MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Dear Alumni and Friends,

It hardly seems like 18 months since I returned to Michigan Tech as dean of SFRES, and a year since I last wrote you. Much has happened since then, and I can only give you a glimpse here.

A year ago I talked about launching a new Biomaterials Initiative at Michigan Tech, and we have made significant strides since then, culminating in the very successful Michigan Biomaterials Conference in Traverse City in October.

You may also recall Andy Burton being appointed director of the Ford Center and Research Forest and charged with integrating its teaching, research, and outreach missions. Some exciting things have happened since then, and much more is planned, including the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Ford Motor Company donating the Center and Forest to Michigan Tech.

Andrew Storer was appointed associate dean with his main responsibility being oversight of academic programs; much has happened in this area since. Perhaps the most significant change on the national level has been a substantial downturn in forestry majors over the last four decades: they now constitute about 17 percent of all undergraduate majors in natural resources. Most of these losses have been offset by an increase in interdisciplinary majors in natural resources: they now make up about 40 percent of all undergraduate natural resource majors and eclipse all other fields of study, including fisheries and wildlife. This shift has prompted new accreditation standards for natural resources majors.

Interestingly, forestry majors make up about 60 percent of our undergraduate enrollment, while our interdisciplinary degree in Applied Ecology and Environmental Science (AEES) constitutes only about 13 percent. The question we face is why so few students major in AEES here, given the national trends. The answer may reside at least in part in the name of our degree program; thus we are seriously entertaining a change to include natural resources in the title of this degree. One intriguing possibility nationally is that interdisciplinary degree programs will become the norm at the undergraduate level in natural resources, with specialization (and accreditation/certification) in specific areas occurring at the graduate level.

Another area of focus in recent months is our international endeavors. We are rekindling past relationships with institutions in Europe, continuing our relationships in South America and Africa, and building new relationships in places like Asia. We recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Yunnan Academy of Forestry (YAF) to establish exchanges with an emphasis on ecosystem restoration. We are planning to visit YAF along with other key forestry research and educational institutions in China. Finally, we are putting together a list of the contacts our faculty and staff have with natural resource and related professionals around the world. If you would like to be added to this list of contacts, please let us know.

Last year we expanded our advisory board to around 40 people who span the disciplines of our School. At our last gathering, members provided some excellent advice on our curricula, the Ford Center and Research Forest, and our Biomaterials initiative. Our next meeting is scheduled for March 27-28, 2014. If you are so inclined to serve on our advisory board, we would like to hear from you. There are no honoraria or travel reimbursements provided, but the food, drink, and camaraderie are free of charge.

In closing, I invite your comments on anything we do. I can be reached by email at tlsharik@mtu.edu or on my cell phone at 734-972-2356. Better yet, drop by my office anytime to share your thoughts.

Terry Sharik
Our goals in the School include offering the best curriculum for our graduate and undergraduate students and offering programs that will help students pursue their careers. To achieve this, we track and participate in discussions of issues relating to undergraduate and graduate education in forestry and natural resources at the national level.

One of the national trends in university education in recent years has been the emergence of 4+1 programs, whereby students complete a four-year bachelor’s degree and then stay for an extra year to complete a master’s degree. In addition, there has been an increase in the number of professional masters degree programs offered that emphasize course work geared towards a particular career path.

In the School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science, we have had a very successful Master of Forestry professional degree program since 2004 as our sole professional master’s degree program. Now a new professional master’s program joins it: Master of Geographic Information Science. This program, started in fall 2013, is available for people with interests in geographic information systems, remote sensing, and spatial analysis. The job market in this field is very strong, and we look forward to graduating students who will be very strong competitors in this market. This master’s program will also be offered as a fifth-year program (4+1). This gives students the opportunity to graduate with a degree in forestry, wildlife ecology and management, or applied ecology and environmental science along with a Master of Geographic Information Science, all in five years.

We are also making our Master of Forestry degree available as a 4+1 program for graduates of our forestry undergraduate program. The fifth year will be spent taking classes in an area of expertise. Currently we offer the advanced technologies specialization that emphasizes new technologies like geographic information systems as well as data processing and analysis. Additional specializations are being developed in business and policy.

Expanding our graduate program offerings and enrollment is consistent with the goals of the University as well as increasing the diversity of our graduate student body.

Another national trend is the decline in forestry undergraduate enrollment and an increase in enrollment in more broadly based natural resource programs. Our undergraduate forestry enrollment remains strong and our graduates are well sought after. However, offering a more broadly based natural resources degree at the undergraduate level may enhance the enrollment in our other undergraduate programs. In parallel to offering 4+1 programs, we are working to develop a natural resources undergraduate major that covers a broad range of natural resource topics and issues, with the thought that more specialized natural resource training would be provided at the graduate level. At the same time, we are working with the Department of Biological Sciences to explore jointly offering an undergraduate degree in ecology that draws on the expertise available in each of the academic units. Each of our graduate master’s of science degrees (forestry, forest ecology and management, applied ecology, and forest molecular genetics and biotechnology) are already available with a course work option and can be offered as a fifth year for students completing one of these undergraduate degrees. Over time, we anticipate developing other professional degree programs in natural resources to complement our current offerings, with the overall goal of developing the best-trained graduates for natural resource careers.

Development of these programs involves both the school curriculum and graduate studies committees and the faculty as a whole. There is a very strong interest in the School to maintain its reputation regionally and nationally. We have greatly benefitted from advisory board input and invite any input from our alumni and friends that may help us to better meet the demands of careers in forestry and natural resources. If you have any thoughts to share about our programs, please do not hesitate to contact me at storer@mtu.edu or 906-487-3470—it would be great to hear from you.

Andrew Storer
Biomaterials

Biomaterials as a term is used to describe any organic materials that are extracted from ecosystems, including but not limited to wood, mushrooms, edible berries, and plant sap in terrestrial ecosystems and algae in aquatic ecosystems. From a lifecycle perspective, the issue is how to extract these materials from ecosystems without compromising their integrity; how to process these materials in a myriad of ways to fully use the resource; how to market them regionally, nationally, and globally; and how to recycle these green materials through the same or other materials, or back through ecosystems.

Michigan Tech and the Michigan Society of American Foresters (SAF) worked together this fall to bring players from all aspects of the biomaterials life cycle (see figure) together for the first Michigan Biomaterials Conference in Traverse City on October 3-4, 2013. The conference, hosted by the Michigan SAF, brought together stakeholders from around the state to form the framework for a Michigan Biomaterials Initiative. Michigan Tech brought in delegations from Maine, North Carolina, Virginia, and Oregon to share their successes in the biomaterials industry. The first goal of the conference was to identify barriers to biomaterials becoming a more significant part of the economic vitality and overall quality of life in Michigan. Next, conference participants worked to define an educational program (two-year, four-year, graduate, and continuing) focused on biomaterials. Finally, the participants were charged with identifying gaps in research and technology related to biomaterials.

You can find the proceedings to the conference on the School’s website (www.forest.mtu.edu) and on the Michigan SAF website (www.michigansaf.org). The next step in this process is to convene a statewide committee of all stakeholders with a vested interest in biomaterials to examine the major barriers to moving forward with biomaterials and developing strategies for making gains. We will also have a meeting here at Michigan Tech to determine our role in this statewide initiative.
Ros Miller, a long-time professor of the School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science, has shared with us an inside look into the professional life of a professor that we hope you enjoy.

After graduating from high school on Long Island, I attended the NY State Ranger School at Wanakena, New York, in the Adirondacks, now part of the Syracuse College of Forestry and Environmental Science. Upon graduation with a certificate in forest technology, I went to work for a landscape construction outfit and used my knowledge of land surveying and planting materials on a highway construction job on Long Island until I was drafted into the Army for two years.

In January 1953, I entered the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse and spent 3.5 years getting my BS in Forestry and another year getting my MS in Forest Management. Summers I worked for the US Forest Service in Washington State and three summers for the Canal Unit of the NY Department of Public Works doing land surveying.

Upon graduation, I went to work for the US Forest Service in Eastern Oregon pine country, then moved to the Pacific Coast and worked for Crown Zellerback Corporation in Western Oregon, doing forestry and surveying for four years. I passed the state surveying exam and became a registered land surveyor in Oregon.

In 1964, I moved to Northern New Mexico and worked for the Navajo Indian Tribe. I then switched to the New Mexico Highway Department, acquired my land surveyors license and became chief of surveys for an Interstate highway construction project near Gallup.

It was later in 1964 that I answered an ad in the Journal of Forestry for an assistant professor position at Michigan Tech and was interviewed at the Colorado National SAF Convention by Gene Hesterberg. I was hired as a temporary replacement for Dick Crowther as he completed work for his PhD in recreation. During this appointment, which lasted through 1966, I taught silvics, practice of silviculture, and seeding and planting.

I was asked to stay on for the 1966-67 school year for Bob Sajdak while he completed course work leading to his PhD in forest genetics and tree improvement.

I then went to the University of Michigan for two years—1967–69—to complete coursework for my PhD in forest management. My research in the UP included interviews with loggers from Sault Ste. Marie to Ironwood and from Copper Harbor to Menominee; my degree was awarded in 1973.

I was rehired on a permanent basis in time to teach Summer Camp in 1969 and then to teach all of the wood tech and forest products courses for the 1969–70 year—including wood identification, forest products and industries, logging, wood technology, and timber law. In the first three academic years, I taught 17 different courses.

Between 1970 and 1995 (when I retired), I was appointed and served on the Michigan Board of Forestry and the Michigan Board of Land Surveyors by two different governors. I served as a minor editor of the Journal of Forestry, editing and approving articles for publishing.

I also attended a USFS summer course for forestry professors taught in California. I helped plan the land surveying curriculum that the Tech forestry school was asked to develop for the State of Michigan (I was one of three land surveyors in the forestry faculty). I gave refresher courses in both surveying and forestry for people taking their registration exams in Michigan. I rewrote the prescribed fire plan for Isle Royale National Park and wrote a research proposal regarding prescribed fires that was approved by the federal government.

I taught 31 different forestry and land-surveying courses in the 29 years I taught in the School of Forestry, under five different heads/deans, and was promoted to full professor when I retired.
AROUND THE SCHOOL

In the News

Forester, instructor, and FERM Enterprise leader Jim Rivard has produced software, called OpenCruise, to collect cruise data on a wide range of devices, including most smartphones and tablets. This software is open-source (you can download the computer code and modify it) and is available free on the SFRES website (https://opencruise.mtu.edu/). You can collect cruise data on your device and upload it directly to your webpage from the field; if you drop the device in a puddle or lose it in the woods, the data is already safely stored at home. OpenCruise received a very positive review on the Field Tech page of the November 2013 Forestry Source. Congratulations to Jim Rivard for a job well done!

Softball

The forestry softball team finished 4th in the 2013 GSG intramural softball season.

Deaths

Richard H. Giebner—July 30, 1939–November 15, 2013

Born across from Wrigley Field in Chicago, Richard passed on November 15 in St. Paul, Minnesota. He is survived by his wife Sandra; his children Norman, Paul, John, Carrie, Joel, Tyler, Crystal, and Seth; his grandchildren Jessica and Zachary Ingbritson, Sam and Tiffany Giebner; and great-grandson Christopher.

Richard was a Navy veteran of Vietnam, deep-sea diver, husband of more than 50 years, father of 8, grandfather, great-grandfather, and foster-father of 115 children; he was a man of deep commitments and a compassionate heart.

Margaret (Peg) Harris—April 14, 1949–June 10, 2013

Peg Harris passed at her home in Arlington, Virginia. Born in Rye, New York to the late Dr. Basil Harris and Marie Murray Harris, Peg attended Sacred Heart Academy in Purchase, NY. She was enrolled in Boston College before transferring to Michigan Tech where she received a BS in Forestry (1972) and an MS in Forest Soils (1974). She received a PhD in Soil Science from Cornell University in 1989.

Peg spent her professional career, from 1982 until her retirement in 2009, with the US Forest Service in research and strategic-planning positions. After her retirement, she headed her own environmental consulting company, Dunebaeg Consulting in Arlington, Virginia, and continued to support the Forest Service with strategic planning and analysis.

Eric “Rick” B. Mahringer, age 69, passed away January 2. Eric received his BS in Forestry from Michigan Tech in 1966, then earned his MS in 1969. He worked as a forester for the Department of Natural Resources for 10 years then worked for Menominee Tribal Enterprises, and later was a private consulting forester.
New Faculty/Staff

We are proud to welcome Joseph Wagenbrenner as a hydrologist at the School. Wagenbrenner’s research has focused on quantifying the effects of wildfire on runoff and erosion and measuring how well these effects can be mitigated. He is also interested in erosion and sediment transport in unburned landscapes.

Tara Bal has been named the new coordinator of the Master of Forestry program.

Hannah Abbotts has joined the staff as the new community liaison specialist.

The Wildlife Society Annual Conference
The Michigan Tech student chapter of the Wildlife Society had an excellent performance in the quiz bowl at the Wildlife Society’s 2013 Annual Conference, coming in fourth out of seventeen teams. They were very nearly third, and played Humboldt State (the very tough bowl runners-up). They beat Purdue in the first round, SUNY Cobleskill in the second, lost to Humbolt in the third, and barely lost to the University of Tennessee in the consolation finals.

SAF Conference
SFRES students and faculty members attended this year’s Society of American Foresters annual convention in Charleston, South Carolina. For the students, the conference kicked off with the student SAF quiz bowl. The SFRES students played well, but, unfortunately, lost in sudden death against the University of Minnesota. The informational sessions that followed were centered on the theme “Silviculture Matters.”

Our quiz bowl team at the Wildlife Society conference, left to right: Tyler Walters, Kelley Littlefield, Megan Bake, Anna Buckardt

New Funding Highlights

Rodney Chimner—Associate Professor


Molly Cavaleri—Assistant Professor

Peter Laks—Professor

Dana Richter—Research Scientist II

Martin Jurgensen—Research Professor
Impacts of Forest Biomass Removal on Soil Quality and Biodiversity: $15,000. 2014–2016. US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service.
The Ford Center: Upgrades and Improvements

The Ford Center and Research Forest continue to be busy with education in forestry, ecology, and wildlife management. Thirty-nine of the School’s juniors and first-year Master’s of Forestry and Peace Corps Master’s International students attended Fall Camp at the center from August through November, culminating in a series of management presentations just before Thanksgiving break. The center continues to attract groups throughout the region interested in field-based natural resources education. For three weeks in September, the Ford Center hosted 34 students from Iowa State University’s forestry camp, and Alma College and North Central Michigan College both brought groups during the summer. In addition, participants in the US Forest Service’s National Advanced Silviculture program and Michigan Tech’s Global Change Teacher Institute visited the forest to learn about ongoing forest management demonstrations and climate change research studies.

Facilities Improvements

To improve our educational, research, and outreach efforts, we have completed several infrastructure improvements, with more planned for the future. The Ford Center now has a high-speed network link to campus, the result of a cooperative effort between the School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science, Information Technology, and the Baraga Telephone Company. Robert Froese played a critical role in initiating this work more than two years ago. The computer lab, dorm, and administrative offices at the center were connected to the Internet by DSL for over a decade. This past summer, fiber optic cable was installed between L’Anse and Alberta, providing a 1 Gbps connection. Wireless service has been installed in four buildings—the residence and dining hall, computer lab, classroom one, and the main office—and the computer lab has wired connections for all machines and printers. Students and guests at the Ford Center can now feel just as connected as they do on campus (except for cellular service, of course).

Thanks to support from the National Science Foundation, through their Field Stations and Marine Laboratories improvement program, we’ve been able to make additional improvements. The Ford Center received a $343,639 grant for “Facilities Improvements for Ecological Research at Michigan Tech’s Ford Center and Research Forest.” Principal investigators on the grant included Andrew Burton, Robert Froese, Oliver Gailing, Lynn Artman, and Kari Price. To date these funds have been used to convert the Carriage House into a functional wet lab with a sample preparation room and to install a new high-efficiency propane heating system in the dormitory to replace the aging fuel oil boilers. The new propane boilers, which began operating in September, should reduce the cost of heating the dorm by more than 50 percent. The new wet lab has a fume hood, autoclave, chemical resistant benchtops and sinks, two large drying ovens, and a variety of lab benchtop equipment. The facility can be used for both research and instruction requiring lab procedures or large areas for sample processing and display. One final improvement the NSF grant will provide is a 100-foot-tall communications tower, located on a high knob about a mile south of the Alberta Village. The tower will enable wireless access to nearly 90 percent of the Ford Center and Research Forest. We anticipate completion of this last portion in summer 2014, and it’s possible that we may be able to use the tower to actually bring a good cellular signal to the village.

Further infrastructure improvements at the center are needed, and we are currently seeking grant funds to convert a portion of the buildings to a wood-energy heating system. If this grant application is successful, significant matching funds will be needed. To help fund needed facilities renovation and improvements, we will continue to pursue grant opportunities and will also begin a fundraising effort in 2014. When the time comes, your help will be greatly appreciated, so stay tuned!

The Carriage House now houses a wet lab.
Celebrating the Ford Center’s Legacy

July 27 was a busy day at the center as we celebrated Henry Ford’s 150th birthday. The celebration included free rides in Model T Fords, a Ford car show featuring antique, classic, and modern models, free admission to the Sawmill Museum, and a self-guided tree trail through the site’s majestic forest. Thanks to the efforts of Kari Price, Dave Stimac, and the rest of the Ford Center staff, the event was a big success.

Next summer will see an even bigger celebration commemorating the Ford Motor Company giving the site to Michigan Tech. The event will take place during Tech’s Alumni Reunion, August 9–10. As you may recall, Alberta and its famous sawmill were established in 1935. The sawmill, pump house, twelve homes and garages, and three school-related buildings remain on the site, just as they did when the Ford Motor Company donated the village and more than 1,700 acres of surrounding forest land to Michigan Tech in 1954. The program in August will cover the history of the Ford Center, including the lasting legacy of the Ford Motor Company. It also will highlight how Michigan Tech has used the Ford Center and the surrounding Research Forest over the past six decades. Students performing research on forest and wildlife management will present their projects, and lead short field trips to current and past research and demonstration sites. We will also be offering tours of our existing and recently renovated facilities. We hope you can attend, tour the facility, and take a Model T ride! Remember, you are welcome to stop in and visit the center any time you are in the area.

Otter River Cabin Clean-up

The Forestry Club, along with help from Xi Sigma Pi, put on its annual fall clean up of the Otter River Cabin on October 19. Walls, windows, and floors were washed, as they hadn’t seen a proper cleaning in quite some time. Cracks along the foundation were filled, floorboards were mended, and the dreaded disarray of the maintenance room was finally tackled. Club members worked hard to mow and landscape the outside of the cabin during the cleanup, and everyone enjoyed a hearty cheeseburger lunch. Many of you will be excited to know that Jim Rivard, with the help of many Forestry Club members, installed two brand new wood stoves thanks to the generous donations of forestry alumni. Students, faculty, and alumni alike will have access to sufficient heat and never again have to experience ice-cold mornings in the Otter River Cabin. The club worked hard through the fall to fill the cabin with firewood to ensure guests enjoy ample heat from the newly installed stoves. With improvements expected to continue, the Forestry Club hopes that everyone enjoys the cabin long into the future.
When Glenn Mroz (BS Forestry ’74, MS Forestry ’77) became Michigan Tech’s President, he set the University on a bold path to attract the best students and faculty. A critical piece to attracting the best is having ample resources, so Mroz launched the Generations of Discovery capital campaign in 2006, with a goal of raising $200 million in funding. Despite steep declines in real estate and equity securities values during the economic downturn, Michigan Tech closed the campaign on June 30 having raised more than $215 million. The students, faculty, and staff wish to thank you for participating in the campaign and helping us achieve our goal.

Endowments were a focus of the campaign and they represent a link that ties the past with the present and the future. I’d like to highlight three of them here:

The first is a memorial scholarship honoring Fred Kisabeth ’58. Fred passed away in 2007 on Shoshone Lake in Yellowstone National Park and his family wished to honor him with a scholarship benefitting Michigan Tech forestry students. The goal was to memorialize Fred and provide a scholarship for a student, both of which we will do in perpetuity.

The second endowment was created prior to the existing campaign and was created to remember a legend in the program—Hammer Steinhilb. The Hammer Endowed Equipment Fund was created by a leadership gift from Hammer’s wife, Charlotte. Since that original gift of $40,000, 93 additional donors provided 184 gifts, and the endowment has grown to $71,000. The fund is periodically used to purchase field equipment that benefits our students. This endowment allows students and faculty to use field equipment today, while remembering the unique contributions Hammer provided to the program, and to continue to do both into the future.

The final example honors another legend who (even after retirement!) continues to grace our halls, Marty Jurgensen. Marty created a teaching fund and contributed to its endowment for several years. The Martin Jurgensen Teaching Development Award Endowment Fund generates revenues to provide faculty members a means to attend short-course training, to purchase special equipment for classrooms, or to encourage visits from outside speakers who can improve the level of instruction within the program. This example represents the program’s recent past, impacts our present faculty, and promises to continue to enhance the program’s teaching mission.

Each of these endowment funds was created by people who saw an opportunity to improve the program and took the initiative to do so. Our students, faculty, and staff are thankful to them and to each of you.

I look forward to meeting you during my travels, and I hope you’ll mark your calendars and join us as we celebrate another important moment for the program on Saturday and Sunday, August 9–10, 2014: the 60th anniversary of the Ford Center gift to Michigan Tech. We’re opening the dorms, the dining facility, and field trips to you and your families during the reunion.

Very best wishes for a prosperous 2014.

Chris Hohnholt

Our thanks to the many alumni and friends who have invested in the future of our School and Michigan Tech.
Andrew Londo ’92 BS, ’00 PhD has been named the assistant director of agriculture and natural resources at Ohio State University Extension. He has been at Mississippi State University since 2005, serving as professor of silviculture and the extension forestry coordinator.

Scott Kentner ’11 won the Lansing Marathon this past spring in a very snappy two hours and forty-nine minutes.

Kip Cline ’10 rode his bicycle from Hilo to the summit of Mauna Kea, Hawaii, ascending roughly 13,800 feet for a total trek of about 43 miles. The website climbbybike.com lists the ride as the most difficult climb in the world.

If you’re a School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science alumnus/a with a story to share, we’d love to hear from you. You can share on the web http://www.mtu.edu/forest/alumni/share/ or send news, photos, etc., to the School directly by contacting Hannah Abbotts, hwabbott@mtu.edu.

James W. Balsiger ’66 was appointed United States commissioner, International Pacific Halibut Commission, by President Obama. Balsiger is currently regional administrator for the Alaska Region of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Marine Fisheries Service, a position he has held since 2000. He was appointed commissioner on the United States section of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission in 2013.

**Alumni Awards and Recognition**

The School’s annual alumni awards ceremony to honor our alumni and friends was held during Alumni Reunion at the Kestner-Waterfront Park in Houghton. Inducted into the Honor Academy was Jacob E. Hayrynen ’81 (top right), who was also awarded the 2012 Outstanding Alumnus award. Jake was instrumental in leading a region-wide forest industry tour for the new dean, Terry Sharik, in 2012. David D. Myrold ’77 has become a renowned soil microbiologist and was awarded the 2013 Outstanding Alumnus award; Marty Jurgensen accepted on his behalf. Two Outstanding Young Alumni Awards were presented this year. Francisca (Panchita) Paulete ’05 (middle right) was nominated by Blair Orr and is now a district coordinator for the BLM in Oregon. Aaron M. Everett ’01 (bottom right) was nominated by Jim Pickens and is currently the state forester at the Washington State DNR.

**Kenneth J. Kraft • May 3, 1930–January 12, 2014**

Ken Kraft, Professor Emeritus of the School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science, passed away on Jan. 12 at his Chassell Township home.

Ken began his career at Michigan Tech as assistant professor in the School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science in 1961, where he taught zoology, entomology, and ornithology. He joined the biological sciences department when it was formed in 1962.

Kraft’s research was in invertebrate ecology, particularly in aquatic environments, though some of his work extended to research on terrestrial invertebrates, such as the midge that creates galls on thimbleberry petioles.

“He was the nicest guy I knew,” said Professor Emeritus Jim Spain, also of biological sciences. “We did work together on Lake Superior. We once took a boat and a student to Rabbit Island to find a heron rookery. Well, we searched all over and couldn’t find it. We went back to the boat to discover that we had parked it right underneath the rookery!”

In 1987, Ken transitioned back to teaching in our School as associate professor of forest entomology. He retired in 1996 after 34 years of service.

He will be deeply missed.
Marty Jurgensen looks forward to new adventures as he is officially retiring this year. Well over 150 people turned out to celebrate Marty’s career and the huge influence he has had, impacting lives, educating, and making lifelong friends along the way. Terry Sharik gave a heartfelt speech and presented Marty with a memento book of photos from his career at Michigan Tech, as well as a wood carving of a lake setting. He then opened the floor for those present to share their favorite Marty stories. Several friends, family members, and alumni got up to share their favorite memories. Even President Glenn Mroz, who was one of Marty’s earliest grad students, remembered washing equipment in the soils lab. Marty will be greatly missed as one of the institutions of the School, but everyone who knows him knows he’s looking forward to getting out on the water and enjoying those birds.

Marty Jurgensen presented a retirement gift by Chris Hohnholt.