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Forest Resources and Environmental Science
In the School, we foresters, environmental scientists, biotechnologists, wildlife ecologists, wetland scientists, biometricians, remote sensing scientists, wood scientists, chemists, social scientists, and entomologists (to name a few) collaborate with people in engineering, business, science and arts, and technology to make Tech unique. We are taking advantage of this to teach, explore new ideas, and reach out to others outside the University, providing students with tools they will need to address world problems and challenges.

In this newsletter, there is a smattering of things we have accomplished in the past year. We are reaching out to others internationally so that we can provide our students with a global perspective. I know a lot of you graduated from our forestry or wood science programs and wonder if it is still the same. I guarantee that we are carrying on the legacy of the instructors who so significantly affected your lives while you were here. We will continue to offer our fourteen-week camp for foresters, applied ecologists and environmental scientists, wildlife ecologists, Peace Corps Master’s International students, and master of forestry students. Camp is one of the strengths of our undergraduate programs and even of some of our graduate programs. Please check out our new website (forest.mtu.edu), which should be operational in early 2010. We welcome your comments on how to make it better or what you would like to see.

I wish you a wonderful and fun-filled holiday season. My best for a Happy New Year.

By Chris Hohnholt, director of development and outreach

I use this article to encourage our alumni and friends to support our programs with their time, their talents, and their treasures. Because of your support, our students learn in an incredible, forested landscape and fantastic buildings. They are trained on a variety of equipment because of your generosity. Their tuition costs are reduced through the scholarships you provide. They enjoy very good job prospects thanks to your willingness to contact us when you hear of employment opportunities. They are educated in programs we develop based on your input.

I encourage you to consider gifts of property to the School. Over the years, the School has acquired over 5,000 acres of property that we use as laboratories to train the next generation of foresters and natural resource managers. The School has a goal of acquiring 10,000 acres. Here’s our rationale for holding property and wanting more lands:

I improves our students’ education. Students can experience a wider range of ecological situations and apply the resulting management implications. Through the Capstone program and the

Carrie Richards, alumni news to from Then and Now

Then and Now

It must be that I am getting older, I seem to get more nostalgic all the time. Maybe when you’re young there just isn’t that much legacy to your memories, not enough history to make you feel sentimental. Whatever the reason, I love before and after pictures, then and now stories, comparisons and contrasts. I think that’s why the article on Summer/Fall Camp was so fun to put together. See page 8 and please share your comments about your camp experience.

I have my own little then and now story: About twenty-five years ago a group of students and their spouses, all of whom were good friends, were sitting around at an old favorite restaurant in downtown Houghton. We were discussing our impending graduations. We lamented about staying in touch. We would soon go our separate ways. (Remember there was no email, no Facebook, no Twitter back then.) An idea was hatched: we could vacation together every few years. This idea had merit: after all, we had a great time together at the SAF meeting in Quebec earlier in the year. The plan was solidified: we would spend a week on the property—our first vacation; and thereafter, every three years a different couple would choose the destination and plan the vacation.

Twenty-four years and eight trips later, the “old” friends have returned from another vacation. We have been from Colorado to Maine, and this year we opted to spend our money in Michigan, enjoying a great week in Sutton’s Bay. Our group has grown from six foresters to five families totaling twenty-one people! I’d love to hear how you stay connected.

By Nancy Wisner, director of development and outreach

On a beautiful day in July, Nancy Wisner (1978), chief ranger of Redwood National and State Parks in California, gave a tour of her office. It was an educational excursion of gigantic proportions. Not only was it an opportunity to share, but it was a chance to learn what our alumni are doing in their everyday jobs. The group saw cutting trails on second-growth redwoods, viewed the vistas from a fire watchtower, learned about pastures or “balds”—hunting areas created by Native Americans—and admired the mighty old-growth redwood forest, where trees are 2,500 years old and over 300 feet tall.

The field visit was followed by an alumni luncheon hosted by Dean Peg Gale, Gale and Director of Development and Outreach Chris Honholt have hosted several other regional alumni events in 2009 during visits to Atlanta, Georgia; Eugene, Oregon; and Orlando, Florida, during the SAF annual meeting.

Future regional events are planned for 2010 for Washington, DC, and Madison, Wisconsin. If you live in an area where there is interest in a local alumni event, please contact Peg or Chris. These get-togethers are a great way to share your past experiences at Tech and your views of what we can be doing better, to hear about the status of the School, to learn how our students are learning, and to stay connected.

By Nancy Wisner, a walk in the redwoods is all in a day’s work. Nancy recently shared her pride of a job with a group from the School and several alumni.

Forest Environmental Resource Management (FERM) program, they get to do more of the actual on-the-ground management of the property, concentrating on particular skills, and then see the implications of those management decisions. With an enhanced land base, we could showcase those implications two years, twenty years, and fifty years after the fact—all in one day.

A larger expansion of land allows processors to combine their research and teaching, opening students’ eyes to new possibilities in managing forests, wetlands, wildlife, and water to create a healthy and prosperous landscape for future generations.

Finally, we manage our lands sustainably, and the resulting harvest provides an income stream that we use to benefit our students. If you want to see how we have been managing our lands and what student projects have been developed, please visit this website, forest.mtu.edu.

Please consider donating property to the School. It offers you the opportunity to make a significant impact. If you are interested in discussing this, please contact me at 906-487-2417 or cahohnho@mtu.edu.
New Arrivals

Patricia Butler is a new research scientist I. Patricia served as a Peace Corps volunteer in America from 2006 to 2008 in environmental education. She has a BS in Fisheries and Wildlife from Michigan State University and an MS in Forestry from Michigan Tech.

Kristen Schmitt is a new research scientist I. Kristen spent the summer working for the Keweenaw National Historical Park as an interpretive ranger. She has an MS in Fisheries and Wildlife from Michigan State University and a BA in Biology from Brown University.

Molly Cavaletti has accepted a position as assistant professor of tree physiology. Molly is a forest ecophysiologist and comes to Michigan Tech from a postdoctoral position at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Molly earned her BS in Molecular Biology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, her MS from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, and her PhD in Ecology from Colorado State University. Molly will be teaching an undergraduate course in tree physiology and graduate courses in forest ecophysiology theory and methods. She is interested in the structure and function of forest canopies and how the cycling of both water and carbon through forests may change with fluctuations in climate.

Michael Falkowski has accepted a position as assistant professor of remote sensing and spatial analysis in natural resources. Mike joins us from Victoria, British Columbia, where he was a postdoctoral fellow with the Canadian Forest Service’s Pacific Forestry Centre. Mike earned his BS in Geography from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and holds MS and PhD degrees in Forestry from the University of Idaho. He will be teaching a variety of undergraduate and graduate courses in terrestrial remote sensing and earth observation. Mike’s research is focused upon further developing remote sensing technology for quantitative ecosystem assessment.

Catherine Tarassoff

Assistant Professor Catherine Tarassoff had always heard of the wonders of fall colors but had yet to see them until she moved to the UP. Catherine comes from the west coast of Canada, earning her undergraduate degree in natural resource sciences from Thompson Rivers University. After nine years of applied field work, a lot of close bear encounters, and countless beautiful days in the woods, she returned to school to pursue a PhD in Weed Science at Oregon State University. Catherine is also a professional agronomist (an important distinction in Canada). She has always had a passion for farming and working outdoors.

Moving to the Copper Country, she and her partner, Tom Pepker (also an assistant professor at the School), bought an old farmhouse complete with eleven weed-infested acres. They are using her training in weed science to restore the pastures and raise pigs, goats, chickens, bees, a few sweet potatoes, and a new baby, Lucy Claire.

Catherine teaches Vegetation of North America (formerly known as advanced vegetation and botany). To connect with the students, Catherine uses the School’s atrium to “get the students out of their chairs and into the world of science.” There, she sets up demonstrations to engage the students so they better understand the lecture material.

“I realize that not all students learn effectively from a lecturing format,” she says. “That’s why I try to teach through a variety of avenues—plus, it’s more fun for me too.”

Next year she will develop a graduate class in invasive plant ecology and management. She says, “Invasive species are on the tip of everyone’s tongue in resource management. Understanding their biology and ecology is impera- tive to effective control and ecosystem restoration.”

Catherine’s research stretches across many disciplines. “Collaboration is what I find most exciting about science,” she says. “When two seemingly unrelated disciplines come together, that’s where we find the innovative solutions.” Currently, Catherine is collaborating with farmers and a biometrician to study the long-term effects of weeds on the biodiesel crop switchgrass. She wants to understand the “legacy effect of competition” within a cropping system. “Really what I want to know, for local farmers, is the long-term cost of not controlling your weeds in year one,” she says, “switchgrass is slow to establish and weeds are a major source of lost revenue.” If Catherine can understand how much money in years two through ten is lost through weed competition in year one, it might be the ticket to convincing farmers to control their weeds early.

Andy Burton

Associate Professor Andrew Burton first arrived at Michigan Tech in fall 1994 in the dual roles of doctoral student and research scientist. He completed his PhD in Forest Science in 1997. He joined the faculty in fall 2008.

Andy also has an undergraduate degree in forestry and a master’s degree in forest hydrology and soils from Michigan State. He’s following a family tradition in forestry, as his father, Robert, worked for the US Forest Service, including a stint in the UP at Ironwood, where Andy graduated from high school.

Andy’s research examines the effects of global change factors on forest ecosystem function, health, and productivity. Much of this effort focuses on what is happening belowground with root systems and soil nutrients, and how allocation of resources belowground affects aboveground productivity.

Ongoing projects include a twenty-year study of the effects of chronic nitrogen additions and climatic variation on northern hardwood forests, an examination of soil warming effects on hardwood root systems, a study of climatic and land use effects on treeline elevation and dwarf-shrub encroachment, and studies of carbon, and warming root system responses to elevated atmospheric carbon dioxide and ozone.

Andy is the director of the Ecosystem Science Center at Michigan Tech and director of the Midwestern Regional Center of the Department of Energy.

In the News

To read more about these stories, go to forest.mtu.edu/news.

John Vuuctich made Maura Judkis’s blog “Fresh Greens,” in US News & World Report Online, for his essay “Hope May be Harmful to the Environment.”

David Flaspohler and Chris Webster’s research into the impacts of corn ethanol production on prairie wildlife was the subject of an article, titled Science360, in In Search of Wildlife-Friendly Biofuels describ-
Programs and collaborations afford our scientists opportunities to explore international research and study. Where in the world have they been?

El Salvador

Evan Anderson, with the Peace Corps

Evan Anderson is one year into his two years of service as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Loret Miller Ruppe Peace Corps Master’s International Program in Forestry. He is working on improving yield of shade-grown coffee in southern El Salvador. El Salvador is the most heavily deforested country in the Americas, with only 4 percent forest cover remaining. The small community where Evan lives has one of the few remaining stands of balsamo (Myroxylon balsamum), a common coffee grower under common shade trees and under balsamo.

Ghana

Andrew Storer, with the Pavlis Institute

Each of the past two summers, Professor Andrew Storer has accompanied students in Tech’s Pavlis Institute for Global Technological Leadership to Ghana as part of their five-week-long international lead- ership experience. Andrew spends time with the students in Kumasi, the second-largest city in Ghana, about 150 miles northwest of the capital, Accra, and in Sunyani, a regional center about 100 miles to the northwest of Kumasi. Students lead projects such as bringing laptop comput- ers and libraries to schools, developing improvements to sanitation programs in villages, and testing medical devices with doctors in local hospitals. In addition, Andrew has an ongoing research program in Ghana working on an insect pest of mahogany, the mahogany shoot borer, in collaboration with Adjunct Assistant Professor Emmanuel Opuni-Frimpong.

Sweden

Paige Cox, with the Atlantis Program

Paige Cox is part of our transatlantic gradu- ate program, Atlantis, funded by the US Department of Education and the European Union. Students on both sides of the Atlantic now can earn dual forest resources master’s degrees from both Michigan Tech (or North Carolina State University) and a Finnish or Swedish university. Paige is in Umeå, Sweden, where her research involves forest molecular genetics and biotechnology. She is advised by Associate Professor Victor Busov and Karin Ljung at Umeå University. While there, Paige has enjoyed campsites, Swedish foods, and games. She commented, “It has been a wonderful learning experience, both cultur- ally and academically. It’s an adventure that I hope future students participating in the Atlantis program enjoy as much as I have.”

Finland

Gabby Trudeau, with Studay Ahmad

Gabrielle Trudeau spent the spring semester of her fourth year studying in Tampere, Finland. “I was greatly impressed by the country’s love of nature,” she said. “It made it easy for someone in my field to fit into their lifestyle.” While at Michigan Tech, she learned to work in groups, but in Finland, Gabrielle faced the challenge of working with stu- dents from all over the world with different beliefs and backgrounds. “This experience has changed the way I interact with others and has given me a new outlook on life,” she said. “I am thankful that I had the opportunity to see a new culture and learn from all of the wonderful people that I met on my journey.”

Norway

Adam Airoldi, conducting Graduate Research

Adam Airoldi is focusing his graduate school research on how alpine treeline levels have been influenced by historical land use in central Norway. Industrial copper mining in the area over a 300-year period, coupled with a population boom and the associated production of food and fuel, had a vast impact on the structure of the forest. Using a combination of soil carbon deposit analysis, dendrochronol- ogy, and vegetation measurements, he will determine historical treeline levels and changes that have occurred over the past few centuries. Adam, who is advised by Associate Professor Andy Burton, will demonstrate the scale of human impacts on the elevation of alpine forests and show how it has responded to the pressure of changing land use. Adam is also advised by Annika Hofgaard of the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research.

Germany

Linda Nagel, on Sabbatical as a Guest Lecturer

Associate Professor Linda Nagel traveled to Germany as a guest lecturer at the University of Applied Sciences, Eberswalde. She gave presentations on pine management across North America, northern hardwood research, and man- agement of the Great Lakes region. She was also asked to give a perspective on climate change and its impact on North American forests. Linda was able to meet several faculty and students, which she feels will open up future collaborations.

Malta

Rod Chmner, investigating Collaborative Research

Rod Chmner spent a week in Malta developing a new program between the University of Malta and Michigan Tech. Rod was a guest lecturer at the Malta College of Arts, Science, and Technology on the topic of restoration ecology. He traveled around the islands of Malta, and Gozo with Louis Cassar from the University of Malta assessing possible res- toration sites. Together they are working to develop a partnership to conduct coast and wetland restoration in Malta.

China

David Flaspohler and Kathy Halvorsen, as Guest Scientists

In July, Associate Professors David Flaspohler and Kathy Halvorsen traveled to Beijing to build contacts with scientists in China and attend the Society for Conservation Biology Conference. David visited and presented at the Beijing Forestry University, where he met several new collaborators. Kathy visited and pre- sented at the Forest Policy Institute of the Chinese Academy of Forestry on wooly bioenergy. Scientists there presented a talk on woody bioenergy in China, where there is a huge program to plant millions of hectares of trees for woody bioenergy production. As a result of this meeting, a proposal was written for the Chinese Academy of Forestry to host gradu- ate students under a National Science Foundation grant. Two Chinese scientists will visit Michigan Tech in April to discuss their work on woody bioenergy in China.

Putting the School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science on the Map

Faculty and Students Trot the Globe

A R O U N D  T H E  W O R L D

Evan Anderson, with the Peace Corps

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Camps, Summer or Fall

An Experience that Bonds Us

These glimpses from the past were taken from old yearbooks and from comments provided by some of our present students. They represent the times and traditions over the years.

Summer at Camp Pori
During the summer following the sophomore year, a summer camp is held at the College’s Camp Pori in the Ottawa National Forest. Here nine weeks of intensive instruction are given in those phases of forestry which cannot be treated adequately in field work during the regular school year. Heavy accent is placed on timber cruising, forest type mapping, timber marking, log scaling, and allied work. Experience gained in summer camp is an invaluable asset to the student when he takes a job. —1950 Forester Yearbook

If you went to Camp Pori, you probably doused yourself with 6-12 before heading to the woods. You lived in a dorm barrack that “needed attention,” you ate flapjacks and bacon for breakfast, steak and apple pie in the evening. You probably left camp a few pounds heavier. In the field, you laughed at Hammer Steinhiib’s anecdotes, shared your cigarettes with Vern Johnson, or split your lunch with one of the instructor’s dogs. While surveying, you may have found an old bearing tree in the Ottawa dated to 1909 with Hammer’s initials. After a hard day in the woods you might have taken a swim in Bob Lake (also known as Foresters’ Heaven), participated in a good old-fashioned hog-rassle in the evening, and hoped that the darn skunk wouldn’t visit while you slept.

It is there that the long fingers of the wilderness seek out and exhibit the weakness of each student. Some students think it is wise to pay up all outstanding insurance premiums before regular Camp Pori instruction begins. —1950 Forester Yearbook

Summer Camp at Alberta (1956–65)
Summer Camp moved to Alberta in 1956. The Ford Forestry Center (now called the Ford Center) was located eight miles south of L’Anse and forty scenic miles of the original Upper Peninsula Civilian Conservation Corps, was sixty miles south of Houghton.

During the summer following the sophomore year, a summer camp is held at Alberta. During the summer following the sophomore year, a summer camp is held at Alberta.

If you went to Camp Alberta, your camp cook may have been Mrs. Erickson or Mrs. Clisch, or Mrs. Anderson, but “that lady sure could cook.” You may have lived in the new dorm which accommodated twelve to sixteen students or in the old dormitory, “the barracks.” At night you may have played softball against the Baraga Correction Camp team or grabbed your fishing pole when you saw the hatchery truck arrive to stock Ford Lake with legal-sized trout. You may have attended in 1959 with the first woman to attend camp (Elaine Mosher Pearsons, 1959) or in 1960 for the largest camp to date: fifty-five students.

Your instructors were Gene Hesterberg, Hammer, Vern, and Dick Crowther, and you used a sock full of lime for marking timber. You took dusty rides in the Yellow Streak (possibly driven by Marty Jurgeness or Glenn Morz) to field sites, used walkie-talkies instead of hand signals on the level circuit, saw the second woman to attend summer camp in 1961 (Laura Carlson Hoganson, 1971) and got an extra day off when Neil Armstrong walked on the moon. Your instructors may have been Hammer and Vern, who taught during this period and were joined by Ros Miller, Norm Sloan, Irv Ziemer, and Mike Coffman. You doused the bugs with Off and Cutter and you sweated your way through the topography map exercise at the shadeless Hancock gravel pit. You spent your free time at local establishments like the Dog House and still used the mantra, “C’est la vie” to get through the day.

Summer Camp Returned to Alberta (1982–present)
If you went to Summer Camp in this year, you would have actually attended during the fall of your junior year. Summer Camp became Fall Camp in 1981 and is now known more formally as Integrated Fall Practicum. You would have joined about forty-two other students at Alberta for a fourteen-week course (camp went from ten to fourteen weeks in 2000, when Michigan Tech converted to semesters) that included major-curricular for foresters, applied ecologists, and wildlife managers. In attendance would also be Peace Corps Master’s International and Master of Forestry students. Regardless of your major, the focus is on multi-resource management, including timber harvesting, wetlands, soils, forest health, wildlife habitat, geomorphology, and silviculture. Gone are the days of compassing and pacing. You live in a dorm-style building with another student in a two-person room. If you brought them with you, you have a mini-fridge and microwave. When you get up in the morning, you are on your own for breakfast. You will probably have a bowl of cereal in your room or eat something you saved from the dining hall the night before. Some days you pack a lunch to eat in the field, other days you have a warm lunch in the dining room before heading to the field. Dinner is always hearty fare, but there is also a salad bar and vegetarian option.

In the class, you use a computer to finish your assignments, and instructors use multimedia presentations to teach their lessons. Instructors are Andrew Storer, Joseph Bump, Linda Nagel, and Jim Schmierer. In the afternoon, no bug spray is needed in the field because of the time of year, but field mice in the dorms looking for winter shelter can be a problem. No one smokeys, but chews is still used by many male students. At the end of your semester, your team of four students will present their final project, a multi-use assessment on an eighty-acre tract, to a group of peers, landowners, and DNR or Forest Service professionals.

In your spare time, you may hunt or fish, play pool, cool off cliff-jumping at Canyon Falls, or enjoy a beverage—if you are of legal age—at the Cantina in L’Anse.

A note from the editor: I am sure I missed many fine memories. One universal theme I noted, whether the food was good or bad, the summer was fair or rainy, and regardless of the location, the theme of camaraderie is and has always been there. Working, living, and learning together are and were some of the best times of our college experience.

Carrie

Your old yearbook is online at www.forest.mtu.edu/yearbook

Summer Camp in Houghton (1967–81)
Summer camp was moved to the Houghton campus in 1967 due to “growing enrollment, shortage of facilities at the Ford Forestry Center for classrooms, study, labs, and housing.” Students found their own room and board and met at the School each day for classroom and field exercises. In 1967, because the new building wasn’t finished, students had class in the Hubbell school’s “adequate, but antiquated, classroom.” —1967 Forester Yearbook

If you went to Summer Camp in Houghton, you rode the Yellow Streak (possibly driven by Marty Jurgeness or Glenn Morz) to field sites, used walkie-talkies instead of hand signals on the level circuit, saw the second woman to attend summer camp in 1961 (Laura Carlson Hoganson, 1971) and got an extra day off when Neil Armstrong walked on the moon. Your instructors may have been Hammer and Vern, who taught during this period and were joined by Ros Miller, Norm Sloan, Irv Ziemer, and Mike Coffman. You doused the bugs with Off and Cutter and you sweated your way through the topography map exercise at the shadeless Hancock gravel pit. You spent your free time at local establishments like the Dog House and still used the mantra, “C’est la vie” to get through the day.

If you were among the students at Camp Pori or Camp Alberta, you probably doused yourself with 6-12 before heading to the woods. You lived in a dorm barrack that “needed attention,” you ate flapjacks and bacon for breakfast, steak and apple pie in the evening. You probably left camp a few pounds heavier. In the field, you laughed at Hammer Steinhiib’s anecdotes, shared your cigarettes with Vern Johnson, or split your lunch with one of the instructor’s dogs. While surveying, you may have found an old bearing tree in the Ottawa dated to 1909 with Hammer’s initials. After a hard day in the woods you might have taken a swim in Bob Lake (also known as Foresters’ Heaven), participated in a good old-fashioned hog-rassle in the evening, and hoped that the darn skunk wouldn’t visit while you slept.

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Houghton, birthplace of the original Upper Peninsula Civilian Conservation Corps, was sixty miles south of Houghton.
Alumni News
K E E P I N G  C O N N E C T E D

1949 Duane L. Corbin The School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science lost Duane Corbin on February 13, 2009, at age 85. Duane was a World War II veteran who landed on Omaha Beach on D-Day 1944, at age 20. He retired from the Wisconsin DNR in 1986. The faculty and staff of the School extend their condolences to his family and friends.

1974 Stuart A. Otto, a consulting forest engineer and thirty-plus-year employee of the Department of Forestry, received the Presidential Field Forester Award from the Society of American Foresters during the 2009 SAF National Convention, held September 30–October 4 in Orlando, Florida. Congratulations, Stuart.

1975 Kenneth Klumpp The School has learned of the passing of Ken Klumpp on September 21, 2009. Ken’s family and friends extend their condolences to the School’s Advisory Board member and department head Gene Hesterberg. RJ Laverne was in Houghton this summer to participate in the School’s Advisory Board meeting. While in town, RJ took the opportunity to visit with former professor and department head Gene Hesterberg. RJ is the manager of education and training for Davey Tree Expert Company in Kent, Ohio.

1988 Frank Lenting passed through Houghton this summer on his way to Montana, where he will start a new job teaching at West Yellowstone High School.

1999 Matt Stelmans says, “Hello fellow members! I would like to let you know that I am the only place that is colder and drier than the UP right now.” Matt lives in Marquette with his wife, Sandra, and daughter Sarah. He recently received an M.S. in Forestry from Alaska Pacific University and works as a financial advisor for Edward Jones. Matt would be happy to hear from old friends and faculty: matt.stelmans@edwardjones.com.

2000 Joe Shanks stopped by to say hello while he was in the area hunting. Joe works for Consumer Energy and lives in Manistock, Michigan.

2006 Adam Gagahan (MS 2007) is the senior forester on the Otter River Cabin. Clark comments that he has “five kids; one wife; two dogs; two cats; chickens, rabbits, hogs, and cattle; one farm; and the nicest woods in Lake County, Michigan.”

2007 Lacey (Charles) Mason works for BB&E LLC of Farmington Hills, Michigan, as an environmental consultant. She is expecting her first child in January with husband Jim Maze (ME 2004).

2008 Robin Conklin is working at Red River Environmental Laboratory and Consulting (redwaterinc.com) in Oklahoma. Robin says that it is a small lab of six people; they do almost any kind of lab work to make sure that companies are within EPA standards. She says it is really interesting and she is learning how to do liquid-to-liquid extractions for mass spectrometry.

2009 John Howard (1979) has put in thirty years with Procter and Gamble in Pennsylvania and is still working at it. John asks, “Where are all the boys from the ‘Pink Palace’ at Ripley?” John asks, “Where are all the boys from the ‘Pink Palace’ at Ripley?”

2011 Rose Coulter, born 12:20 a.m. on April 15, 2010, with a buffalo herd that is managed through the nongame wildlife species, a fire suppression and prescribed burning program, and a range conservation program. In addition, Guster State Park has 1.5-2 million visitors a year. Adam and his wife, Kayla, live in Homer. He spends most of his free time doing church activities, hunting, fishing, and gardening. Kayla is an education reporter for the Rapid City Journal and Teaching and coaching.


2015 Sue Lee is with Minnesota DNR (1980) and works at Fort Wainwright army base; Don Bragg is with the Forest Service at the Southern Research Station in Arkansas; SAF President Bernie Hubbard (1967) made the trip from Newberry, Michigan, to attend. Jaye Hayes (1975) is with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and has worked at the Rio Grande National Fish and Wildlife Refuge since 1994.

2016 Matt Abbott and son, Daniel McLeod Cornum (1979), live in Menominee, Michigan. Danielle and Nite Cornum of La Jara, Colorado, are working in Ripley.” John asks, “Where are all the boys from the ‘Pink Palace’ at Ripley?”

2017 Drukenbrod Arborist owner of Drukenbrod Arborist and Forestry in Canton, Ohio.

The following Tech alumni attended the School’s reception at the SAF National Convention in Orlando, Florida, in October.

Nicole Ricci (MS 2007) is completing another master’s degree at the University of Guelph in Guelph, Canada. Ryan Thompson (1981) is an associate professor at Iowa State University; John Koehler (1976) is retired from the Florida Division of Forestry; and Rob Johnson (PhD 1993) is teaching algebra and statistics at Rasmussen College; Andy Londo (1992, PhD 2000) is the coordinator of extension forestry in the Department of Forestry at Mississippi State University; John Klumpp (1978) has put in thirty years with Procter and Gamble in Pennsylvania and is still teaching early career untenured faculty: matt.stelmans@edwardjones.com.

Robin Conklin is working at Red River Environmental Laboratory and Consulting (redwaterinc.com) in Oklahoma. Robin says that it is a small lab of six people; they do almost any kind of lab work to make sure that companies are within EPA standards. She says it is really interesting and she is learning how to do liquid-to-liquid extractions for mass spectrometry.

The park also has multiple hunting seasons, multiple research projects for game and nongame wildlife species, a fire suppression and prescribed burning program, and a range conservation program. In addition, Guster State Park has 1.5-2 million visitors a year. Adam and his wife, Kayla, live in Homer. He spends most of his free time doing church activities, hunting, fishing, and gardening. Kayla is an education reporter for the Rapid City Journal and Teaching and coaching.

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Dan Rees (1993) lives in North Pole, Alaska, and works at Fort Wainwright army base; Don Bragg (1993, MS 1995) is with the Forest Service at the Southern Research Station in Arkansas; SAF President Bernie Hubbard (1967) made the trip from Newberry, Michigan, to attend. Jaye Hayes (1975) is with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and has worked at the Rio Grande National Fish and Wildlife Refuge since 1994.

Jaye Hayes comments that he has “five kids; one wife; two dogs; two cats; chickens, rabbits, hogs, and cattle; one farm; and the nicest woods in Lake County, Michigan.”

Brenda (Haskell) Owen is the project site coordinator for the emerald ash borer program in the Eastern Upper Peninsula of Michigan, for the Slow Ash Mortality (SLAM) program. She is funded by a grant received by Professor Andrew Storer.

Nick Balster (MS, 1996 PhD) was awarded a Jung Teaching Award for his commitment and passion for teaching. He was also selected as a Wisconsin Teaching Fellow. This program is designed for outstanding early career untenured faculty and academic teaching staff who show exceptional promise. Nick is an assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

Sheila Madahbee is on a one-year contract in the Lands and Resources office at Serpent River First Nation in Ontario. She works in forestry, fish and wildlife, mining, water resources, and land disposions. Sheila also represented Canada at the World Archery 3D Championships in Latina, Italy, in September. Sheila says that it is an honor to represent her country. She took eighth in the compound event, a teammate took third to win the bronze medal for Canada.

Laurie Coulter sent this cute announcement: “The National Baby Service has issued the following baby/ad. It is for the Grand Rapids area. Sylvia Rose Coulter, born 12:20 a.m., August 2, 2009, 6 lbs. 14 oz., 11.5 inches.”

Joe Shanks stopped by to say hello while he was in the area hunting. Joe works for Consumer Energy and lives in Manistock, Michigan.

Danielle (McLeod) Cornum is a high school English teacher in Montila, Florida, and a full-time seasonal forester and firefighter for the Rio Grande National Forest. Danielle married Nate Cornum of La Jara, Colorado, in May 2009. Danielle and Nate will make their home in Montila when they finish building their house.

Sheila Madahbee "has a high school English teacher in Hermosa. He spends most of his free time doing church activities, hunting, fishing, and gardening. Kayla is an education reporter for the Rapid City Journal and Teaching and coaching.

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The School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science honored four alumni at this year’s reunion.

Dan O’Brien (1978, pictured center with Dean Peg Gale, left, and Michigan Tech President Glenn Mroz) received a 2009 Outstanding Alumnus Award. He is CEO of the BSA Abraham Lincoln Council in Springfield, Illinois, and has served thirty-one years with the Boy Scouts. “My years at Michigan Tech helped build my skills in teamwork, further developed my leadership abilities, and strengthened my sense of service to the community,” he said.

Hua Ouyang also received an Outstanding Alumnus Award. He earned his master’s (1990) and his PhD (1994), both in forest soils. Hua is the program manager for Integrated Water and Hazard Management at the Chinese International Centre of Integrated Mountain Development and a professor at the Chinese Academy of Sciences, where he is also a senior research scientist.

Tom Seablom, who received bachelor’s and master’s degrees in forestry in 2000 and 2002, was named the 2009 Outstanding Young Alumnus. He is an active forester for the Michigan DNR in Ishpeming and has helped establish a scholarship for student members of the Society of American Foresters at Tech and Michigan State University. He says, “There are countless challenges that you are faced with while at Tech. It gives you the first set of tools needed to get yourself going.”

Nancy Wizner (center, pictured with Michigan Tech President Glenn Mroz, left, and Dean Peg Gale) was inducted into the School’s Honor Academy. She received her bachelor’s degree in forestry in 1977. Nancy is now chief ranger at Redwood National and State Parks in California and attributes Tech’s tough academic standards for preparing her for her career.

“We are proud of the accomplishments of Nancy, Dan, Tom, and Hua,” said Gale. “The awards they have received are greatly deserved.”

A few of the 1959 gang got together to tell tales on each other and joke about old times: (left to right) Jim Falge, Walt Cook, George Lehrer, Jack Horak, and Jack Lundberg.