

Michigan Tech

**Four Generations
and Counting**

**Teaching Loggers to
Preserve Streambeds**

**KD Piano Man Ken Larson,
Class of 1953**

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Calendar of Events

Alumni Reunion
August 7–9, 2008

**SFRES Reunion
All-class Lunch**
August 9, 2008

**Fall Conclave,
Ford Center**
September 26–28, 2008

**SAF National
Convention,
Reno-Tahoe, Nevada**
November 5–9, 2008

**Wildlife Society
Annual Conference,
Miami, Florida**
November 8–12, 2008

Message from the Dean



Peg Gale '77

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Over the past few years, I have met so many of you who have expressed what Michigan Tech means to you. A lot of your stories revolve around the friendships you had in this small community and what they meant to you while you were going to school.

You earned a great education, but what made it a special time were the friends you met along the way, studying, doing fieldwork, playing sports, or just hanging out.

What struck me is that the formal education we provide through classes and projects is just a part of what we offer. The sense of family and community that comes from being on a first-name basis with your professors and from our shared outdoor experiences creates the climate for life-long friendships, an integral part of a quality education.

In this issue, we describe some exciting projects, as well as examples of connections we are making with each other.

We saw some changes this year. More than thirty seniors and graduate students are moving on to many new adventures. One of our PhD students, **Brian Beachy**, passed away after a very short battle with cancer. He is truly missed. His fellow graduate students started a memorial fund to plant one or more trees around the building in his memory. Read more on page 8.

We saw great enhancements to our faculty with the addition of two new members: **Rod Chimner** and **Andy Burton**.

We will see another change in our faculty next fall. **Chung-Jui Tsai** and **Scott Harding** will be moving to the University of Georgia. Chung-Jui will be assuming an eminent scholar position, and Scott will be a senior research scientist. We wish them all the best.

Our last change involves **Bill Yrjana**, who retires in July. Bill has worked with us for over twenty years as a machinist. We wish him well in his new endeavors.

Everyone in our School has been touched by what we see, hear, smell, touch, and even taste of nature and various ecosystems, and by our friends—many of whom share our interests and feel the things we hold so special in our own lives.

I hope you continue to experience this love of friendship and the outdoors throughout your life, whether in your career or in your play.

We also hope you come back to visit and let us know what adventures you are having; what ecosystems you are seeing, tasting, or smelling; and the friends you remember. Let us know how we can be better at what we do.

Peg

Greetings from Houghton



Presidential Council of Alumnae members from the School. Left to right: Karin VanDyke (1978), Phyllis Green (1980), Peg Gale (1977), Barb Wade (1978), Barb Bennett (1978) and Nancy Wizner (1980). Center front is Claudette Simons Spiroff (1958).

April is a month of traditions at the School: the annual Xi Pi Symposium, the Presidential Council of Alumnae (PCA) advisory meeting, and Spring Banquet. Read about the banquet on page 11.

Xi Pi's symposium, Ecosystems and Climate Change, featured speakers from the School, the University, and industry. Details can be seen at www.forest.mtu.edu/students/groups/xipi.

Based on the number of hardwood maple leaves I signed, I'd say Xi Pi (formally known as Xi Sigma Pi, the School's honor society) had another successful pledge class. I don't grill the initiates with a forestry question before I sign, like some of the professors do. I'm smarter than that; I know these bright, young students could show me up in a flash. I prefer to ask them where they're from and how they like Houghton. Much safer topics, for me. According to Xi Pi Forester 2008 **Chad Fortin**, twelve members were inducted in April.

Do you still have your old maple leaf? If you are interested in donating it to the School archives, or loaning it for display, let me know. The older the better, but it would be fun to see a collection from over the years.

The members of the PCA are recognized for educational excellence, professional accomplishment, service, University support, and personal success. This year, we were fortunate to have six of our eleven members join us. See the picture at left.

Special guest **Claudette Simons Spiroff** (1958) entertained the group with her stories of being one of the few female students on campus in the 1950s and the first woman forestry graduate. She told stories about her first job in Oregon, where she worked for the Forest Service as roads were planned and built to harvest timber from the steep slopes.

Claudette will join her classmates this summer as they celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of their graduation. **Tom Gelb**, also from the class of 1958, will be there. You can read more and see an invitation at www.forest.mtu.edu/reunion. Everyone is welcome. Our School has shown tremendous success in the number of alumni that come back at reunion time. We'd love to see you too.

For those of you feeling nostalgic, don't forget, all of our yearbooks (1950-97) are online at www.forest.mtu.edu/yearbook.

—Carrie Richards '84

Development and Recruitment



Endowed Chairs

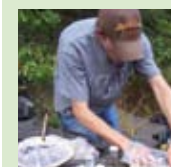
The School is looking for three endowed chairs that represent our strategic research thrusts: genomics, global climate change, and sustainability.

thrusts: genomics, global climate change, and sustainability.

We extend our thanks to our alumni and friends who contribute to the School's continuing success. We are often asked, "What can be done?" Here are our priorities.

Undergraduate Student Endowment

Generous scholarships will enable the School to recruit diverse, successful students with proven leadership skills. By attracting the best students, the School will continue to hone the quality of its graduates.



Equipment Fund

This will provide the physical tools necessary for undergraduate and graduate education.

Investments in the fund will help purchase items such as global positioning units for fieldwork and lab equipment supporting biotechnology and wood science research.

Capital Improvement

The School aims to improve its facilities as it emerges as a leader in forest research. Well-planned growth provides a quality environment for students, staff, and faculty. The character of the building can be a key factor in attracting and retaining people who will sustain the success of the University.



Ford Center

The Ford Center is central to our educational mission, and funding is needed so it can continue to provide superior outreach and conference facilities. The center supports activities ranging from forestry, wildlife ecology, and applied ecology research to leadership training and business seminars. An investment in this key arm of the School will help realize Henry Ford's vision of a self-sustaining center while supporting long-term education and research in northern hardwood and conifer ecosystems.

Graduate Student Fellowship Endowment

This endowment will invest in three key areas: First, funding awards in the Loret Miller Ruppe Peace Corps Master's International Program in Forestry. This program shines like a beacon of hope on the world's impoverished regions, enabling students to create the future. Second, the endowment will enhance the education of the Master of Forestry students. This professional degree program provides students advanced forestry skills. Graduates enter the industry able to succeed and lead. Third, the endowment will fund graduate research assistantships, supporting the work of young researchers as they create new knowledge.



Forest and Environmental Resource Management (FERM)

An investment in the FERM helps students turn ideas into reality. This innovative, hands-on program incorporates applied ecology, wildlife ecology, and forestry. Teams plan and implement conservation management within the School's 5,500-acre forest. Students can see the lasting impact of their time and energy.

Alumni Sightings



Laurie Coulter (2005) and her sons Isaac, 8 (right), and Evan, 4 (center), stopped at the School for a visit while they were in town with family. Laurie is a stay-at-home mom and volunteers at the Blanford Nature Center and North Park Montessori School. Laurie's husband, Melzar, is a civil grad (2003 and 2005).

Bernie Hubbard (1967) has been voted vice president-elect of the Society of American Foresters. For the calendar year 2009, Bernie will serve as the president of the society, and the following year he will be immediate past president.



Congratulations to Bernie! It was nice seeing you at the 2008 Spring Banquet.



Phyllis Green (1980) and **Blizzard T. Husky** cheered on the Hockey Huskies at a home game in March.

Submit your Alumni News update to **Carrie Richards**, carrie@mtu.edu.

Alumni News Keeping Connected

1956

A special thank you from the School goes out to **Carol Robert**, whose husband **Kenneth Robert** was a 1956 forestry graduate. After Kenneth passed away, Carol thought of the School and donated his old yearbooks to our collection. The School thanks her and **Pat Lindberg** (spouse of **Dick Lindberg** 1956). Pat delivered the yearbooks from Oregon, Wisconsin, with a note: "You folks produce great foresters and great husbands!"

1958

Celebrating 50th class reunion August 7-9, 2008
www.alumni.mtu.edu/reunion

1966

James (Jim) W. Balsiger has been appointed acting assistant administrator for NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, directing federal scientists and regulators responsible for managing commercial and recreational ocean fishing and the protection of marine mammals, sea turtles, and their habitat. In 2002, President Bush awarded Jim a Meritorious Award for sustained superior accomplishments in the management of programs of the US government and for noteworthy achievement of quality and efficiency in the public service.

1968

Celebrating 40th class reunion August 7-9, 2008
www.alumni.mtu.edu/reunion

1972

Tom Duvendack has been retired for six years. He and his wife spent two of the past four summers in Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota and in Acadia in Maine, where his wife has been a ranger/interpreter. This summer they will head to the Bad Lands National Park in South Dakota.

1975

Joseph A. Duda has been with the Colorado State Forest Service since August 2001. He is the forest management division supervisor and is based in Fort Collins.

In the News

Below is a summary of news articles featuring the School that have appeared in print and online. To learn more, go to www.forest.mtu.edu/news.

■ "The Long View," an article about Isle Royale National Park and the wolf-moose predator-prey study, is featured in *Audubon* magazine and at audubonmagazine.com.
■ "Michigan Tech Near Tops In Poplars" appeared in *Great Lakes IT Report—the Daily Tech News Source for Michigan and Beyond*.
■ Research Professor **Rolf Peterson** spoke about the wolves and moose of Isle Royale with Charity Nebbe of Michigan Public Radio.
■ Michigan Tech's story "Wood-to-Wheels: Fuel from the Forest," which originally appeared in the *Michigan Tech Magazine*, was reprinted by "Technology Century" in its December 2007-January 2008 edition.

■ Wildlife Watch posted a feature, "Fifty Years of the Predator and the Prey," on the wolves and moose of Isle Royale, citing research by Assistant Professor **John Vucetich** and Research Professor **Rolf Peterson**.
■ A *New York Times* reporter sought out Professor **Rolf Peterson** as an expert commentator for a story on Great Lakes wolves. The NYT story was picked up by United Press International and a number of other outlets, including the science news site physorg.com.
■ "A Prehistoric Forest Rises From a Farmer's Pond" appeared on the science news websites Science Daily and Terra Daily.



Awards and Recognitions

Honors

■ Associate Professor **Andrew Storer**, Adjunct Professors **Alex Friend** and **Erik Lilleskov**, and **Noah Karberg** (MS 2004) received a best poster award at the Soil Science Society of America—Forest, Range, and Wildland Division annual meeting in New Orleans in November 2007.
■ Associate Professor **David Flaspohler** has been appointed to the Forestry Research Advisory Council of the USDA Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service as the representative from the Ornithological Council. The council promotes science, education, and outreach related to birds, their habitats, and conservation. "The Forestry Research Advisory Council is a respected and influential organization of scientists, industry and public groups concerned with forests and land use," Flaspohler said. "It is a real honor to have a chance to serve on this panel."
■ **Steve Kimble** has joined the School staff as an assistant research scientist. Kimble was

previously employed as a GIS manager by Fishing Hot Spots, a mapping company. He holds a BS in Geography from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.
■ Assistant Professor **Thomas Pypker** received a \$44,000 Research Seed Award from the Office of the Vice President for Research for "Monitoring the Effect of Climate Change and Disturbance on the Carbon and Water Budgets of Northern Peatlands."
■ Professor **David Karnosky** received a \$12,000 Infrastructure Enhancement Award from the Office of the Vice President for Research for "Enhancing Michigan Tech's Ability to Assess Dissolved Organic Matter Transfers Among Upland, Wetland, and Aquatic Ecosystems."
■ Congratulations to PhD students **Bharat Pokharel** and **Joseph Bump**, who received Graduate School Finishing Fellowships for their outstanding achievements and potential to make significant contributions in their fields.

Faculty Appointments and Promotions



Left to right: **Chris Webster**, **Victor Busov**, **Shekhar Joshi**.

Congratulations to **Chris Webster** and **Victor Busov** for achieving tenure and for their promotions to associate professor. Congratulations also to **Shekhar Joshi** for his promotion to full professor. We are very proud of our faculty's accomplishments.



Rod Chimner has joined the School's faculty as an assistant professor. Rod teaches Wetlands, Restoration Ecology, and several other advanced wetland courses. Rod's research involves climate change in peatlands, wetland restoration and management, basic wetland ecology, and ecohydrology of riparian trees. Rod has been a visiting assistant professor at the School for the last two-and-a-half years.

Rod received a BS in Earth Science from Northern Michigan University, an MS in Forest Hydrology from Michigan State University, and a PhD in Ecology from Colorado State University. After earning his PhD, Rod lived in Tasmania, Australia, while his wife, **Sigrid Resh** (who is a research assistant professor at the School), completed her postdoc with CSIRO in forest ecology. Rod did his postdoc in Hawaii with the Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry, US Forest Service. Following his postdoc, he worked as a research scientist at National Resource Ecology Laboratory (NREL) at Colorado State University for three years before coming to Michigan Tech. Rod and family enjoy being back in Michigan and especially enjoy skiing, mountain biking and hiking.



Rod Chimner



Andrew Burton

Andrew Burton joins the School's faculty as an associate professor in August. Andy will teach Forest and Landscape Ecology and several advanced ecology and ecophysiology courses. His research examines the effects of climatic change, nitrogen deposition, and altered atmospheric composition on forest productivity and the cycling of carbon and nutrients. Much of his work focuses on processes occurring below ground. Andy is the director of the Midwestern Regional Center of the National Institute for Climatic Change Research.

Andy received a BS in Forestry and an MS in Forest Hydrology from Michigan State University and a PhD in Forest Ecology from Michigan Tech. Andy and his wife, Trish, live in Lake Linden with their children, Tara, Nicole, and Alyssa. They are thrilled to know they will be able to continue enjoying life in the UP for many years to come.

SAF Student Membership Boosted

The Society of American Foresters (SAF) is the leading scientific and educational organization within the forestry profession. SAF provides many professional opportunities for its members.

To encourage students to join the society, members of Michigan SAF sponsored the first year of membership for fourteen Michigan Tech students. Students were sponsored by faculty, alumni, and others. According to Associate Professor **Linda Nagel**, who oversaw the project, the effort increased membership and involvement in the School's student chapter and allowed several students to attend the MI SAF spring meeting in Marquette.

Dean **Peg Gale** thanks all who sponsored students this year. It is a wonderful way to invest in the future of the profession. If you would like to be involved in next year's membership drive, email Linda Nagel, lnagel@mtu.edu.



Alumni News Keeping Connected

1977

John Hirschfeld transferred two years ago from the Site Discovery and Assessment Program (remediation) to the Inland Water Resources Division enforcement unit with the Connecticut EPA. He works with wetlands and watercourses, dam safety, water diversion, stream line encroachment, and flood zones. He has brushed up on soil classification and mapping, since wetlands are delineated by soil drainage rather than vegetation. Knowing the vegetation helps, John says. He also commented that he is "just loving" the old yearbooks, which are online (www.forest.mtu.edu/yearbook). "Glenn and Marty are wearing some very cool '70s threads."

1978

Celebrating 30th class reunion August 7-9, 2008
www.alumni.mtu.edu/reunion

James Lorenson has been named president of Gogebic Community College by the college's board of trustees, effective July 1, 2008. Gogebic Community College is located in Ironwood, Michigan.

1983

Celebrating 25th class reunion August 7-9, 2008
www.alumni.mtu.edu/reunion

1986

Sue Hart Leake (MS 1988) lives in North Dakota with her husband, Todd, and their two boys, Skye, 11, and Mica, 10, where they farm wheat, soybeans, and sunflowers. They are involved in the hockey program in the town of Northwood, population 1,000, which is about seventeen miles from their home. Sue is trying to help her community build a roof over its outdoor rink, and she would like to talk with any alumni with connections. You can contact her at toddleake@polarcomm.com and read her entire letter at www.forest.mtu.edu/alumni.

1988

Celebrating 20th class reunion August 7-9, 2008
www.alumni.mtu.edu/reunion

Around the World

Michigan Tech Poplar Research Ranked World-Class

More than half a dozen researchers and numerous graduate students at Michigan Tech conduct poplar research. Their work has earned the School eleventh place among the top institutions publishing papers on poplar research worldwide.

In a special issue published by the *Canadian Journal of Botany*, universities and other research institutions around the world were ranked based on the number of poplar research papers published in peer-reviewed journals between 1990 and mid-2007. Michigan Tech researchers published 158 papers, earning the University eleventh place, ahead of twelfth-ranked Michigan State University.

Researchers include Associate Professor **Andrew Burton**, Associate Professor **Victor Busov**, Research Associate Professor **Scott Harding**, Professor **Chandrashekar Joshi**, Professor **David Karnosky**, Research Scientist II **Dana Richter**, and Professor **Chung-Jui Tsai**.

School Faculty Rated Among the Most Productive in the Nation

The School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science faculty ranked first in the nation for their scholarly productivity during 2006–07, according to a report released in November 2007 in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*.

Michigan Tech overall ranked in the top 20 among 375 research universities specializing in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields.

"It's really great to see this recognition of the efforts of our faculty," said **Glenn D. Mroz**, president of Michigan Tech and former dean of the School. "Compared to many surveys that focus on input from others, this focuses on accomplishments and quantifies reputation based on citations, which is truly the measure of how people regard the work of scholars."

The rankings in 173 disciplines take into account the number of professors in the program. "I am very excited about the recognition this ranking gives our faculty (as well as our staff and students)," said Dean **Peg Gale**. "The scholarly efforts of our faculty reflect their passion for science and their commitment to communicating this information to others."

Yale University's forestry faculty ranked second to Michigan Tech, and Michigan State University ranked third.

Ford Center: Teaching Loggers to Protect the Watershed

Upper Peninsula trout streams can look forward to a healthier future, thanks to a \$165,590 grant from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to the Ford Center, in Alberta.

The grant will fund the construction of a forest water quality and management demonstration area. Loggers, landowners, and forest managers will be able to tour the demo area to learn about management practices that protect the local watershed.

The School will spearhead the project under the direction of **James Schmierer** and **James Rivard**, both forester/lecturers.

If not properly managed, timber harvesting can wreak havoc with local streams. "You can cause erosion and sedimentation, destroying fish habitat," Rivard said. "And if you slow the flow or remove stream-side vegetation, the water can warm to the point that trout cannot live there."

Improper road construction can affect surface drainage and create dams that flood the surrounding land, killing off trees and altering the landscape.

The demonstration area will exhibit a variety of stream crossings that protect the streambed and banks, including a timber bridge made from trees harvested nearby and a rock ford, which allows vehicles to drive across small streams without disrupting the creekbed.

The demonstration area will also illustrate road-building techniques that safely drain water from the roadway without damaging the landscape.

Construction on the three-year project starts this summer, and a series of workshops begins in spring 2009 for anyone interested in protecting water quality during timber harvesting.

Properly constructed culverts and bridges can protect streams from damage during timber harvesting.

Family Ties

Family Ties—Four Generations and Counting

Rhiannon Thrasher graduated with her bachelor's degree on May 3, 2008. It was an especially important day for the Thrasher-Goodman family because Rhiannon is the third generation from her family to earn a degree from our School and the fourth generation to graduate from Michigan Tech.

Rhiannon's great-grandfather, **Francis B. Goodman**, graduated over one hundred years ago with two degrees in mining engineering. We can only speculate that he might have been a forester, if only that option had been available in 1904.

James Benedict "Ben" Goodman, Rhiannon's grandfather, graduated as a forester with the class of 1950. Born in Houghton, he lived here through the Depression and, following military service with the Merchant Marines during World War II, returned to Houghton to attend Michigan Tech. He made his career as a forester with Commonwealth Edison. However, Ben passed away in 2004, the same day that Rhiannon arrived to start her freshman year.

The next generation was **Ann Goodman Thrasher**, Rhiannon's mother. Although she wanted to apply to other colleges, her father told her if she was interested in forestry, Michigan Tech was the only choice. No pressure. Ann graduated in 1976 and began her career with the US Forest Service as a survey technician on the Tongass National Forest in Alaska. After working on the Lassen National Forest in California, she transferred back to Alaska as a recreation and lands forester. It was while working on the Tongass National Forest that she met Rhiannon's father, Patrick, a Forest Service interpretive specialist. Ann continued to work with the Forest Service in Alaska until beginning a family in 1983; however she remained closely connected with all activities. Ann and Pat stayed in Alaska until 1988 when Pat was transferred to the Medicine Bow National Forest in Wyoming. The Thrashers stayed in Laramie, Wyoming, for eight years until being relocated to Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie in Illinois, the only prairie managed through the Forest Service.

Rhiannon's interest in the School was sparked while backpacking with her family on Isle Royale during the summer of 2003. She planned to attend Michigan Tech, but was interested in a biology degree and planned to teach someday. It was a graduate of our School, working as a summer field ranger, who suggested that Rhiannon take a look at the applied ecology and environmental sciences program. Rhiannon stopped by the School after leaving the island, and Forester/Lecturer **Jim Schmierer's** impromptu tour convinced her to apply to our School rather than biology.

Rhiannon's degree is in applied ecology and environmental sciences with a concentration in plant ecology and wetlands. This summer she is interning as a GIS specialist with the Michigan Tech Research Institute in Ann Arbor, Michigan. She also plans to attend graduate school to pursue her interest in the interaction of fire disturbances and wetlands and has not ruled out the possibility of teaching.

It was a hard choice, but Rhiannon says that **Mike Hyslop** is her favorite instructor and credits him with her interest in GIS. Professor **Marty Jurgensen** is another favorite, "He's a riot," Rhiannon says; interestingly, Marty also taught Ann when she was here.

Another connection that the family has to the School is the fifteen-acre parcel that they donated to the School in 1997. The old family farm, located five miles from campus, is now a teaching forest. The Goodman property, as it is known, is used by the School's Society of Conservation Biology students for education and research.



Ann Goodman Thrasher (top, left) with daughter Rhiannon Thrasher and (bottom) with her father, James "Ben" Goodman.

Alumni News

Keeping Connected

continued from page 7

1992
Todd Opperman is a fuels tech with the Gallatin National Forest based in Gardiner, Montana. He supervises a six-person fire crew. They live in Gardiner and see plenty of wildlife from their yard.

1993
Tonja (Carriere) Opperman is the fire ecologist of Yellowstone National Park based in Mammoth, Montana. Tonja and Todd's son, Zander, will start kindergarten in the fall.

1998
Celebrating 10th class reunion August 7–9, 2008
www.alumni.mtu.edu/reunion

1998
Dan Abramson is recovering from a broken ankle sustained in November 2007, which required a plate and six screws. He works in patient registration for Portage Health in Hancock, Michigan.

1999
Rick Harrington is a planning forester with Weyerhaeuser in Livingston, Louisiana. He married Courtney in December 2002 and their daughter, Ava, was born in September 2004.

Sara (Meese) Heathman and Larry Heathman (1998) relocated to Tomahawk, Wisconsin, the summer of 2007. They have two children, Eli, born in November 2006, and Reed, born in November 2003.

2000
Eric Gano works for the USDA-NRCS as a soil scientist/GIS specialist at the Flint MLRA (Major Land Resource Area) project office, where staff are in charge of updating soil surveys for approximately nine million acres in southeast Michigan and northwest Ohio. Eric and his wife, Felicia (Leach), have a four-year-old daughter, Lorelei. Eric reports, "Everyone is healthy and happy."

Tom Seablom (MS 2002) was elected the 2008 Upper Peninsula chair of the Michigan Society of American Foresters. Tom and his wife, Sonya, have a new addition to their family, baby girl Evynn Leigh, born on November 15, 2007. They live in Alberta, where Tom is a forester with the DNR covering the western Upper Peninsula.

Alumni News Keeping Connected

continued from page 7

2001

Jamie Sheahan comments, "It's a small world!" In early March, she was in Costa Rica on vacation. After an afternoon of zip-lining through the cloud forests of Monteverde, she ran into another alumna from our School on a tiny shuttle bus, **Teresa Thieling** (2001), who was also surprised to meet a fellow SFRES graduate. Jamie said, "It was pretty suiting that we had both just been enjoying our time in the trees. We enjoyed catching up and sharing stories of what our classmates were up to now." Teresa commented, "Although it was totally surprising (to meet Jamie), it seemed fitting that I would meet another forest resources grad in a country where over a quarter of the land is set aside in nature reserves."

2002

Mike Snodgrass is living in the Detroit area and works for Park West Gallery selling fine art. Eventually, he would like to own a photography business, specializing in landscapes.

Thomas Wyse is a forester with the Living Forest Cooperative in Ashland, Wisconsin. He is pleased to work for LFC. "The people are great, and there are a lot of opportunities and challenges," Tom says.

2003

Crystal L. Pilon (MS 2005) joined the Peace Corps and departed for Niger in January to begin pre-service training as a forestry development Peace Corps volunteer. Crystal will use natural resource management techniques to promote increased food security, better environmental management, and greater access to income for the local community.

Lori Caelwaerts is completing a master's degree at the University of Wisconsin, Green Bay. Missing Michigan Tech, she says, "I love it up there and I really miss the atmosphere of the University and the School. UW-Green Bay is a nice enough place, but it's not Michigan Tech."

2004

Angela Grimes (MS) has a new position with Silliker Laboratories of Wisconsin, in Madison, where she is a microbiologist. She and her husband, Ryan, and son Gabriel live in Sun Prairie.

Ken Larson—Enjoying Retirement

Here's a fun story from one of our alumni, Ken Larson (1953). Ken wrote in to tell us how he is keeping busy in retirement.

I grew up in National Mine, Michigan, near Ishpeming, and took piano lessons from a Cornish lady at the age of 12. Later, at Michigan Tech, I played a lot of piano at the KD house in 1952 and 1953. There was a lot of great musical talent at the KD house then, and the Saturday night parties were great. After graduation in 1953, I pursued a thirty-year career with the US Forest Service—four years in Idaho and the rest in Montana. I got away from music during that period but started up again ten years ago.

In 1997, when my father was in a nursing home here in Whitefish, Montana, I became aware of the volunteers who entertained the residents. It struck me that I could become involved in such an activity.

At first, I played piano by myself. Then I ran into an eight-woman singing group that needed a piano player. We were joined by a tenor sax player, who was a retired attorney and municipal judge. It wasn't long before we added a tenor banjo, cornet, trombone, and string bass.

We play mostly 1920s and early '30s jazz, trying to style ourselves after the society orchestras of the 1920s. Everybody we play for loves this kind of music. We visit six nursing homes in the Flathead Valley of Montana and several assisted living facilities. We also play for special occasions.

We are busy; we play for fun—all volunteer—three or four days a week. It's a rewarding experience that any retiree with special talents can do. In addition to playing with the band, I play for two women's singing groups that perform in community functions and nursing homes.

Editor's note: It would be great to hear from anyone who remembers the piano playing and parties at the KD house.



Ken Larson and friends playing at the Kalispell Regional Hospital annual volunteer luncheon.

Brian Beachy Remembered

Brian Beachy passed away March 26, 2008, after a year-long struggle with cancer. Brian was finishing his doctorate in forest science, studying the effects of beech bark disease on insect communities in the Upper Peninsula under the direction of Associate Professor **Andrew Storer**. He married fellow PhD student **Jessica (Metzger) Beachy** in May 2007. Brian was an avid outdoorsman, enjoying camping, bird watching, golfing, canoeing, and gardening. He was also a talented artist and woodworker. He loved the forests and waters of the UP and was most recently employed by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory as a conservation educator in Marquette. He completed the requirements for his degree before his death, and Michigan Tech will award Brian his PhD posthumously in December. He is sadly missed by many at the School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science.



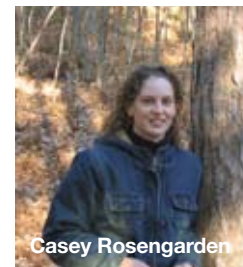
Brain's friends have established a memorial and are purchasing a tree that will be a dear part of the School's landscape, just like Brian's memory. They would like to thank all for the outpouring of support.

Contributions can be made by making a check payable to the Michigan Tech Fund and indicating that it is for the Brian Beachy Memorial. Send checks to Chris Hohnholt, SFRES—Michigan Tech, 1400 Townsend Drive, Houghton, MI 49931-1295

In the Field Urban Forestry Connections



Daniella (Zanin) Pereira



Casey Rosengarden

Daniella (Zanin) Pereira and **Casey Rosengarden** have a couple things in common. They are both graduates of the School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science. They both earned their MS degrees from Michigan Tech through the Master's International Peace Corps program, and they both have challenging careers as urban foresters in New York City. NYC? What could they need foresters for? As it turns out, plenty.

Daniella, a 2005 graduate, is the deputy director of GreenApple Corps, a public service initiative of the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation. GAC is a green-collar, job-training program that trains members in street-tree stewardship, green roofs, ecological restoration, erosion control, and environmental education. Environmental education is taught in economically disadvantaged NYC neighborhood schools and communities that have low canopy numbers and high asthma rates. These neighborhoods are referred to as "Trees for Public Health" neighborhoods.

As deputy director, Daniella devises and runs projects throughout all five NYC boroughs. She meets collaborators and commissioners, writes grants, runs training programs, advises on ecological projects, and handles administrative details.

What she likes best is advising on restoration projects. Knowing that they will be done effectively and correctly is important, as is enhancing members' knowledge.

Daniella's biggest challenge is also one of her biggest satisfactions. The age, racial, education, economic, and cultural backgrounds of GAC's members are extremely diverse. Daniella says, "The diversity of members leads you to really take a close look at yourself and your ideals. Other than Peace Corps, there are not many jobs in this world where you can learn so much from other people and at the same time examine who you are. As a boss, I exercise patience and

hope that members understand that even if the diversity is difficult to cherish at the moment, it will probably be one of the most influential group experiences of their lives."

Casey Rosengarden (MS 2007) works as an urban forester in the borough of Staten Island for the street trees division of NYC Parks and Recreation. Her work involves planting trees on sidewalks or lawns closest to the curb to create and maintain the urban forest on the streets of NYC. The job consists of three main parts: surveying, marking, and contract management.

Surveying determines which species to plant based on the surrounding environment, soils, existing trees, and other considerations. Marking involves going to sites that have been surveyed and marking out the size of the tree pits with the contractor who will do the actual planting. Contract management is actually managing the entire planting, which is done by a contractor. Management involves dealing with citizen complaints and problems the contractors may run into, such as hitting gas lines, as well as managing the paperwork and assuring the correct species are being planted properly.

Casey says that the best part of her job is being able to work in an environment where trees are desperately needed and can make a positive impact on the city and people

living around them. Ironically, for Casey, the most challenging aspect of working as a forester in a large city comes from people who are opposed to trees and want nothing to do with them.

There's one other thing that Daniella and Casey have in common: they both value their education from Michigan Tech. For Casey, the field experience prepared her well. She says, "There is nothing that can compare to hands-on experience in the field, and I feel it will continue to benefit my career."

"The education I received from Michigan Tech and the Peace Corps Master's International program gave me a diverse knowledge of different ecological and engineering projects, taught me how to manage large groups of people, taught me urban forestry, and provided a thorough list of good projects for my resume," Daniella comments. She also says that Professor **Blair Orr** helped her and all of his students prepare to find jobs and gave them the courage to aim high.



Alumni News Keeping Connected

Kara (Filius) Dunlap and **Danny Dunlap** are the new parents of **Jasmine Violet Dunlap**, born in August 2007. Jasmine arrived two months early, while her daddy was in the middle of the Cascades National Park wilderness fighting a fire. It was an exciting event, but the family is together now, doing well and living in Luzerne, Michigan.



Jasmine Dunlap

2005

Erin (Taylor) Lizotte was married this past year. She and her husband are living in East Lansing, where she finished her master's degree in small fruit pathology from Michigan State University in December. She plans to get a job with the MSU Extension Service scouting for fruit pests.

2005

Erik Sjoquist finished his master's degree at the University of Idaho in December 2007, where the focus of his research was identifying alternative hazardous wildfire fuel treatments for the Coeur d'Alene Tribe in northern Idaho. He works for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources as a forester. Erik will be married in August 2008. He says, "I can't wait to get back up to Houghton to visit everyone. I sure do miss it."

2006

Patrick Marolla has a position with Hancock Forest Management in Portland, Oregon. He is involved with long-term planning and financial analysis work for their Pacific Northwest timberlands. Pat says, "I am also kind of the middleman between the field and the headquarters in Boston."

2007

Matt Abbotts began hiking the Appalachian Trail in March in an attempt to raise awareness of a disease of the central nervous system known as metachromatic leukodystrophy, or MLD. His hike will cover nearly 2,200 miles and take four months to complete.

2007

Tiffany Arp started working for the South Dakota Department of Agriculture, Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry in February. She is the service forester for the Central Black Hills area; the office is located in Rapid City.



In the Field

Forests Could Benefit When Fall Color Comes Late

by Jennifer Donovan, Public Relations Director

Do those fall colors seem to show up later and later—if at all? Scientists say we can blame increasing amounts of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere for prolonging the growing season of the trees. And that may actually be good news for forestry industries.

Writing in the journal *Global Change Biology*, which featured the story on its cover, Professor **David F. Karnosky** and colleagues from two continents present evidence that rising carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere act directly to delay the usual autumn spectacle of changing colors and falling leaves in northern hardwood forests.

“Basically, this is a good-news story for our region’s forests,” said Karnosky. “It suggests that they will become a bit more productive due to the extra carbon being taken up in the autumn, along with the increased photosynthesis throughout the growing season.”

Karnosky and colleagues from Illinois, Wisconsin, Belgium, England, Estonia, and Italy analyzed data over two years on what they call “autumnal senescence,” the changing of colors and falling of leaves as photosynthesis decreases. They studied forests near Rhineland, Wisconsin, and Tuscania, Italy.

The study’s results are another example of an expanding body of scientific evidence that global climate change is affecting the world’s forests. There has been plenty of evidence gathered previously to show that increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is causing tree growth to begin earlier in the spring, but until now, most scientists believed that other factors, such as temperature and length of day, were the primary elements influencing autumnal senescence.

More about the cover

A few years ago, Karnosky and a researcher at another FACE site were comparing notes, and found they had both seen similar delays in the onset of the fall color change.

“Then by pure luck, I was down at our Aspen FACE site in late autumn in 2003, and I captured a tremendous photo leaving little doubt to the dramatic effect. I knew right away that photo would be special, and it ended up on the cover.”

The cover photo at left illustrates how leaves remain green later in the season in a plot exposed to carbon dioxide.

This is Aspen FACE’s third cover story. The project was just renewed for \$3.8 million for four years by the US DOE.



In the Classroom

Distinguished Teaching Finalists

Congratulations to Associate Professor **Linda Nagel** and Assistant Professor **Robert Froese** for being finalists for the University’s Distinguished Teaching Award.

Each year, Michigan Tech recognizes two educators for their outstanding teaching. Initially, ten Distinguished Teaching Award finalists are selected, and all are recognized as outstanding teachers. Over 47,000 Student Rating of Instruction scores are used to select the finalists.

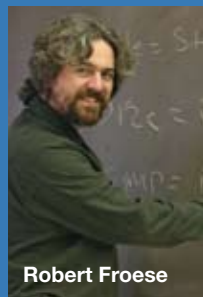
Here is a sample of comments from Linda’s students:

“Linda truly cares about how much we take out of each day we spend with her,” said one. “She also cares about each of us as people. She is wonderful!” Said another, “She puts her heart into what she teaches. She makes you question the assumptions you have. You learn how to defend your thoughts not only to her, but to others, and she always encourages students to take a chance.”

Robert’s students were equally complimentary. “He cares about his students, is very knowledgeable about the subjects he teaches, and is always willing to take the extra initiative to help us succeed! Pick Robert!” wrote one. According to another, “His upbeat teaching style and his amazing amount of knowledge, plus his great stories of his life experiences in the job market and school make him the best candidate for the Distinguished Teaching Award.”



Linda Nagel



Robert Froese

Around the School

Ramping up for Reunion

Welcome back, friends.

Our reunion activities tend to focus on alumni celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of their graduation, but all graduates of the School are more than welcome to participate. Many alums associate themselves with more than one graduating class, and we want everyone to attend as many reunions as they can.

This year’s reunion is set for August 7–9, 2008. Set the date aside and plan to attend. The School will host a lunch for attendees at a local restaurant. Details can be found on the web at www.forest.mtu.edu/reunion. A special letter was sent to the graduates of 1958 and 1983, but everyone is welcome.

We had a great turnout from the class of 1957. The gang enjoyed touring the School, getting reacquainted at lunch, and taking a special trip out to the Otter River Cabin. This year, the gang includes our first female graduate, **Claudette Simons Spiroff**. We sure hope you plan to attend.

Banquet Recap

Symposium had wrapped up for the year, and with finals just around the corner everyone was looking for a little break at the annual Spring Banquet. The event, hosted by the School and organized by the student members of the SAF-Forestry Club, included a social, dinner, and many awards honoring our seniors and faculty.

Dean **Peg Gale** presented four Outstanding Senior Awards this year, representing our three undergraduate programs. The recipients were **Tim Gebuhr**—forestry, **Marcy Erickson** and **Elizabeth Reusch** (a tie)—applied ecology and environmental sciences, and **Erin Largent**—wildlife ecology and management. **Joseph Bump** was named the Outstanding Graduate Student. And **Robin Conklin** and **Amber Roth** were presented the Outstanding Service Award for an undergraduate and graduate student, respectively. **Marcella Campione** was named School Scholar, and **Amber Roth** was named our Woman of Promise.

Students were recognized for their hard work in two senior-level classes, Wetland Assessment and Integrated Resource Assessment (Capstone).

The students presented some awards too, naming Associate Professor **Linda Nagel** the Outstanding Faculty Member and **Rita Koch** the Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Assistant. This is the second time Rita has received the honor.

The evening included a recap of all scholarship recipients by Director of Outreach and Development **Chris Hohnholt**. He concluded by acknowledging the generous support the School receives from alumni and reminding the graduating students, “You will soon be our newest alumni.”

Ever Wondered . . . ?

Have you ever wondered what happened to your forestry classmates of 10, or 20, or even 50 years ago?

What happened to that French-Canadian fellow with all his tales? What happened to the guy that went to work for the Bureau of Indian Affairs? How about the fellow from the UP that worked for the US Forest Service?

There are a couple ways to catch up and see what your friends have been up to: 1) attend a reunion in Houghton and 2) join Huskylink to see who’s out there.

HuskyLink is a great service that the University provides to all alumni through Alumni Relations. HuskyLink is a tool that allows you to reunite with your old classmates, if they’ve registered. The key is to register. When you register, you control how much information is available to others. And there are many things of interest to alumni at the site. Start at www.alumni.mtu.edu.

Norman W. Remington
Class of 1961



Left to right: Nagel, Gale, Conklin, Roth, and Campione.

Weeg-Grant Family File

Assistant Professor **Jacqueline Grant** and her husband, Advisor and Instructor **Matt Weeg**, moved to Houghton in summer 2006 and were adjusting to their new home, new careers, and new day care, when they noticed unusual drooping of their son Ben’s facial features. Tests revealed that Ben had a softball-sized tumor in his abdomen and was suffering from neuroblastoma. Through the fall of 2007 and the winter of 2008, Ben has undergone months of chemotherapy to fight the cancer and shrink the tumor. In April, he had surgery, and Ben’s pathologist determined that the tumor had been completely removed. This is very good news. It means no more chemo for Ben. You can read about Ben’s journey



at his family’s blog: www.caringbridge.org/visit/benweeg.

Ben and his family are advocates of the St. Baldrick’s Foundation (www.stbaldricks.org), which raise funds specifically for childhood cancer research. One way they do this is to get volunteers to shave their heads to show solidarity with all kids fighting cancer.

In his son’s honor, Matt shaved his head



in April. Matt invited his students to help with his head shaving as a semester-end stress reliever. Several students, faculty, and staff joined in the effort and shaved their heads too.

Matt and Jackie are thankful for the wonderful support and understanding of the faculty, staff, and students of the School. They greatly look forward to a return to normal family and community life.