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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
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 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 facilities as a result of philanthropy. 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. In August of this year, she and her classmates took 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. In August of this year, she and her classmates took the picture at left.

We thank our donors and supporters. We wish them all the best.

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 touching; and the friends you remember. Let us know how we can be better at what we do.

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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 predation study, is featured in Audubon magazine and at audubonmagazine.com. 
- Research Professor Rolf Peterson spoke about the wolves and moose of Isle Royale with Charley Nebbe of Michigan Public Radio.
- 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.

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 Pyper 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 Doug Karberg 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.

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.

Faculty Appointments and Promotions

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 Chinner 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 ecophysiography 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.

- 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.
- Rod 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.

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

Alumni News

Keeping Connected

1956

A special thank you from the School goes out to Carol Robert, whose husband, Kenneth Robert lived in 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, 1958). Dick delivered the yearbooks from Oregon, Wisconsin, with a note: “You folks need to produce great foresters and great husbands!”

1955

Congratulations to Dr. David Flaspohler for his promotion to full professor. We are very proud of our faculty’s accomplishments.

1964

Noah Karberg has joined the School’s faculty as an assistant professor. Noah teaches Wetlands, Restoration Ecology, and several other advanced wetland courses. Noah’s research involves climate change in peatlands, wetland restoration and management, basic wetland ecology, and ecophysiography of riparian trees. Noah has been a visiting assistant professor at the School for the last two-and-a-half years. Noah 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, Noah 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. Noah 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. Noah and family enjoy being back in Michigan and especially enjoy skiing, mountain biking and hiking.

- The Forestry research Advisory Council of the USDA Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service has been renamed the National Institute for Climatic Change Research. 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.”
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Left to right: Chris Webster, Victor Busov, Shekhar Joshi.
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 forest/lecturer.

If improperly 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 of the streamside vegetation, the water can warm up to the point that trout can’t live there.” Improper road construction can affect surface drainage and create ditches 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 streambeds 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 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.

Around the World

Michigan Tech Poplar Research Ranked World-Class

More than 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, Research Associate Chandrashekhar 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. “I compared to many surveys that focus on input from others, this focuses on accomplishments and quantities 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 this ranking which gives us 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.

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 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 Bowl 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 paper birch 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 Forest/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 hit,” 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.
Ken Larson—Enjoying Retirement

Here’s a fun story from one of our alumni, Ken Larson (2003). 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 1982 and 1993. There was a lot of great musical talent at the KD house then, and the Saturday night parties were great. After graduation, 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 wonderful 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.

In the Field

Urban Forestry Connections

Daniella (Zarin) Pereira and Casey Rosegarden have a couple of 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, general tree care, 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 devotes and runs projects throughout all five NYC boroughs. She meets with 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 properly. She says, “The diversity of members leads you to really take a close look at yourself and your ideas. Other than Peace Corps, this is the only other job in the 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 one of the most influential group experiences of their lives.”

Casey (2007) works as an urban forester in the borough of Staten Island for the street trees division of NYC Parks and Recreation. She works with plant-based people, visiting 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.

So what exactly does an urban forester do? In general, they help communities 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 ensuring 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 among them. Ironically, for Casey, the most challenging aspect of working as a forester in a large city comes when you 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. She says, “There is nothing that can compare to hands-on experience in the field, and I feel it contributed to 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.

2005

Tara (Taylor) Lizotte was married in February, and 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 Mid-Extension Service scouting for fruit pests.

2005

Eric (Eddie) Kopel finished his master’s degree at the University of Idaho in October 2005, where the focus of his research was identifying alternative hazardous wildfire fuels treatments for the central Idaho region. He worked for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources as a forester. Eric will be married in April. He really can’t wait to get back up to Houghton to visit everyone. I sure do miss ’em.

2006

Patricia Marcola has a position with Hancock Forest Management in Michigan. She is involved in biological surveys with long-term planning and financial analysis for their Pacific Northwest timberlands. Pat says, “I am also one of the middleman between the field and the insurance companies in Boston.”

2007

Matt Abbotts began hiking the Appalachian Trail in March in an attempt to become the youngest man to complete the entire length of the trail. The family hit the 2000-mile mark in February. She is the service forester for the Central Black Hills area, the office is located in Rapid City, South Dakota.
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 Rhinelander, 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’s 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."

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 soft-tissue 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’s (www.sbaldricks.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.

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.

Dean Peg Gale presented four Outstanding Senior Awards this year, representing our four undergraduate programs. The recipients were Tim Geburh–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.

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

Class of 1961
Norman W. Remington

Class of 1983
Erin Largent

Class of 1961
Norman W. Remington

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

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 opportunities to meet up with alumni at the site. Start at www.alumni.mtu.edu.