A common summer sight: sandhill cranes
MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Our lives change in a minute. This year we lost one of our students, Jacob Oswald, and one of our former faculty members, Bob Sajdak. Bob was a great teacher who touched the lives of many. Jacob touched us with his smile, mild manner, intellect, service, and focus. We will miss them both. Read more later in this newsletter.

Established in 1936 under the leadership of Bert Noblet, the School will be celebrating its seventy-fifth anniversary in 2011. During those years, the cumulative events and choices of our lives have created where we are now. I hear so many stories from you about the individuals who made your lives better, the teachers and courses that contributed to making you successful, and the camaraderie of your fellow classmates, staff, and faculty who helped define who we are now and the image we portray.

I know we are also defined by the choices that others have made. These, combined with our own choices, make up a history, which should be celebrated for our accomplishments and memories of the people and events that have—and still are—influencing our lives and those whom we educate.

Our anniversary celebration will be a wonderful reflection on our history—where we came from, who influenced the changes, and some light-hearted expressions from your memories. So many wonderful things have happened in seventy-five years. We will reflect on the people and events that shaped us into one of the best groups of educators and scholars in the country. And we will celebrate the accomplishments that still define us as a community that cares about teaching, is excited by research, and helps our stakeholders to better protect and grow trees and wood.

We are planning now; watch for details. Hopefully you will contribute to the remembrances of the people and places that helped shape your lives and touched you. Until then, please email me at mrgale@mtu.edu if you want to share anything you think is significant in our history.

Best wishes for a great summer and fall.

Peg Gale '77

Greetings from Houghton

Milestones

May 1, 2010, was a milestone for the twenty-eight students who graduated from our School. Eight foresters, eight applied ecologists, four wildlife ecologists, six master’s students and two PhDs received their degrees on that Saturday morning.

This summer, the Class of 1960 celebrates their fiftieth anniversary of graduating from Michigan Tech. See reunion details on page 11 or visit forest.mtu.edu/reunion.

Also this summer, yours truly will be achieving a personal milestone: the half-century mark.

Fifty years. Wow. I am strangely comforted by knowing that I am younger than Barbie, proud to be the same age as the Portage Lake Lift Bridge, and horrified to learn I am older than Earth Day. Really? Older than Earth Day? That sounds like I’m older than dirt.

But there is one special milestone in all of our future: The seventy-fifth anniversary of the School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science. Watch for more information on this special event at forest.mtu.edu and in our fall issue of the newsletter. Plan to attend the celebration at our reunion in August 2011.

Until then, you can brush up on your School trivia by taking our history quiz on page 9. Let me know how you scored. It’s another chance to make the dean’s list!

Carrie ‘84
Newsletter Editor

Submit your alumni news to Carrie Richards, carrie@mtu.edu
A FERM Commitment to Quality

By Chris Hohnholt, director of development and outreach

The Forest and Environmental Research Management (FERM) program is an innovative, hands-on program that affords our students the opportunity to work on the School’s 5,583 acres. It is administered by one of the School’s foresters, Jim Rivard. Jim’s role is to spur the development of multilevel teams that undertake forest stand management projects. The students establish boundary markers, sample points, and use GPS to create maps. They cruise timber, mark trees, and perform sales inspections. They develop, build, and implement fish cribs. They install wildlife cameras. They evaluate habitat for Kirtland’s warblers. This is a busy group, and they’re fully engaged in all their classes.

Does it work? Our students think so. As a Michigan Tech Enterprise team, the FERM can be taken for academic credit every semester—and students typically take it more than once. What’s more, the FERM has developed a following among some of our prospective employers, who are looking for it on our students’ resumes. Popularity with both students and employers—that’s proof of quality.

Dean Peg Gale and I believe this program can take our students to the next level professionally while exposing them to skills that all foresters, wildlife ecologists, and environmental scientists should know. We are developing a cadre of supporters who can enable this program to continue for years to come.

If you’re interested in getting more information about or supporting the FERM, please contact me at cahohnho@mtu.edu or 906-487-2417. Meanwhile, you can visit the FERM on the web at ferm.mtu.edu.

Federal Stimulus Helps Scientists Control the Emerald Ash Borer Invasion

Michigan has received $650,000 in federal stimulus funding to support a pilot project to reduce ash tree mortality in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. The project, called SLAM (SLow Ash Mortality), is designed to slow the spread of the emerald ash borer and protect the UP’s ash trees. The emerald ash borer, an invasive species from Asia, has been discovered in Michigan—including Houghton County—and threatens at least fifteen species of native ash.

Michigan Tech will work with Michigan State University, the Michigan Department of Agriculture, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment, the US Forest Service, and the US Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service on the project.

Total American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding for the project is $2.2 million. The work will be done in five counties: Houghton, Keweenaw, Mackinac, Delta, and Schoolcraft.

Professor Andrew Storer, a forest insect ecologist, said that SLAM will create or maintain thirty-eight full- and part-time jobs, including nine in Michigan Tech’s portion of the project.
**New Arrivals**

**Amy Schrank** is an aquatic ecologist and an adjunct assistant professor. She earned her BS in Biology and Spanish and an MS in Resource Ecology and Management: Aquatic Ecology, both at the University of Michigan, and her PhD in Zoology and Physiology from the University of Wyoming. She teaches herpetology. She is interested in fish movement patterns, aquatic-terrestrial links, and conservation of aquatic ecosystems.

**Tatyana Georgieva** is a postdoctoral research scientist working with Associate Professor Victor Busov. Her work focuses on identifying genes involved in root architecture in relation to water and nitrogen stress in *Populus*. Tatyana has a BA in Biotechnology and an MS in Genetic Engineering from Sofia University, Bulgaria, and a PhD in Genetics from AgroBioInstitute, Bulgaria.

**Matt Powers** is a postdoctoral research scientist. Matt has been a lecturer and research associate in the School and now works from the Forest Service research lab in Minnesota. He has a BS in Biology from Ball State University and an MS in Forest Ecology and Management and a PhD in Forest Science from Michigan Tech.

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**In the News**

- Assistant Professor **John Vucetich** was mentioned in a *New York Times* article regarding a letter that he and a colleague from Duke University circulated nationwide asking the US Department of the Interior to re-examine federal guidelines on endangered species. To read the article, visit forest.mtu.edu.news.

- Associate Professor **Robert Froese** was interviewed by National Public Radio in Traverse City after he presented a report on a biomass study done for Traverse City Light and Power. To read the article, visit forest.mtu.edu.news.

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**Birding Club Helps Copper Country Audubon Install Bird Houses**

On a cold and windy Saturday morning in May, members of the Michigan Tech student bird watching club, The Birdbums, helped Copper Country Audubon put up bird houses along the Peepsock Trail just south of Houghton. The trail begins near the Pilgrim River Bridge, crosses a wetland on a boardwalk, and runs along the river to where it empties into Portage Lake. The bird houses were on eight-foot posts that were set into the ground. Five bird houses were put along the river and tree line, which is suitable habitat for bluebirds. Five more bird houses were put in a large, open area suitable for tree swallows and flycatchers.
**FACULTY FOCUS**

**Joseph Bump**

Joseph Bump, an assistant professor of wildlife ecology, would rather be lucky than good.

He completed his PhD in Forest Science at Michigan Tech in 2008, did postdoctoral work at Colorado State University, and feels very fortunate to have joined the faculty in the fall of 2009.

“It is rare and wonderful to start a position in a community and place I have already spent years getting to know.”

Joseph completed his undergraduate degree in biology at the University of Michigan in 1999 and has family from both peninsulas. So, returning to Tech has been a welcomed homecoming professionally and personally.

Joseph’s interest in wildlife ecology began as a youngster mucking around the Tivoli Bays tidal marshes along New York’s Hudson River. Three college summers of commercial fishing for salmon on Kodiak Island solidified his desire to study biology.

“Living in the bush and working on the water every day was a great balance to the classroom. I was intimately connected to the lives of thousands of fish; surrounded by whales, sea lions, and bears; and befriended by a fox and a family of ravens. It was incredible.”

Joseph’s career path has always involved wildlife and ecosystem ecology. Whether studying seaducks wintering in the Bering Sea for his master’s (University of Wyoming, 2003); doctoral work on deer, elk, and moose carcasses’ effects on soils and plants; or determining how much nitrogen moose move from lakes to forests; he feels he is always working to understand how animals affect the systems in which they live. (See the related story on page 7.)

“It is an exciting time to be working in this area. Traditionally it has been thought that animal populations are less important to ecosystem processes than abiotic factors like temperature and disturbance. The ways in which we are learning otherwise are snow-balling. This is important because animals and their habitat everywhere are threatened by human impact.”

Offshore wind energy development and its impact on wildlife is a growing research interest of his. He is developing a project to map bat activity over Lake Michigan and is collaborating with researchers to examine wind energy–wildlife impacts in the southern Caribbean islands.

“The impact on wildlife of structures necessary to capture wind energy is a great topic that I incorporate into my courses,” Joseph says. “Students immediately grasp the challenge and share the desire to develop regional wind energy resources, yet minimize impacts on wildlife and their habitat.”

Joseph and his wife, Amy Schrank, who has an adjunct faculty appointment in the School, live in Houghton, just a ten-minute walk to work. They have two sons, Thomas, 7, and Dylan, 3. The family spends two months each summer at the University of Michigan’s Biological Station in Pellston, where Amy teaches aquatic field courses, Joseph does research, and the boys enjoy camp life.

“I am a strong fan of field-based learning. It was formative for me as a student, and it is a big reason why I feel lucky about returning to the School. The field course I teach at fall camp, wildlife habitats, challenges me as much as the students.”

**Oliver Gailing**

Oliver Gailing has joined the School as assistant professor in ecological genomics. He earned his MS in Biology from the University of Bochum, Germany, in 1994 and his PhD from the University of Halle, Germany, in 2000. After two years of postdoctoral studies at the Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research (IPK-Gatersleben), he moved to the Institute of Forest Genetics at Göttingen University.

At Göttingen University, he supervised graduate students from most continents, many of them from Southeast Asia or Africa. Their research focused on the development and application of genetic markers in a variety of tropical forest trees. Based on their results, conservation strategies were proposed and implemented. Oliver developed genetic markers for the tropical tree family Dipterocarpaceae and used to identify the geographic origin of wood and wood products (e.g., window frames). These genetic tools will help to distinguish between legally and illegally harvested wood.

Oliver teaches undergraduate and graduate students forest genetics and ecogenomics and is advising them on a wide range of topics, from conservation genetics to genetic mapping of species, and from earthworms to oaks.

Oliver has his post-lector qualification (veni legendi) at the Faculty of Forest Sciences of Göttingen University. He is interested in the study of evolutionary forces acting on plant populations and species.

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At Göttingen he became interested in the genetic control of morphological and adaptive characters and interspecific hybridization in oaks. At Michigan Tech, he continues this work with his PhD student Jennifer Lind. His work on earthworms continues with Adjunct Professor Erik Lilleskov in cooperation with Göttingen University and the Northern Research Station. In the framework of a Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship project, Erin Hickey will use genetic markers to determine the geographic origin(s) of several North American earthworm populations.

Oliver moved to Houghton with his wife and two children in May 2009. They have unpacked half of their moving boxes and painted half the rooms of their new “old” house (built in 1909), but they have “completely arrived” in Houghton. They enjoyed the nice and sunny spring as they enjoyed the winter, which was not half as bad as promised.
Michigan Tech Lauded by the Peace Corps

Michigan Tech has the largest Peace Corps Master’s International Program (PCMI) in the nation, with fifty-five students enrolled in seven programs. But it isn’t just the quantity of volunteers; it’s also their quality that has been recognized.

“We’re fortunate to have Michigan Tech people involved in Peace Corps,” said Eric Goldman, national manager of the PCMI program. “They are premier Peace Corps volunteers, and we extend our thanks to you for what you have created. It’s astonishing.”

“No one comes close to your commitment and accomplishment,” he said. “Not only are you highly regarded at Peace Corps, but there are countries around the world that want Michigan Tech Peace Corps volunteers.”

Under the direction of Professor Blair Orr, Michigan Tech started its first PCMI program in 1995 in forestry. Since then, a total of 155 students have enrolled in the seven programs.

Goldman presented a plaque to President Glenn Mroz that expresses the Peace Corps’ appreciation to the University community. It reads, “Your extraordinary commitment to, and accomplishment in, the Master’s International program has made significant contributions to the lives of thousands of people around the world.”

Both Mroz and Goldman emphasized the role Blair has played in establishing and nurturing Michigan Tech’s Peace Corps program and noted his tenacity and willingness to speak his mind. “Blair is an absolute blessing,” said Goldman. “He does a superb job of keeping the Peace Corps honest.”

Grad Student Adventure
Russians, Permafrost, Hitching a Military Plane Ride

Chris Johnson had never been out of the US. In fact, he’d never been on a plane until last winter. But he made up for it big-time this year by flying to Antarctica to study climate, permafrost, glaciers, oceanography, marine biology, microbiology, and environmental protection.

Chris is advised by Assistant Professor Tom Pypker and working on a master’s degree in forest ecology and management. He left Houghton on a blustery January morning. Five flights and fifty-two hours later, he landed on King George Island just off the Antarctic Peninsula.

Traveling to King George Island is not exactly a trip to the beach. The offshore island doesn’t have scheduled airline service. Military cargo planes from the nine countries that have scientists there drop off supplies—and the occasional passenger—when the unpredictable weather permits them to land.

For the rest of the story and photos, visit forest.mtu.edu/news.
Wolves, Moose, and Biodiversity: an Unexpected Connection

Moose eat plants; wolves kill moose. What influence does this classic predator-prey interaction have on biodiversity? A large and unexpected one, say three Tech wildlife biologists. Assistant Professors Joseph Bump and John Vucetich and Research Professor Rolf Peterson report in Ecology that the carcasses of moose killed by wolves at Isle Royale National Park enrich the soil in “hot spots” of forest fertility around the kills, causing rapid microbial and fungal growth that provides increased nutrients for plants in the area.

“This study demonstrates an unforeseen link between the hunting behavior of a top predator—the wolf—and biochemical hot spots on the landscape,” said Joseph, first author of the research paper.

Joseph and his colleagues studied a fifty-year record of more than 3,600 moose carcasses at Isle Royale. They measured the nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium levels in the soil at paired sites of wolf-killed moose carcasses and controls. They found that soils at carcass sites had from 100 to 600 percent more inorganic nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium than soil from surrounding control sites. Carcass sites also had an average of 38 percent more bacterial and fungal fatty acids, evidence of increased growth of bacteria and fungi.

The nitrogen levels in plants growing on the carcass sites was from 25 to 47 percent higher than the levels at the control sites. Since large herbivores, like moose, are attracted to nitrogen-rich plants, the carcass sites become foraging sites, further supplementing soil nutrients from the urine and feces of the animals eating there.

Joseph has observed similar effects on the soil and plant life at elk carcass sites in Yellowstone National Park, another place where wolves are predators and large herbivores are their prey.

“Predation and nutrient cycling are two of the most important of all ecological processes, but they seem just about completely unrelated to one another,” observes John, who conducts an annual winter study of the wolves and moose of Isle Royale. “Joseph has led us to understand how these two seemingly disparate processes are in fact connected and connected in a most interesting way.”

Springtime Means Maple Syrup

Each spring the Forest and Environmental Resource Management Enterprise (FERM) conducts a sugar bush workshop at the Ford Center for local elementary-age children. This year, the fourth annual sugar bush was a huge success, with over 100 students learning about tree physiology, tapping trees, collecting sap, the process of evaporation, and sugar bush management.

The students took a hay ride to the “old sugar bush,” where they learned about forest management as it relates to the production of maple syrup. Following the hay ride, each class had the opportunity to tap a tree, collect sap, test the sugar content of the sap with a refractometer, and figure out how many gallons of sap it takes to produce one gallon of syrup. Many of the younger students were surprised to learn that the sap runs clear from the trees and does not come out dark brown. The final stop was at the evaporator, where they learned about the process of turning sap into syrup and what it takes to produce a high quality product. Following the workshop, the students got a chance to sample the final product: vanilla ice cream topped with fresh maple syrup.

Learning to produce maple syrup, conduct workshops, hone their tree physiology knowledge, and work as a cohesive team are some of the benefits the FERM students gain from the program. However, the real benefit is learning how to work with the public and explain complex topics to a group with varying levels of knowledge and interest.

Syrup left over from the workshop is sold locally to raise money for improvements to the operation. This FERM project is overseen by School foresters and lecturers Jim Rivard and Jim Schmierer.
Around The School

Awards and Recognitions

Davey Arbor Grants

The Davey Foundation Arbor Grant Scholarship Program gave awards to students from each of our major programs. They were presented by alumnus R. J. Laverne (1980) from Davey Tree. Candidates were nominated by the faculty. From left to right are Professor Andrew Storer, Professor David Flaspohler, Ian Bonner (AEES major), Assistant Professor Catherine Tarasoff, Kristina Flesher (AEES and WEM dual major), R. J. Laverne, and Dean Peg Gale. Not pictured are Jonathan Fournier (forestry major) and Auriel Van Der Laar (WEM major).

Congratulations to Linda Nagel and Blair Orr, who were finalists for the University’s Distinguished Teaching Awards! And an extra congratulation to Blair who was the winner in the professor/associate professor category. This award honors dedicated teachers who share not only their knowledge and wisdom but their hearts and their time with our students.

Kathleen Halvorsen, professor of natural resource policy, has been appointed to the National Academies/National Research Council Committee on Economic and Environmental Impacts of Increasing Biofuels Production. The committee will study current and projected biofuel production, use, and impacts on the environment. Kathy holds joint appointments in the School and the Department of Social Sciences. She has headed Tech’s Environmental Policy Graduate Program since 2003.

Ann Maclean, professor of remote sensing/GIS, was recently appointed deputy director of Tech’s Sustainable Futures Institute (SFI). Ann’s extensive experience in geographic information systems, remote sensing, spatial analysis, and land-use planning provides further balance for various social and engineering components of SFI’s projects.

Doctoral student Carley Kratz has been selected to receive a US Department of Energy Graduate Fellowship. The DOE Office of Science received more than 3,200 applications, which were subjected to a rigorous review. Selections were based on demonstration of outstanding academic achievement, graduate research, career objectives, and letters of recommendation. Carley is co-advised by Associate Professor Andrew Burton and Adjunct Professor Erik Lilleskov. The award will provide a three-year living stipend, partial tuition support, and a research stipend.

Faculty Promotions and Tenure

David Flaspohler and Kathleen Halvorsen received promotions to professor. Paul Doskey had tenure added to his rank as professor. Congratulations to David, Kathleen, and Paul on their accomplishments and hard work to achieve these promotions.

Former Professor
Robert L. Sajdak Dies

Bob Sajdak, 79, a former faculty member of the School, passed away June 10, 2010. Bob was a 1959 alumnus of Michigan Tech’s forestry program.

Dean Peg Gale said, “For those of us who had Bob as a teacher, he was an amazing person. He taught dendrology, genetics, and tree improvement courses, and because of his high expectations of students (especially in dendrology), he was fondly nicknamed ‘Black Bob.’ He often had a sly smile on his face when students were trying to negotiate grades or just joking with him on field trips. He was one of the first faculty to receive outside funds for his work in herbicides and tree production.”

He leaves behind his wife, Betty, and two sons, Pete and Paul. The 1973 Forester yearbook was dedicated to Bob. See the pictures and story on pages 7–8 at forest.mtu.edu/yearbook/1973.pdf.
History Challenge

1. Who was the first head of the Forestry Department at Michigan Tech in 1936?  
   a) G. C. Dillman  
   b) Bert Noblet  
   c) G. A. Hesterberg  
   d) John Muir

2. When did the first female forester graduate from Michigan Tech?  
   a) 1939  
   b) 1958  
   c) 1962  
   d) 1971

3. Remember The Forester yearbook? In what year was it first published?  
   a) 1937  
   b) 1941  
   c) 1950  
   d) 1975

4. Where was the first off-campus summer camp located?  
   a) Ford Center, Alberta  
   b) State forest land, Keweenaw County  
   c) The Otter River cabin  
   d) Camp Pori, Ottawa National Forest

5. When did the School first begin offering a degree program in applied ecology?  
   a) 1997  
   b) 1980  
   c) 1962  
   d) 1945

6. How long has the Forestry Club been around?  
   a) 25 years  
   b) 38 years  
   c) 57 years  
   d) 74 years

7. In which decade did the Forestry Department have the largest undergraduate program on campus?  
   a) 1940s  
   b) 1950s  
   c) 1970s  
   d) 1980s

8. Which current faculty member has been with us the longest?  
   a) Marty Jurgensen  
   b) Ann Maclean  
   c) Peter Laks  
   d) Jim Pickens

9. What type of vehicle was purchased in 1951 for student transportation?  
   a) Used school bus  
   b) 1-1/2 ton Dodge truck  
   c) Used delivery truck  
   d) Ford Econoline van

What was your score? Did we “stump” you? Email your comments to carrie@mtu.edu.

It’s 2010, Michigan Tech’s 125th anniversary and nearly 75 years since the foundation of the Forestry Department. We know you’re the experts on forestry and ecology, but how well do you know your School’s history? Test your knowledge and see how much you know—or remember—about our past.
1957
Ron Sadler commented on the “Dean’s Message” from the fall 2009 newsletter. He makes the point that his career quickly moved beyond the specifics he learned from his formal education, but he was able to “traverse uncharted waters” because of the sound knowledge base and the integrative attitude and adaptive capabilities he acquired at Michigan Tech.

1959
Walt Cook will attend the Land Trust Alliance annual conference in Hartford, Connecticut, this fall. Walt says his life revolves around trails: designing them, building them, maintaining them, hiking on them, teaching about them, and painting blazes on them. Plus, he volunteers for the Oconee River Land Trust as board member and stewardship chair.

1969
Doug Davies said he read the camp article from the fall newsletter “with a constant grin on my face remembering the summer of 1968 when I attended camp.” Doug retired from the British Columbia Forest Service in 2008 after a fifteen-year stint. Prior to that he operated his own forest consulting firm. Doug and his wife, Kathy (Med Tech 1970), live in Terrace, British Columbia, about 700 miles north of Vancouver, very near the Alaska panhandle.

1974
Les Quick liked the camp article in the fall newsletter “with a constant grin on my face remembering the summer of 1968 when I attended camp.” Doug retired from the British Columbia Forest Service in 2008 after a fifteen-year stint. Prior to that he operated his own forest consulting firm. Doug and his wife, Kathy (Med Tech 1970), live in Terrace, British Columbia, about 700 miles north of Vancouver, very near the Alaska panhandle.

1976
Barb Whitney Cencich retired after over thirty-two years with the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Barb spent her entire career with the NRCS in Colorado as a soil scientist, conservation planner, and in technology support. Her husband, Rodney (also a 1976 forestry graduate), retired from elementary school teaching. To celebrate their retirement, Barb and Rod, along with son Everett (a graduate student in jazz performance at Colorado State University), met their daughter Irene (who is in the US Navy stationed in Japan) for a family vacation in Hawaii.

1983
Ivan Eastin (MS 1985) is at the University of Washington, where he is the director of the Center for International Trade in Forest Products. He conducted research in Shanghai, Beijing, Tokyo, and Vietnam last year and also runs the Peace Corps Master’s International Program in International Forestry. He enjoys rock hounding and would love to get back to the Keweenaw to search the rock piles around the old mines for copper specimens.

Andrew Cole (1973) was in Houghton for a visit last fall. Andrew is the retired owner of Mathisen Tree Farms, in Greenville, Michigan. The tree farm produces Christmas trees each year on 1,500 acres.

Washington, DC, Alumni Visit, May 2010
Pictured, left to right, are Rene Bunster (1958), Wendy Owen (MS 2003) Susan Balint (2004, MS 2009), Christa Cherava (MF 2004), Karen Owen (MS 2003), Dean Peg Gale, and Director of Development and Outreach Chris Hohnholt.

Brian Hamilton (1994) and his wife, Amy (MSE 1995), stopped by the School while doing a college tour with their oldest son, Jonathon. In 1994, Brian was named the School’s Outstanding Senior in Forestry.

Left to right: Ben and Katie (13-year old twins) and Chris (15), Ivan Eastin, and Kelli Trosvig (Ivan’s wife), who is vice president and vice provost for information technology at the University of Washington.

1992
Andy Londo (PhD 2000) reports that his wife, Alexis, received her PhD in Forest Science in May. She is a research associate in the Department of Forestry at Mississippi State and will be teaching spatial technologies. Andy is a professor and extension forestry coordinator there.

1995
Kevin Megown (MS 1997) has a new position with the Forest Service in Salt Lake City as a senior project leader and biometrician with the Remote Sensing Applications Center. Kevin says the skills he learned at Michigan Tech helped him excel and allowed him to obtain the jobs he wanted.
1996
Mohd Salleh Abbas works for Sabah Forestry Department, in Malaysia, which is similar to the Forest Service. Mohd is a senior planning officer and deals with forest policy, international forestry, and corporate affairs. He earned his MS in Tropical Resource Management in 2006 from the University Putra of Malaysia.

1997
Leslie Jagger (MS) and David VanderMeulen (1999) welcomed their first child, Cora Grace, born in November 2009.

2000
Kongjak Jaidee (MS) teaches GIS and English in Thailand. He also collects geographical data for mapping and managing watershed areas. He states that he loves Michigan Tech.

2002
Sara Claypool graduated with the inaugural Doctor of Pharmacy class at the University of Charleston’s School of Pharmacy in May.

2005
Maria Stoneberg Janowiak (MS 2007) was named 2009 Young Forester of the Year by the Michigan Society of American Foresters.

Emily Wright Calhoun (MS) and her husband Kevin (Computer Science 2005) welcomed their son, Luke Ray, into the world in February 2009.

2006

2007
Lacey Mason (MS) and her husband, James (ME 2003), announce the arrival of their daughter, Caroline Lucille, born January 21, 2010.

By coincidence, Carrie Richards (MS 1984), Mic Holmes (1984, MS 1988), Patty Flemmington Holmes (1985, MS 1987), and Chris Boza (1981) found themselves sitting together on a flight from Minneapolis to Detroit. Chris is an urban forester with the City of Hayden, Idaho. Mic is a biometrician with Plum Creek Timber Company in Columbia Falls, Montana. Patty is recently retired from Plum Creek, and Carrie works for the School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science.

Remembering
Jacob R. Oswald

Jacob, a forestry major who had just completed his junior year, lost his life in a car accident near his home in Hillman on May 2, 2010.

At Michigan Tech, Jacob was the recipient of the first James Lamy Endowed Scholarship, a full-tuition award, which he earned based on merit. He was active in the SAF/Forestry Club, serving as its project manager this year and was elected to be the president for the upcoming year.

“This is an enormous loss to us,” said Dean Peg Gale. “Jake’s nickname was ‘Boots’ because of the big boots he always wore. He always had a smile on his face and purpose in his walk.”

A service of remembrance is planned for September 11, after Jacob’s friends and classmates return to campus. If you would like to be added to a notification list, please contact Carrie Richards, carrie@mtu.edu, 906-482-3148.

Calendar of Events
Michigan Tech Alumni Reunion
August 5–7
SFRES Reunion Event—All Class Lunch
August 6
Sixty-fourth Lake States Logging Congress, Green Bay, Wisconsin September 9–11
Wildlife Society Annual Conference, Snowbird, Utah October 2–6
SAF National Convention, Albuquerque, New Mexico October 27–31
SFRES seventy-fifth anniversary celebration—plan ahead August 2011
“Flannel and Fun”

Every spring it is traditional to honor our seniors and some outstanding faculty at our annual awards night. This event has had several names and venues over the years, but this year was special.

Working from student feedback, an event was organized that was fun, casual, entertaining, and included lots of flannel. The Overstory was born—a chance to relax, tell some stories, and celebrate the year being over. Faculty, staff, students, and friends closed out the year at The Overstory, which was held at the South Range Community Building.

Some exceptional students were honored by Dean Peg Gale, the faculty, and staff. The following awards were presented: Outstanding Senior in Forestry—Josh Brinks, Outstanding Seniors in Applied Ecology and Environmental Sciences—Katie Hietala and Ian Bonner, Outstanding Senior in Wildlife Ecology and Management—Alexis Sullivan, Outstanding Undergraduate Service Award—Kip Cline, Outstanding Graduate Student—Amber Roth, and Outstanding Graduate Service Award—Amber Roth.

The students recognized the dedication of our faculty and staff and one of their own by presenting the following awards: Faculty of the Year—David Flaspohler, Faculty Rookie of the Year—Joseph Bump, Outstanding Staff Member of the Year—Mike Hyslop, and Forester of the Year—Lucas Berger.

Plan to Join Us for Reunion!

Welcome back to the Classes of 1960 and 1985! We look forward to seeing you in August for the celebration of your fiftieth and twenty-fifth anniversary of graduating from Tech. A special lunch, hosted by Dean Peg Gale, will be held in your honor on Friday August 6, 2010, at the Nara Nature Center in Houghton. Presentations of Outstanding Alumni Awards and Honor Academy inductions are also planned. These events are open to all our graduates and their guests. For more information, visit forest.mtu.edu/reunion; contact Carrie Richards, carrie@mtu.edu, if you plan to attend.