand Guard Alumni Reunion: November 4-5; Time and Location TBA. Invitations will be mailed at later date.

Instruction

The SFRC has approximately 125 undergraduates, which are mostly juniors and seniors studying one of three majors: Forest Resources and Conservation, Geomatics, and Natural Resource Conservation. The SFRC has approximately 90 graduate students pursuing masters and doctoral degrees. In fall 2004, the Forest Resources and Conservation specialization earned continuing accreditation by the Society of American Foresters and the Urban Forestry specialization earned initial accreditation. Both programs received the maximum 10-year accreditation.

Instruction Highlight:

Forest Resources Class for Non-Majors

Six SFRC faculty members created and taught a general education course for the social and behavioral sciences in spring 2004. The class is entitled "Forest for the Future" and attracts students from across campus. The class has two major goals. First, it is designed to give the typical University of Florida undergraduate student exposure to specific forest topics covered by SFRC faculty. Second, instructors stress that many of the issues they address do not have simple answers but require students to gather and think about information before forming strong opinions.

Taylor Stein serves as lead instructor and covers forest ownership and social values which guide forest management. Alan Long introduces stu-



Spring 2005 Forests for the Future Class

dents to basic forest management tools and techniques. Gary Peter focuses on forest technology and highlights the role genetics plays in forestry. Karen Kainer introduces students to the Brazilian tropics and discusses the rubber tapping industry. Wendell Cropper takes on the topic of global warming and examines forests' role in carbon sequestration. Finally, Martha Monroe highlights how people can best communicate these topics given that they are complex and value-laden. Faculty teach the course spring and fall semesters. The course was also offered as a distance education course in the spring of 2005.

Fulfilling Our Mission

Research

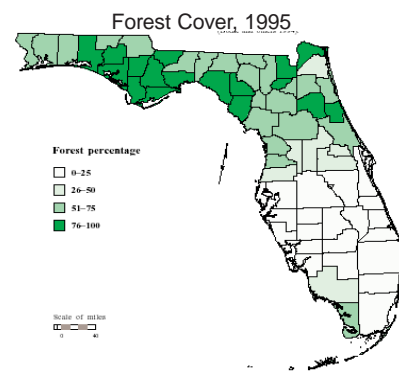
The SFRC has 25 research faculty that generate nearly \$3 million annually to conduct research in five focus areas: (1) Forest systems biology; (2) Human dimensions broadly defined to include social sciences, economics, recreation, and policy related to forest resources; (3) Agroforestry and tropical forestry; (4) Urban forestry and the wildland-urban interface; and (5) Geomatics.

Research Highlight:

Forest Products are the Highest-valued Crop in Florida

Janaki Alavalapati and Doug Carter from the SFRC were part of a team of IFAS economists including Alan Hodges, David Mulkey and Clyde Kiker that studied the economic impact of forest products on the state of Florida. The study, funded by the Florida Forestry Association, used the same economic methods employed for other crops in Florida so that results would be comparable. The study, "Economic Impacts of the Forest Industry in Florida, 2003" is available as Report FE 538 on the UF Electronic Document Information Source (EDIS) at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/>.

The study found that the forest industry has the highest economic impact on the state of any agricultural crop, eclipsing both citrus and the combined horticultural industry. Total annual impact on the state from forest products exceeds \$16.6 billion, creating 133,475 jobs and generating more than \$581 million in local, state and federal taxes. In a separate study, the US Fish and Wildlife Service estimated an annual impact of \$6 billion in 2001 from wildlife-related recreational activity including hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing. Since much of this activity occurs in Florida's forests, the annual economic impact of forests is well over \$20 billion – more than double that of the citrus industry. While the study was not designed to estimate economic impact of non-market services, such as carbon sequestration or water purification, the authors point out that these environmental services are also extremely important to Floridians.



Extension

The SFRC recently doubled the number of extension specialists throughout the state. Extension specialists develop a wide variety of programs and materials to be used by county extension agents. In developing material, the specialists work with state agencies and professional organizations.

Extension Highlight: Biomass Utilization

In April 2005 the UF SFRC Cooperative Extension, the Southern Center for Wildland-Urban Interface Research and Information (SCWUIRI) of the USDA Forest Service, and the Southern States Energy Board (SSEB) were awarded a one-million dollar grant from the US Departments of Energy and Agriculture to develop a biomass training program. The program will focus on one wildland-urban interface community in each of the 13 southern states and one in Puerto Rico. An economic analysis and needs assessment will be conducted and training materials will be de-



Okeelanta Co-generation facility burns woody biomass and sugarcane waste.

veloped to help selected communities decide whether burning woody biomass for energy is a viable option. Debris from thinning for wildfire mitigation, land clearing and yard waste is prevalent at the wildland-urban interface and provides an untapped source of energy. UF team members include Martha Monroe (Principal Investigator), Doug Carter, Christie Staudhammer, Matt Langholtz, Lauren McDonell and Brian Becker from the SFRC, Alan Hodges from Food and Resource Economics, and Pratap Pullammanappallil from Agricultural and Biological Engineering. Wayne Smith of SFRC will provide guidance. Other team members include Annie Hermansen-Báez and Edward Macie from the SCWUIRI, Bill Hubbard from the University of Georgia, private consultants Richard Schroeder and Phil Badger, and Kathy Baskin of the SSEB.

Alumni News

'76

Mike Branch was awarded the Outstanding Alumnus of the Year at the SFRC Student Council's 2004-2005 Annual Awards Banquet. He is currently the Governmental Affairs Manager for Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation. Mike is the immediate past President of the Florida Forestry Association and is a past member of the St. Johns River Water Management District Governing Board.



'81

James M. DeCosmo was recently named Group Vice President - Forest for Temple-Inland Inc. Prior to this, Jim was Director of Forest Management for the Company's eastern region and served as Vice President, Forest and was responsible for the company's 2 million acres of timberland.

Awards

The following awards were presented at the SAF/SFRC Spring Symposium on April 13, 2005:

Robert G. Gorman-Southeastern Section SAF Rising Senior Forestry Student Award. **Tyler Dreaden**-Florida Division SAF Rising Senior Forestry Student Award. **Mae Funk** ('05)-Florida Division SAF Outstanding Graduating Senior in Forestry Award. **Scott A. Sager** ('00)-Florida Division SAF Young Forester of the Year Award. **Janaki Alavalapati**-Florida Division SAF Stephen Spurr Award. **Wayne H. Smith**-Recognition Award for his outstanding leadership as Chair of the Florida SAF Division is 2004. **Porter Ause Brown Jr.** ('55) and **Don M. Post** ('51) were recognized for 50 years of membership in SAF.

Alexandra Robin Collins received the Outstanding Student Award for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at the Eleventh Annual International Student Academic Award Ceremony hosted by the University's International Center.

Sherry Tucker received the SFRC Outstanding Staff Member award at the SFRC Student Council's 2004-2005 Annual Awards Banquet.

George Blakeslee and **Don Rockwood** received the SFRC Teacher of the Year for the 2005 senior and junior class, respectively. **Laura Paterson** received the Outstanding Forest Resources and Conservation Student award. **Susan Hardin** received the Outstanding Natural Resource Conservation Student award.

Faculty & Staff News



Tim Martin (left) recently earned tenure and was promoted to Associate Professor. **Scot Smith** (right) was promoted to Professor.

The School welcomes **Michael Andreau**, Assistant Professor of Urban Forestry,

to the Plant City campus; **Christina Staudhammer**, Assistant Professor Forest Biometrics, Gainesville; and **Matias Kirst**, Assistant Professor Quantitative Genetics, Gainesville. **Mae Funk** ('05) was recently hired as the SFRC Academic Services Coordinator to replace **Scott Sager** who moved into the private sector. **Alan Long** was elected as an SAF Fellow. **P.K. Nair** received the SAF Barrington Moore Memorial Award. **Dan Zarin** received a grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation to study building leadership capacity for forest conservation in the Andes-Amazonian forest.

Student News

All scholarships were announced at the SFRC Student Council's 2004-2005 Annual Awards Banquet.

J. B. Adkins Memorial Scholarship - Seth Drawdy, Mae Funk, Daniel Lombardi, Laura Paterson, Derrick Washington, Daniel Wesley; **LaFontaine Scholarship** - Bryan Croft, Tyler Dreaden, Jenny Goodrich, Ethan Sadowski, Steven Sonberg, James Sweeney; **Jim and Joh Lybass Scholarship** - Bryan Croft, Tyler Dreaden, Jeremy Tankersley; **Leigh A. Walker Memorial Scholarship** - Seth Drawdy; **Louis F. Conde Memorial Scholarship** - Susan Hardin; **Newins-Ziegler Scholarship** - Kathryn Hutchins, Laura Paterson, Mae Funk.



2005 Conclave at Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches, TX. **Laura Paterson** placed first in Wood Technology. **Jeremy Tankersley** placed first in DBH Estimation. **Seth Drawdy** and **Mae Funk** placed second in jack-n-jill cross cut. **Greg Gorman** placed fourth in men's bow saw.

Cierra Schobert received a scholarship from the Association of Consulting Foresters to attend their National Meeting in Oregon. The SAF Student Chapter led a delegation of students to the SAF National Meeting in Edmonton, Canada where they attended workshops, an awards ceremony and a special student tour of forestry in Canada. The Student Chapter attended the SESAF Annual meeting in Jacksonville, FL and the Florida Forestry Association Annual Meeting in Sandestin, FL. The students would like to say a special thank you to **Mr. and Mrs. George Sears** and the **Florida Division SAF** for their support of student activities.

Appreciation For Our Supporters

Without the support of friends we could not maintain our level of academic excellence. Many thanks to the **International Paper Company Foundation** for their contribution to Project Learning Tree, to **William McKinstry** ('04) and family for the pictures of Cummer and Sons Cypress Company, to **Jim and Joh Lybass** for their contribution that supports the Jim and Joh Lybass Scholarships.

Thanks to the following who made donations to the School's Unrestricted Fund: **Wilma Grosenbaugh**, **Leslie Bush** ('81), **Scott Slater**, and **Rod Luttrell Jr.** ('80).

Many thanks to the following who made donations to the University of Florida Forest Stewardship Program: **Farm Credit of Northwest Florida**, **DuPont Forestry Products**, **Red River Specialties, Inc.**, **Michael Parker**, and **Florida Farm Bureau**.

Bob ('48) and **Mickey Swinford** recently made a donation to the Learning Center Fund in memory of Mary Love Mathis. The John Gray Endowment for Excellence in Forest Resources and Conservation recently received financial support from **Selmer Uhr**.