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Calendar of Events

SFRES Holiday Social
December 15, 2006
Midyear Commencement
December 16, 2006
GLI Hockey – Joe Louis Arena
December 29–30, 2006
SFRES Natural Resources Career Fair
January 31–February 1, 2007
Winter Carnival
February 7–11, 2007
Alumni Isle Royale Trip
July 9–14, 2007
Alumni Reunion
August 2–4, 2007

Vacation on Isle Royale next summer
School ranked among the nation’s best forestry research programs
Biotech researchers help decipher the first tree genome
Plus... Special research section
Message from the Dean

Dear Alumni and Friends,

I am reminded that Henry Ford, when assessing the potential growth of hardwoods in this region to supply wood for his cars, knew he needed help to increase forest production. He turned to School faculty and Forest Service personnel, who developed the selection cut system now used across this country for more than just northern hardwoods—you may know this as gap dynamics. I am reminded of so many faculty research projects: why a tree grows in a certain area or on a certain soil; why a certain animal resides in a certain habitat; why a certain process or chemical protects wood; why cutting one tree in a particular area will help seedling regeneration; how tree growth can be predicted using site index and basal area; or, why roads can affect ecosystem functions.

Teaching is our core effort, yet research is also very important. Though education takes priority, it is our research that inspires our teaching. Faculty who are curious individuals make excellent teachers. In his 1929 book, The Aims of Education, Alfred North Whitehead wrote, “The proper function of a university is the imaginative acquisition of knowledge... Do you want your teachers to be imaginative? Then encourage them to do research. Do you want your researchers to be imaginative? Then bring them into intellectual sympathy with the young at the most eager, imaginative period of life, when intellects are just entering upon their mature discipline. Make your researchers explain themselves to active minds, plastic and with the world before them; make your young students crowning their period of intellectual acquisition by some contact with minds gifted with experience of intellectual adventure.”

Let me suggest a theme: Winter Carnival. I look at old yearbooks, and I am amazed by the incredible, award-winning statues that the Forestry Club used to build. How did they do that? Or maybe another topic will spark a memory and hearten you to write. What about publishing the yearbook, participating in intramural sports, or competing at convalesce? Don’t feel limited to these topics either! Any anecdote is appreciated.

To make your stories easier to share, use the alumni response form at www.forest.mtu.edu/alumni/update. So whether you want to snail mail or email, we would love to hear from you. What’s your story? —Carrie Richards, Editor

Greetings from Houghton

What a great idea! All our alumni reunion lunch in August, Dean Peg Gale said, “I have a little gift for anyone who wants to tell a story.” Just a little incentive to speak, and we had ourselves some great old stories! It was great to hear what “bright” things some of our alumni have done, and the mini-novels that gave several the encouragement they needed to tell their tales. I hope it becomes an annual tradition.

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by Stacy Cote, Director of Outreach

An alumni gathering last summer in Raleigh, North Carolina

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The gatherings were great for alumni to meet and reminisce. Because of the success of these gatherings, we want to involve more alumni by having event cohosts. Cohosts help select a meeting place and then contact their alumni in the area. Please let me know if you would like to cohost an event!

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Dennis’ challenge to donate to this scholarship, we are establishing a place that is displayed in the School’s atrium. If you donate $100 or more to the Alumni Memorial Scholarship, your name will be added to the plaque along with the name of the person you are honoring. It is a great way to recognize someone from the past but also give to the future. And it’s easy: complete the donor form on page 9 of the newsletter, and return it to me, Stacy Cote, at the School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science. Questions? You can contact me at sscrotey@mtu.edu, 906-487-2417.

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Gatherings—Let’s Get Together

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We do not choose teaching over research or research over teaching; we integrate our curiosity about a very complex system into everything we do. If you remember those who motivated you to be better at what you did, they inspired you to learn through the “adventure” of knowledge they created in the classroom or in the woods. They were enthusiastic about the science. They were enthusiastic that one day, you too would know the woods as they did and that you would share their lifelong passion for working with and in forests.

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I would also like to bring your attention to our new strategic plan and goals. The faculty, staff, and I, with input from the School’s advisory board, have hard work designing our core values into a plan for the next year and near future. The plan can be found on the website at www.forest.mtu.edu/core.

Margaret R. Gale

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We have added to our website an alumni update page. This is where you can tell us your stories. Or give us an update on what you’re doing. Or just get in touch with us or other grads.

I often see graduates of our School replying to the University’s weekly TechAlum News email. So I know you have tales to tell.

Let me suggest a theme: Winter Carnival. I look at old yearbooks, and I am amazed by the incredible, award-winning statistics that the Forestry Club used to build. How did they achieve that? Or maybe another topic will spark a memory and a hearten you to write. What about publishing the yearbook, participating in intramural sports, or competing at conclaves? Don’t feel limited to these topics either! Any anecdote is appreciated.

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Class Notes

Alumni Sightings

David VanderMeulen (1999) visited the School last year. David earned a masters degree from UM-Duluth in 2002 in Forest Management and environmental science and now is a biologist with the National Park Service, He and Leslie (Jagger) VanderMeulen (1997) live in Ashland, Wisconsin, where Leslie is a Gift coordinator for the city of Ashland.

Michelle (Niemola) Miller is married by with baby daughter, Ava (born on May 8, 2006), for her first tour of duty. Anna is a math major in Tech, and in April Miller with daughter's career path, she could be in the Michigan Tech Class of 2020!

Alumni News

Keeping connected

1970

Joseph Asiala sent a note to say that he is back in Canada, after working for thirty-six years in the Ontonagon paper mill, which is owned by Smurfit-Stone.

1981

Steve Jamieson is a fire management officer with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and he runs his own chartered company.

1996

Gary LeMasters is an environmental educator associated with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture. He lives in the town of the Coulee Region of Wisconsin, in Buffalo County, with his wife, and he works about eight miles to the west. His area, as Gary says, is the closest left loins are great for bicycling and motorcycling.

1998

Joe Anderson (MS 1999) and his wife, Julie, moved back to Wisconsin. Julie is working as a position in forest management for the International Corporation for Park Falls Hardwoods Division. Their son, Justin, was born in December 2005, and their daughter Fallon was born in August 2006. Brian says, “We miss you, but get back every chance we get.”
New Funding

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David Karnosky received $27,000 from the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service, for “Starting the Second Decade: Operating the Aspen FACE Experiment.”

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Associate Professor Andrew Storer was featured this fall in a Toledo Blade article, “Foresters Learn Beetle Basics.” Andrew was teaching forest professionals how to identify telltale signs of the emerald ash borer. A link to the story can be found at www.forst.mtu.edu/news.

Gene Amstens: No Plans to Retire

I grew up in the Calumet area and graduated in 1957. I enrolled at Michigan Tech where I majored in “pool and pinocchio,” and after one year, I left Tech.

After a few years working in the real world, I returned to Tech with an improved attitude and graduated with a BS in Forestry in 1964 and a BS in Engineering Administration in 1965. My first job after college was with Calumet & Hecla, where I worked with Chuck Helm in the forestry division in the Keweenaw. I learned a great deal. I worked as a district forester in charge of timber acquisition and eventually was in charge of forestry districts in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota.

In 1979, I formed a new company for Longyear called U.P. Forest Marketing Corp. I ran this company and, in conjunction with others, worked the lands of Longyear, Keweenaw Land Association, the Huron Mountain Club, and the Paul Forest.

In 1992, I formed my own company, A & M Forest Marketing Corp. The focus of the business is timber harvesting and marketing timber products almost exclusively from the company’s own lands. The log procurement department purchases “figured” wood from other timber producers, principally bird’s-eye maple.

My foresters and I do all the timber marking ourselves; we work very closely with loggers to maximize the value from every tree harvested. Products are marketed according to the specifications for pulp mills, sawmills, veneer mills, and the bird’s-eye market. Products are exported mostly to Europe and occasionally to Pacific Rim countries.

My second company, Bird’s-Eye Creations, was established in 1993 (www.birdseyecreations.com). The manufacturing facility, warehouse, and showroom are located in Mohawk, Michigan. About 90 percent of the products manufactured here are from bird’s-eye maple; the rest are from curly maple and plantation poplar. Primary products of Bird’s-Eye Creations are produced for the automotive, pool cue, and musical instrument industries. The company also manufactures custom furniture, interior moldings and casings, paneling, and many gift items.

Regarding forest management, there are two methods: short-term and long-term. Even though my personal term is short, my forests are managed for the long term.

Away from the woods, I am very active in real estate, coin buying and selling (known as numismatics), hunting, fishing, and entertaining seven grandchildren.

My wife, Sherry, and I divide our time from May through December between Lake Medora and Marquette; and from August to April, we winter in Ft. Myers Beach, Florida. I have absolutely no plans to retire. I am having too much fun.

—Gene Amstens, 1957

Peter McKirdy: Well-Rounded Education Prevals

Living in what seems a world away from Michigan, it is sometimes hard to stay connected to the activities and needs of the University. So when Dean Peggy Gale showed up at my door in South Florida to ask me how I was doing, I was impressed. Over dinner with my family, she asked me how I went from “huggin’ trees in the da U.P.” to being a business analyst in the Sunshine State. Here is the path I’ve taken:

I was like a lot of college freshmen—I had no idea what I wanted to do, so for three years, I majored in computer science. Three years and two academic probations later, I was eager to try something more hands-on. Sit behind a desk all day in front of a computer? No way!

An aptitude test at the Career Center revealed that I should be a computer programmer. Disappointed but undeterred, I viewed a video from the ubiquitous School of Forestry and Wood Products. After watching people dancing with wolves and leaping on logs, I traded in my pocket protector for a compass and chainsaw. I wanted to be a forester! Upon graduation, I eventually got a real job in Chicago cruising timber near power lines, but I thought, “After all those Glenn Mroz-delivered lectures about silviculture, I have become a utility line inspector!”

I tried to cheat my way into becoming a forester and married the daughter of Tech forestry grad Gene Amstens. I soon learned marrying well doesn’t make you a forester. Foiled again! I tried something more hands-on. Sit behind a desk all day in front of a computer? No way!

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—Peter McKirdy, 1983
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Peter McKirdy: Well-Rounded Education Prevelals

Peter McKirdy was at work
Faculty Focus

Robert Froese: Enjoying Some Favorite Things

Microbrewed beer, computers, and riding his motorcycle are a few of Robert Froese’s favorite things. And with miles of beautiful, rolling, two-lane roads to ride, a couple of microbreweries to enjoy, and a town full of technology, Robert should feel right at home in Houghton.

Robert comes from the west coast of Canada, earning his BS and MS from the University of British Columbia. After the better part of two years working in the BC bush, he headed to the University of Idaho to earn his PhD. Robert is also a registered professional forester, an important distinction in British Columbia.

Currently teaching a graduate regression class, forest modeling to foresters, and biometrics to all undergrads, Robert’s teaching will soon move in a new direction as the School launches a new inventory class for all majors. The new class will combine the advanced skills from biometrics with the fundamentals from measurements. “Learning the necessary technology and applied analysis skills in their second year will,” Robert says, “prepare students for Fall Camp, where putting those tools to use can help them get more out of their integrated field experience.”

Today’s students are ahead of the game, Robert says. And connecting with them is important. He uses technology to gain this edge. Live, in-class demonstration, using the technology that students are expected to use in their future jobs, is one way he stays connected. It prepares the students with the skills they need, in the context they need. And hey, if the tech-savvy student needs to contact him, they can use instant messaging! “Eclectic,” with a laugh, is how Robert describes his current research projects.

He continues his work with the USDA Forest Vegetation Simulator (FVS), with projects in the West, Midwest, and Ontario. FVS is the US national framework for forest growth simulation.

A new project that Robert has joined is the Wood-to-Wheels (W2W) initiative. A team of researchers is investigating the optimization of converting biomass to ethanol as a vehicle fuel. How much is out there? Where is it? How valuable is it? And what is the cost? These are just a few of the questions that are being investigated.

Another project, which Robert admits is a new challenge, deals with modeling forest condition to determine how public access and biodiversity are affected when large private commercial forest landholdings are sold. Past trends can predict what the future could look like.

When Robert became a forester, his wife, Erin, said she’d still never leave the big city. They now find themselves living, and loving, the not-so-big town of Houghton. Along with their two sons, Connor, eight, and Sacha, three, the Froeses get back to their British Columbia cabin every year, but they also find that they enjoy many of their favorite things right here in the Copper Country.

In the Classroom

Marcella Campione—Making Her Future Happen

In September 2006, Marcella Campione started her second year of college. Majoring in forestry with minors in ecology, international Spanish, and chemistry, she is one busy sophomore who is actively crafting her own future.

Originally from the Chicago area, Marcella chose to “come up to Tech” not only because of its highly rated forestry program but also for the atmosphere. “I was excited to start studying classes in my major right away,” she said.

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Michigan Tech Expands Its Global Programs

Michigan Tech has entered into an agreement with Chaoyang University in Taiwan. Michigan Tech President Glenn Mroz and Chaoyang University of Technology’s President Chin Chung-Jen signed an agreement in September, which opens doors to a variety of cooperative endeavors between Michigan Tech and CYUT in Taiwan. The agreement will expand opportunities for students and faculty at both institutions.

Possible areas of collaboration include joint undergraduate programs, faculty and student exchanges, graduate education, and research.

“I’d expect that this partnership will bring a number of highly motivated, qualified students to Michigan Tech,” said Professor Chung-Jui Tsai, director of Michigan Tech’s Biotechnology Research Center and a native of Taiwan. “It will also allow our own students to broaden their education and expand their view of the world.”

CYUT was founded in 1994 as the first private technological college in Taiwan and became the first private technological university in 1997. It received the top rank among private universities for fiscal year 2005 from Taiwan’s Ministry of Education.

Some of Robert’s favorite links

www.forest.mtu.edu/faculty/froese
www.biometrics.mtu.edu
www.fvs.mtu.edu
www.stf.mtu.edu/wz2w
www.apple.com
www.keweenawbrewing.com

Marcella’s links

www.pavlisinstitute.mtu.edu
www.forest.mtu.edu/academics
www.forest.mtu.edu/students/groups/saf
www.wintercarnival.mtu.edu
http://cce.students.mtu.edu
http://bluekey.students.mtu.edu
Peter McKirdy continued from page 5

With my career clock ticking and my new-found penchant for pushing paper rather than making it, I look what I thought was a forestry job in Florida. After my business cards arrived with my title as "arborist," I asked, "What the heck is an arborist?" Before I could figure it out, several hurricanes felled all the trees, answering that question! That's when I finally stopped fighting nature and gave in to my attitude.

Now, I am a business analyst with Florida Power and Light. All day, I play with spreadsheets and computers, albeit with a sense of destiny. For me the lesson was finally revealed: if at first you don't succeed, go back to what you're good at.

In all seriousness, many forestry grads succeed in "niche" forestry or unrelated fields. My forestry education definitely helps in working with foresters to develop and interpret performance indicators. It just goes to show that a well-rounded program like those in the School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science is essential to handling life's unpredictability. That eclectic education gave me the confidence to try new things and the decision-making skills to flourish in harsh business environments.

In a very roundabout way, I reached my dream of living in paradise with a loving family and a secure job that I have a talent for and enjoy. My original ideals may not match my current career, but the trip was fun and now I know the answer to the Trivial Pursuit question, "What is a clinometer?"

—Peter McKirdy (1994)

Faculty Focus

Robert Froese: Enjoying Some Favorite Things

Microbrewed beer, computers, and riding his motorcycle are a few of Robert Froese's favorite things. And with miles of beautiful, rolling, two-lane roads to ride, a couple of microbreweries to enjoy, and a town full of technology, Robert should feel right at home in Houghton.

Robert comes from the west coast of Canada, earning his BS and MS from the University of British Columbia. After the better part of two years working in the BC bush, he headed to the University of Idaho to earn his PhD. Robert is also a registered professional forester, an important distinction in British Columbia.

Currently teaching a graduate regression class, forest modeling to foresters, and biometrics to all undergrads, Robert's teaching will soon move in a new direction as the School launches a new inventory class for all majors. The new class will combine the advanced skills from biometrics with the fundamentals from measurements. "Learning the necessary technology and applied analysis skills in their second year will," Robert says, "better prepare students for Fall Camp, where putting those tools to use can help them get more out of their integrated field experience."

Today's students are ahead of the game, Robert says. And connecting with them is important. He uses technology to gain this edge. Live, in-class demonstration, using the technology that students are expected to use in their future jobs, is one way he stays connected. It prepares the students with the skills they need, in the context they need. And hey, if the tech-savvy student needs to contact him, they can use instant messaging!

"Eclectic," with a laugh, is how Robert describes his current research projects. He continues his work with the USDA Forest Vegetation Simulator (FVS), with projects in the West, Midwest, and Ontario. FVS is the US national framework for forest growth simulation.

A new project that Robert has joined is the Wood-to-Wheels (W2W) initiative. A team of researchers is investigating the optimization of converting biomass to ethanol as a vehicle fuel. How much is out there? Where is it? How valuable is it? And what is the cost? These are just a few of the questions that are being investigated.

Another project, which Robert admits is a new challenge, deals with modeling forest economics to determine how public access and biodiversity are affected when large private commercial forest landholdings are sold. Past trends can predict what the future could look like.

When Robert became a forester, his wife, Erin, said she'd still never leave the big city. They now find themselves living, and loving, the not-so-big town of Houghton. Along with their two sons, Connor, eight, and Sacha, three, the Froeses get back to their British Columbia cabin every year, but they also find that they enjoy many of their favorite things right here in the Copper Country.

In the Classroom

Marcella Campione—Making Her Future Happen

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Marcella credits the FLC with some of the success in her freshman year that culminated with a 3.94 GPA. Marcella also used her first year at Tech to get involved in many activities. She was the president of her hall, where she organized fun social events like their cardboard canoe team during Homecoming.

She was elected a junior officer of the ForestrySAF club and is a member of the School’s student advisory board. Several activities at the university level also attracted Marcella. A member of the Honor’s Institute, she is an Orientation Team leader, Blue Key member, Pavlis Institute for Global Leadership member, and sister and officer of Theta Chi Epsilon sorority.

"I never thought I would have such a fulfilling first year, and can’t wait for the next three years," Marcella remarked. She is confident that she will get a well-rounded education with many hands-on opportunities that will prepare her for the future. "Plus, you can’t beat the fall color tours and Winter Carnival!"

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### Around the School

#### Welcome New Faculty, New Staff

**New Staff**

Michelle M. Jarvie has taken the new position of greenhouse manager. She previously worked part-time in the School. Jarvie has a BS in Forestry and an MS in Biological Sciences from Michigan Tech and lives in Houghton.

Kari Price has joined the School’s staff as program coordinator of the Ford Center (formerly the Ford Forestry Center) in Alberta. She was previously employed at Indiana University, Spring Mill State Park, and the Monroe County Historical Society in Bloomington, Indiana.

Kari has experience in natural and historical interpretation and educational programming. She earned a BS in Biology, with minors in chemistry and education. She has an MS in Natural Resource Management from Ball State University. Kari lives in Keweenaw Bay and enjoys gardening and historic restoration.

Katrina (Katie) Schutte has also joined the staff of the Ford Center as an office assistant. She was previously at the Bayshore Veterinary Clinic in L’Anse. Katie served as deputy county clerk of Baraga County for over thirteen years. She is married to Joseph Schutte and they live in L’Anse. She and her husband enjoy spending time together with their two cats and their black lab.

Scott Jacobson is a research associate with the School. He was previously a carpenter and maintenance worker at St. Mary’s Hospital in Rhinelander, Wisconsin. Scott holds a BS in Geography and an AS in Industrial Technology from Bemidji State University, in Minnesota. He and his wife, Diianne, live in Rhinelander, where he is also a hunters’ education instructor.

**New Faculty**

Jacqueline Grant recently joined the faculty of the School as an assistant professor of wildlife ecology. She comes to Michigan Tech from the Natural Resource Ecology Laboratory at Colorado State University, where she was a fellow in the David H. Smith Conservation Research Fellowship Program. As a postdoctoral researcher, she investigated the landscape ecology of boreal chorus frogs in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Jackie earned her BS in Biochemistry from Texas A&M, then her MS and PhD from Cornell University, where she researched a wide variety of wildlife, including rhinos, tadpoles, salamanders, caterpillars, and spiders. Jackie’s teaching responsibilities include wildlife habitat, wildlife ecology, and herpetology (the study of reptiles and amphibians).

Jacqueline arrived in Houghton this September with her husband, Matt Weeg, and their five-week-old son, Benjamin. Jackie, Matt, and Ben are happy to be back in the forest and close to the Great Lakes.

More information about Jackie can be found at [www.forest.mtu.edu/faculty/grant](http://www.forest.mtu.edu/faculty/grant).

John Vucetich recently joined the faculty of the School as an assistant professor of wildlife ecology, but John is not new to Michigan Tech; he has been around awhile! He earned his BS in 1984 from the biological sciences department and his PhD from the School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science. John co-leads, with Rolf Peterson, research on Isle Royale wolves and moose. John is also involved with wolf research and policy development in places like Wyoming, the Upper Peninsula, and the southwest United States.

John’s more general research interest is population biology. John’s teaching responsibilities include mammalogy, population biology, and the ethics and philosophy of conservation science.

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### In the Field

#### Forest Service Opens Underground Lab

The ribbon was cut and the doors were opened as the USDA Forest Service unveiled its new subterranean research facility in August. The facility, known as the Houghton rhizotron, sits behind the Forest Service lab and allows researchers and scientists access to the underground without disturbing the soil.

And it’s not what you’d expect! When entering the long, sloped room, it is not apparent that you are underground until a glass-paneled window is revealed and you are viewing, well, dirt. But it’s not just dirt! Behind the glass, deep in the soil, roots, fungi, insects, and worms are exposed. It is remarkable viewing. Joe Powers, who is the facility’s manager, welcomes tours.

Alex Friend, project leader and research ecologist, said that carbon sequestration will be studied in the $500,000 rhizotron. Scientists will address concerns about global warming by studying how forests reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide, a potent greenhouse gas. Most of the carbon found in forests is in soils, and so the rhizotron will provide a critical resource for studying how to improve soil carbon storage.

“The rhizotron enables repeated, nondestructive access to forest soil as it really is in nature,” said Professor Kurt Pregitzer, director of the School’s Ecosystem Science Center.

“It’s a cross-section in the soil from the surface down five feet,” Friend added. “Most people never see that. It’s a window into the way the soil works.”

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- **Ford Center**—For improvements and operations at the home of Fall Camp
- **Alumni Memorial Scholarships**—Established by alumni
- **Undergraduate Scholarships**—For students; awards are based on merit and/or financial need
- **Peace Corps Scholarships**—For graduate students enrolled in the Loret Ruppe Master’s International Program in Forestry
- **Hammarskjold Equipment Fund**—For equipment needed in the classroom and in the field
- **Master of Forestry Fellowship Fund**—For graduate students in our professional forestry master’s program
- **Graduate Student Assistantship Fund**—For graduate student support
- **Professional Meetings Scholarships**—For student support to attend professional meetings

**Amount of gift**

- $50
- $100
- $200
- $500
- $1,000
- Other

**Form of payment**

- Visa
- Mastercard
- American Express
- Discover
- Check (made out to the Michigan Tech Fund)

**Credit card number**

**Expiration date**

**Name as it appears on the card**

**Please enclose the latest envelope to the School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science, Michigan Technological University, 1400 Townsend Drive, Houghton, MI 49931-9989.**

Or, you may donate online at [www.mtf.mtu.edu](http://www.mtf.mtu.edu). If none of these match your interests, contact Stacy Cote at 906-487-2417 or [scotety@mtu.edu](mailto:scotety@mtu.edu). We’ll help you make a difference!
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Credit card number ________________________________
Expiration date ________________________________

Name as it appears on the card ________________________________

We’d love to hear from you!

Please enclose the latest news about yourself (new additions to your family, marriage, a new job, promotion, etc.). Or drop us a line at www.forest.mtu.edu/alumnoupdate.
Study Ranks SFRES Among Best Forestry Research Programs

A new study published in the Journal of Forestry puts the School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science among the top forestry research programs in the nation. Two Auburn University faculty, David Laband and Daowei Zhang, were inspired to undertake the project of measuring the quality of academia—which can be an exercise in fuzzy logic—while watching a college football game. A promotion clip, tooting a forestry program as second best in the nation, opened their eyes. The authors wondered, “based on what?”

So they shouldered the task of ranking university forestry research programs throughout the US and Canada based on something real: the measurable performance of research faculty. Specifically, they looked at publications in five prestigious scientific journals and at citations, the number of times a faculty member’s work is cited by other authors. Citations in particular reflect the impact research has on the community of science.

When they finished counting, Michigan Tech's forestry faculty had generated on average 526 citations apiece, ranking them first in this category. "It shows that for our small number of faculty, we really have a large influence," said Dean Peg Gale. "The total number of citations is also amazing."

The School ranked seventeenth in the number of publications per faculty member and thirty-first in the total number of publications. When the authors completed their analysis, Michigan Tech finished eighteenth based on the strength of its forestry research. But when they asked forestry deans and department heads to rank programs, Michigan Tech was listed a more modest twenty-sixth out of fifty-three, indicating that our achievements exceed our reputation.

"Perception isn’t always reality," Gale noted. "This paper may help to change the perception. Places such as Oregon State, Penn State, and the University of Minnesota have larger faculties; and may get more recognition," she said, "But I think we’re doing extremely well; this study will help make our peers more aware of that." *Laband, David N., and Daowei Zhang. 2006. Citations, Publications, and Perceptions-based Rankings of the Research Impact of North American Forestry Programs. Journal of Forestry. 104:254-261.

Faculty Research Makes the Cover of Science

Wood from a common tree may one day play a major role in filling American gas tanks, according to scientists whose research on the fast-growing poplar tree is featured on the September 15, 2006, cover of the journal Science.


The research opens the door to solving some of the earth’s most pressing ecological problems. "By understanding the tree genome, we can plant trees that lower greenhouse gases," said Joshi. "And this opens up opportunities for environmentalists and biotechnologists to work together," Busov said.

"Now that the genes have been identified, the consortium of scientists is working on the next phase of the project: deciphering the role played by each gene. "There are secrets to life embedded in this genome that we don’t know anything about,” Busov said. "Our next step is to create knowledge from this information," said Joshi. "And the final step will be to use that knowledge with wisdom, to benefit every organism on earth."

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Gene Arntsen: 2006 Outstanding Alumnus

Each year, the School selects one alumnus for special recognition. In August, Gene Arntsen was named the School’s 2006 Outstanding Alumnus. Read more about Gene and his career path in the full article, “On the Job: Family Ties” on page 5.

A few of the 1956 gang got together, joked about old times, and told stories on each other (left to right): Bob Roach, Enzo Beccia, Jim Bailey, and Richard Lindbergh.

These 1966 graduates were celebrating their fortieth reunion (left to right): John Nelson, Loren Schaumb, Bill Gates, and Rick Mahringer.

Provest and Vice President of Research (and former faculty member) Dave Reed (left) and Dean Peg Gale (right) present alumnus Paul Essinger with his Honor Academy plaque.

Gene Arntsen (center) receives his Outstanding Alumnus award from retired professor Chuck Hein (left) and Dean Peg Gale.

Left to right, Chandrashekhar Joshi, Victor Busov, and Chung-Jui Tsai in their lab.
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But when they asked forestry deans and department heads to rank programs, Michigan Tech was listed a more modest twenty-sixth out of fifty-three, indicating that our achievements exceed our reputation.

“Perception isn’t always reality,” Gale noted.

“This paper may help to change the perception. Places such as Oregon State, Penn State, and the University of Minnesota have larger faculties, and may get more recognition,” she said, “But I think we’re doing extremely well, this study will help make our peers more aware of that.”


Faculty Research Makes the Cover of Science

Wood from a common tree may one day play a major role in filling American gas tanks, according to scientists whose research on the fast-growing poplar tree is featured on the September 15, 2006, cover of the journal Science.

The article, coauthored in part by three of the School’s faculty and one of our alumni, highlights the analysis of the first complete DNA sequence of a tree, the black cottonwood or *Populus trichocarpa*. It lays groundwork for the potential development of trees that could serve as the ideal feedstock for a new generation of biofuels such as cellulosic ethanol.

“This is just one of the groundbreaking discoveries we’ve made,” said Professor Chung-Jui Tsai, director of the Biotechnology Research Center and one of the researchers.

The research opens the door to solving some of the earth’s most pressing ecological problems. “By understanding the tree genome, we can plant trees that lower greenhouse gases,” said Joshi.

“TIhis opens up opportunities for environmentalists and biotechnologists to work together,” Busov said.

Now that the genes have been identified, the consortium of scientists is working on the next phase of the project: deciphering the role played by each gene. “There are secrets to life embedded in this genome that we don’t know anything about,” Busov said.

“Our next step is to create knowledge from this information,” said Joshi. “And the final step will be to use that knowledge with wisdom, to benefit every organism on earth.”

This unique and prestigious awards program is designed to shine the spotlight on “second-stage companies” credited with generating the bulk of new, sustainable jobs in the state and serving as a powerful economic force.

Paul is named the School’s 2006 Outstanding Alumnus. Read more about Gene and his career path in the full article, “On the Job: Family Ties” on page 5.

Gene Arntsen: 2006 Outstanding Alumnus

Each year, the School selects one alumnus for special recognition. In August, Gene Arntsen was named the School’s 2006 Outstanding Alumnus. Read more about Gene and his career path in the full article, “On the Job: Family Ties” on page 5.

Gene Arntsen (center) receives his Outstanding Alumnus award from retired professor Chuck Heim (left) and Dean Peg Gale. A few of the 1956 gang got together, joked about old times, and told stories on each other (left to right): Bob Roach, Enzo Baccia, Jim Bailey, and Richard Lindbergh.

A few of the 1956 gang got together, joked about old times, and told stories on each other (left to right): Bob Roach, Enzo Baccia, Jim Bailey, and Richard Lindbergh.

These 1966 graduates were celebrating their fortieth reunion (left to right): John Nelson, Loren Schaub, Bill Gates, and Rick Mahringer.

Reunion Review

Amidst the University’s reunion activities, the School took time to honor some of its own.

Paul Essinger was inducted into the School’s Honor Academy and Gene Arntsen was presented with the School’s 2006 Outstanding Alumnus Award. The ceremony took place on a sunny Saturday in August at the Dreamland Restaurant in Bojangles. The fun-spirited crowd included alumni, former and current faculty, friends, and guests. There was a gang from the class of 1956 and a few from 1966, celebrating their fiftieth and fortieth reunions. Plan ahead: next year’s Michigan Tech Reunion is scheduled for August 2-4, 2007.

Paul Essinger is the School’s Newest Honor Academy Member

Paul completed his BS in 1983 and his MS in 1986, both from Michigan Tech, and took his first job as a procurement forester with Lake States Wood Preserving in Munising. In 1987 he became the director of sales and marketing for Hiawatha Log Homes in Munising.

Paul is now president and owner of Hiawatha Log Homes (www.hiawatha.com). His company has earned the distinction of being named one of the “Fifty Companies to Watch in Michigan.” The foundation of Hiawatha Log Homes is its dedication to rich traditions and exceptional natural beauty.

Paul was selected by Northern Michigan University’s College of Business as its 2006 executive in residence and also appointed to NMU’s Walker L. Cisler College of Business Dean’s Advisory Council.

Paul enjoys snowmobiling and sailing. He and his wife, Jill-Anne, make their home in AuTrain.

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More information on this project can be found at www.forest.mtu.edu/news or www.biotech.mtu.edu.


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7 Tech Expands Global Programs

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Calendar of Events

SFRES Holiday Social
December 15, 2006

Midyear Commencement
December 16, 2006

GLI Hockey – Joe Louis Arena
December 29–30, 2006

SFRES Natural Resources Career Fair
January 31–February 1, 2007

Winter Carnival
February 7–11, 2007

Alumni Isle Royale Trip
July 9–14, 2007

Alumni Reunion
August 2–4, 2007

Vacation on Isle Royale next summer

School ranked among the nation’s best forestry research programs

Biotech researchers help decipher the first tree genome

Plus . . . Special research section