Dear Alumni & Friends,

This year marks the 110th anniversary of the founding of the Department of Forestry at Michigan State University. We are the longest-standing undergraduate forestry program in the United States (and perhaps all of North America). Our longevity is remarkable, especially considering the rapid changes in so many facets of the world over the past 110 years. Not many human institutions endure for more than a century; this status places us in an elite group.

I think that there are at least two reasons why the Department of Forestry has endured. First, perhaps more than any other ecosystem, forests occupy a central role in both human well-being and environmental quality, with obvious links between these areas. Our object of study—and our passion—has staying power. Forests provide economic livelihoods to millions of people world-wide through their numerous products. At the same time, forest ecosystems contain more carbon than the atmosphere and harbor most of the world’s biodiversity. Forest benefits to humans and to environmental quality are inseparable. For example, recent research demonstrates how forests act as a giant water pump in enhancing the water cycle, moving water from land to the atmosphere, which in turn increases rainfall and supports both productive forests and agriculture.

Second, innovation is key to the longevity of institutions. The Department of Forestry is constantly innovating to engage students in the ever-increasing knowledge base about forests. The research of our faculty keeps pushing the envelope in advancing knowledge of forest ecological—economic—social systems. And we work with stakeholders to solve problems centered on trees and forests. In the spirit of this innovation, the faculty have undertaken a major revision of the undergraduate curriculum, which you will be hearing more about in a future newsletter and through other outlets. Morale is high and we all are excited about the new opportunities that the curriculum revision holds. We all have good reasons to be optimistic about the future of the Department of Forestry and forestry as a field and profession.

Thank you for being part of our history and for the various ways in which you have contributed to the vitality of this Department. We hope that we can count on you for your continued support and look forward to hearing from you!

All my best,
Rich Kobe

“WE ALL HAVE GOOD REASONS TO BE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FORESTRY AS A FIELD AND PROFESSION.”
Beginning in 2013, our goal is to publish the MSU Forester newsletter on a quarterly basis and we need your help to make this financially possible.

- If we have your e-mail address, we will send you an electronic copy (PDF) of the newsletter when future issues are ready.
- If you wish to continue receiving the newsletter in hardcopy form, please let us know and we will do our best to mail a copy to you.
- If you do not wish to receive our newsletter at all, please let us know and we will remove you from our distribution list.

Please contact Juli Kerr (kerrju@msu.edu, (517) 355-0090) to submit your e-mail address, to request a hardcopy, or to be removed from our distribution list. We cannot guarantee that you will receive future newsletters unless you submit an e-mail address to us or request the newsletter in hardcopy format.

Thanks for staying in touch!
Dear Fellow Foresters:

You know that kind of ‘comfortable’ feeling you get when you complete a lengthy project and, for the most part, it went well? Or, perhaps it’s that same kind of ‘comfortable’ feeling that arrives when your first Social Security check does or, perhaps, when you fell a big tree, while what seems like all the neighborhood and a million other spectators are watching, and it falls exactly where it was supposed to go? Well, I’m feeling kind of ‘comfortable’ now that the whirlwind of controversy surrounding the future of the MSU Forestry Department has been resolved and the Forestry Department remains a separate Department. Yahoo!

In addition, I’m feeling ‘comfortable’ that Dr. Richard Kobe has accepted the responsibility of serving as Department Chairman—no longer an ‘interim’ position. I’ve met with Rich on several occasions and he has impressed me with his energy and enthusiasm. Part of his zeal includes a desire for enhanced communications with students and alumni and, as part of that endeavor, Rich has added Sarah Finley as a ‘Communications Manager’ for the Forestry Department. I’ve spoken with Sarah several times and, here comes that word again, I’m ‘comfortable’ knowing that she is on the job and wants to serve in such an important capacity. I believe that the Forestry Department now has a presence on Facebook—a communication entity that I know little about—but which has proven to be an important informational/social media outlet. I hope to be working with Sarah so as to enhance the utility and applicability of the ‘Alumni Section’ of the MSU Forestry website. Thank you, Sarah!

I’m ‘comfortable’—elated is probably a better word—that Juli Kerr remains as the principle contact person for your Forestry Alumni Association (FAA). Juli’s dedication and compassion, her capabilities in coordinating activities, cooperative spirit and energetic demeanor has, for many years, served as the organizational foundation for FAA activities! She’s the person that serves behind the scenes and whose efforts make things work! Thank you, Juli!

The 2012 FAA Annual Meeting was held on November 17th as a catered ‘tail-gate’ gathering and we celebrated 110 years of MSU Forestry. It was held in Room 183 of the Natural Resources Building, three hours before the MSU/Northwestern football game. We heard from Chairman Kobe, re-newed friendships, swapped lies and told tall tales, met fellow foresters, and expressed opinions as to the direction of MSU Forestry and the FAA. If you are interested in attending next year’s event, please contact Juli Kerr at (517) 355-0090.

Chairman Kobe reiterates that there is much to be completed and much to be excited about. One very important aspect of continued viability of a separate Forestry Department is the need for increased student numbers. YOU can help in this regard by acting as an “Ambassador for MSU Forestry,” through your family and community ties and, whenever you get the chance, encourage students to consider a career in forestry and check it out at MSU.

Besides the Annual Meeting, each year the FAA provides a $200 scholarship to the “Outstanding Senior Student”; invites graduating Senior Students to lunch at the University Club; solicits input from MSU Forestry Alumni; works with the MSU Forestry Club; and seeks to serve alumni at special occasions like breakfast during the Society of American Foresters’ convention.

I thank your long-time fellow officers, Dr. Jim Kielbaso, Treasurer, and John Anton, Secretary, for their faithful service. In addition, I thank YOU for your time and continued cooperative spirit. FAA depends on your ideas and your willingness to get involved. I asked last time, and I’ll ask again, if there is a FAA alum who is so inclined to be an ‘internet guru’ for our association, please feel free to contact me at willig27@aol.com, and we’ll see that you have an opportunity to serve!

I’ve tried counting my blessings, but it turns out, I can’t count that high. I hope the same holds true for you. Enjoy the newsletter and best wishes!

Bill Schmidt, B.S. ’71, M.S. ’72
Classes of the 1940s

WAYNE GASKINS (B.S. ‘47, M.S. ‘48) joined the forestry department at Auburn after his time at MSU, then went on to Syracuse for doctorate work. He then moved to Oregon with the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Land Management. Here, he was asked to go to Medellin, Colombia—as Michigan State’s Forestry Representative in the U.S Agency for International Development’s program—to start a new forestry school. He arrived in Medellin knowing no Spanish, with a two-year commitment and only two students in the Instituto Forestal of the National University of Colombia. After many tientos (cups of coffee), Wayne and Dr. Ruiz Landa, his counterpart, took the program to each departamento (state) with scholarships in hand. They started the next school year with a full first-year enrollment of about 15 new students and the Instituto was off and running. They never looked back and the school has been growing successfully ever since.

After coming back from Colombia, he accepted a “temporary” job with Western Forest Industries Association and moved to Oregon with the U.S. Forest Service in 1980 and has had a fine retirement since. This past July, he crossed the 85 years old mark in decent health. He still enjoys outdoor activities such as hiking and skiing. At his 50th reunion celebration at MSU, some Mason Hall residents remembered him as the Iron Duke Resident Assistant. It made them all laugh.

GORDON CUNNINGHAM (B.S. ‘48, PH.D. ‘63) is living in Madison, WI in an “independent living” retirement community that has a 9-acre oak-hickory, succeeding to sugar maple, woods. He’s on the Grounds Committee and says they’re fighting Mother Nature’s natural succession plans by planting oak seedlings wherever they can find a partial opening; otherwise someday the name will have to be changed to Maplewood!

Classes of the 1950s

KEN GUENTHER (M.S. ‘50) has been keeping active. His last three years in Alaska include the following adventures: trekking in the Arctic North Slope; going to Prudoe Bay; recently developing a business that leases high pressure air compressors used for marine seismic exploration. The seismic data reveals the underlying geological formations as deep as 10 miles below the ocean floor—amazing; hiking Mt. Rainier this summer; going on a hiking and rafting trip in Grand Canyon. He says his aim is to “die with my boots on” and says greetings to all.

Dr. RALPH A. Klawitter (B.S. ‘52) retired from the U.S. Forest Service in 1980 and has had a fine retirement since. This past July, he crossed the 85 years old mark in decent health. He still enjoys outdoor activities such as hiking and skiing. At his 50th reunion celebration at MSU, some Mason Hall residents remembered him as the Iron Duke Resident Assistant. It made them all laugh.

BILL SIEGAL (B.S. ‘54, M.S. ‘57) has been living in southern Louisiana (greater New Orleans) since 1958. He retired from the Forest Service Southern Research Station in 1993 and began a private combination consulting and law practice which he is still active in, concentrating on forestry and timber matters. He received his law degree in 1965 at Loyola University’s night law school in New Orleans. He spends his spare time traveling, fishing, other outdoor activities, and church work—and is on the Board of Directors of the Louisiana Forestry Association, the Forest Landowners Association, and the Forest Landowners Tax Council; and Policy Chair for the Louisiana SAF.

ROBERT J. (JACK) GOULD (B.S. ‘55) retired 19 years ago as State Forester of the South Carolina Forestry Commission. He had 615 employees to conduct the business of preserving and protecting the woodlands of South Carolina. On a very sad note, his wife of nearly 54 years, Mary Ann Gould, passed away on March 3, 2012 after a brief fight with leukemia. Although not an MSU graduate (Emory University-Nursing) she was a great supporter of the Spartans. She is greatly missed! On a brighter note, he is encouraged by the turn of events that has kept the Department of Forestry in its appropriate position within the university. He says he genuinely appreciates the efforts of Bill Schmidt, President of the MSU Forestry Alumni Assoc., and concerned alumni, Jim Neal and Gurdon Tarbox. Go Spartans!

ROBERT W. HAWES, (B.S. ‘58) served two years in the military then was hired as a Naturalist at Sand Ridge Nature Center in Cook County, IL. He moved to Ohio to help establish a new nature center, The Wilderness Center, Inc., near Canton, OH. He retired after 35 years at The Wilderness Center as Interpretive Naturalist. The well-rounded MSU Forestry degree served him well in establishing the educational program of The Wilderness Center, including developing the second oldest Ohio teaching prairie, researching the wilderness and pioneer history of Ohio in the 1800s, developing a cadre of 25 trained volunteer naturalists, trail system, school programs, etc. Bob served two terms as regional director of the Association of Interpretive Naturalists, and was recognized in Marcus’ Who’s Who of the Midwest. His hobbies include old-time music, wood-carving and history. In 2012, he hosted the annual meeting/conference of the United Methodist Historical Society of Ohio.

NEIL A. MILLER (B.S. ‘58) retired from the Biology Department at Memphis State University in 2000 as
Professor Emeritus, and retired from environmental consulting in 2007, although he still maintains one off-campus grant dealing primarily with wetland issues along the Mississippi River. He says he must give a great deal of credit for whatever success he may have experienced in his field and classroom endeavors to the strong background he was provided in the areas of soils, geology, climatology, physical science and basic forestry provided through the Michigan State Forestry program.

**Classes of the 1960s**

**DION DISHONG (B.S. ‘61)** is living in Lakewood, CO and retired from the federal government (not as a forester). Among some of his fellow employees, foresters were known as “brush apes.” He says, “Some of my forestry classmates may be surprised I am among the living. I am tougher than they thought.”

**CHARLES MORTENSEN (B.S. ‘61)** was elected to the Board of Directors of Welty Environmental Center in Beloit, WI. He lives part of the year within the boundaries of the Chequamegon National Forest and is a long time supporter of the Natural History Museum in Cable, WI. He is enjoying the pursuits of retirement including biking the many rail-to-trail bikeways.

**RUSSELL SMITH (B.S. ‘61)** still lives in Anchorage, AK after retiring from the U.S. Forest Service. He and wife Donna spend their winters on Maui, HI. They miss the round robin letters from old friends and would like to hear from other Michigan State foresters.

**Classes of the 1970s**

**DALE COGGESHALL (M.S. ‘72)** retired from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in ’97. He built a home on the Upper Cape (Cod) overlooking the Back River Estuary. He’s enjoying bird life, the changing marsh scene, gardening and hanging out on Old Cape Cod. He says it’s nice to have a bird refuge across the street without management responsibility and he manages to work around the seasonal visitor traffic crunch most of the time. He and Lois are in good health.

**TOM SNYDER (B.S. ’75, M.S. ’77)** returned to school in 2008, 31 years after graduating from MSU. In 2010, he received a Master of Divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, KY. He’s currently on staff at Dexter United Methodist Church, Dexter Michigan, as Director of Small Group Ministry, Missions and Evangelism. He has led and been a part of 27 missions teams; going to Haiti, Africa, Jamaica, Mississippi, Louisiana, Costa Rica and other areas. His wife Beth Snyder graduated from Asbury University (Wilmore, Kentucky) with a degree in Business Management and Ethics. This August they celebrated their 38th wedding anniversary. They have three grown children and three grand children.

**BOB AVERILL (PH.D. ‘77)** is still retired and on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Forest Service Retirees. Fishing has been good—catching not so hot with the drought. He splits his time between CO, AZ and travel to exotic parts of the planet.

**BRIAN OSWALD (B.S. ‘79)** was named Regents Professor at Stephen F. Austin State (SFA) University for the 2012/2013 academic year. He was also named Denman Distinguished Professor in the Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture at SFA September 2012.

**Classes of the 1980s**

**DAVID BOZAAN (B.S. ‘81, M.S. ’83)** is happily married for 28 years with three grown daughters. Two daughters completed undergraduate degrees at University of Iowa and one just began there August 2012. Since 2008, he as worked with IDEX Corporation as Corporate Director, leading all aspects of environmental, health and safety management and sustainability (a $2B fluidics manufacturing company with 60+ locations in 16 countries across the Americas, Europe and Asia (NYSE:IEX)). He has been living in Iowa City for 10 years now and teleworks to Chicago HQ. He would love to hear from the classes of 1981
(BS) and 1983 (MS). “A gathering in East Lansing?” he says. His contact information is David Bozaan, 2018 Timber Lane, Coralville, IA 52241, (563) 299-7449, dbozaan@gmail.com. Lastly, he says, “Go Spartans! (I still can’t cheer for the Hawks.)”

JAMES BELL (PH.D. ‘82) published a new book entitled, “Not What We Were: The Changed and Changing South.” The first two chapters are available for free on Amazon.com.

ALAMGIR KHAN GANDAPUR (M.S. ‘83) was recently promoted to Chief Conservator of Forests for Malakand Forest Region and is the Chief Forester for Malakand, Buner, Shangla, Swat, Lower Dir, Upper Dir and Chitral Districts in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in Pakistan. Previously, he worked as Project Director for the Development of Forestry Sector Resources for Carbon Sequestration in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province.

MARK A. PETERSON (B.S. ‘83) moved to Highland Park, IL to become the Dutch Elm Disease Coordinator and Assistant Forester after graduating from MSU. Soon after, he moved to Texas and joined the Texas Forest Service as the Regional Community Forester for South Texas. In August 2006, Mark became the Project Coordinator of Conservation for the San Antonio Water System, where he administers the programs pertaining to all things landscape and water conservation. Mark served as President of the Texas Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture in 2001-2002 and was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the Texas Forest Service.

TIMOTHY BLISS (M.S. ‘84) has served as chair of the 2.2 million acre Powder Basin Watershed Council with HQ in Baker City, OR since 2005 and is also serving his 2nd year of a 2-year term as a board member of the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils. From 2008 to present, he has worked part-time as a consultant doing watershed assessment, environmental effects and watershed improvement work for gold miners, landowners, the US Forest Service, and the watershed council.

BILL O’NEILL (M.S. ‘85) was recently appointed Chief of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources’ (DNR) Forest Resources Division. In addition to that new role, he was also named State Forester. Bill has been with the DNR since 1985, when he started as a forester in the Upper Peninsula. Since then, he’s held a variety of positions throughout the Division. When he’s not in Lansing, Bill spends his days with his family in Gaylord.

AMOS STONE (M.S. ‘88) retired in December 2011 with 40 years with the US government (4 years Navy, 36 years U.S. Forest Service). He last served as Forest Silviculturist with the Daniel Boone National Forest. He is still doing some forest inventory work and is qualified as a wildland firefighter.

Classes of the 1990s

TIM CHICK (M.S. ‘91) had the pleasure of returning to Michigan last February to speak at the Arboriculture Society of Michigan’s annual conference in Lansing. The presentations were about allelopathy in urban trees and also in right-of-way management. He chatted with Dr. Kobe and old friends from the former Mich. Forestry and Parks Assoc. Also, he used a horse logging contractor to harvest trees on one of his client’s property where large machinery was not an option—a really neat experience.

BECKY WILDENTHAL (B.S. ‘92) is especially proud to announce that her younger son, Justin Hewson, graduated from MSU in Political Science in May 2012, and secured an internship working to promote the 25 X 2025 renewable energy initiative successfully on the November 2012 ballot. Also of note is her older son, James Hewson, who has been president of the MSU Racing Club this past year and organized the first ever MSU Racing Club Car Show held this past spring on campus. She is in year 2.5 of learning how to be herded by her 90 lb Beauceron puppy, Chessie, whom she fears will NEVER grow up!

CRAIG GREGSON (M.S. ‘95) and his family are living in Auburn, AL. He works with West Fraser, a lumber company based in Vancouver, BC. The mill he buys logs for is pretty small for West Fraser standards, but he still needs to buy about 75 loads of logs per day.

NICOLE F. (BOLEN) FROST (B.S. ‘97) is still working as the Gratiot County Administrator and just finished the Certified Public Manager courses at
Saginaw Valley State University. Her daughter is a senior in high school now and they have been researching colleges for her. She is hoping she decides to GO GREEN!

CLASSES OF THE 2000s

RUSSELL GARTNER (B.S. ‘00) is working for Southern Ute Indian Tribe Forestry Division, managing about 1/2 million acres of mountainous timberland with mostly hazardous (wildfire) fuel reduction as well as wildland firefighting.

PATRICK SMITH (PH.D. ‘00) was recently accepted into the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Foreign Service as an Agriculture Officer, and is currently in training status in Washington, D.C. until his first overseas assignment. Prior to this new position, he served in USAID headquarters for seven years on the biodiversity and climate change teams, leading the Agency’s efforts to help developing countries reduce their emissions from forests and increase their forest carbon sequestration. He also recently served in Hanoi, Vietnam where he designed and started the new USAID climate change program. As an Agriculture Officer, he will help implement the U.S. Government “Feed the Future” initiative, and be an advocate for incorporating natural resource management and climate smart agriculture into food security programs.

KEVIN SAYERS (M.S. ‘01) has been the Urban and Community Forestry Program Coordinator with the MI Department of Natural Resources since 2002. He and his wife Amy welcomed their second child (Laura Brooke) on May 20th, 2012. They live in East Lansing, MI with their son (Colin) and dog (Ashley) and enjoy getting up north on vacations and long weekends as much as possible.

MARK HANDSY (B.S. ‘02) is currently working at Pfizer as a Manufacturing Supervisor in Rochester, MI. He says it’s not really that forestry related, but it is a job in Michigan. He hopes all is going well at the department. He hasn’t been to the campus in years and is trying to make it this year for a football game.

COLLIN WASSINK (B.S. ‘08) is working for the Colo. State Forest Service in Golden, CO as a Forester (3 years running). He hopes all is well back in the mitten and he hopes to stop by this winter and say hello to all of you folks.

THOSE REMEMBERED

JAMES E. NEAL (M.S. ’65) died on April 2, 2012, following open heart surgery. He received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from MSU. He worked with forestry extension in MI and moved to Athens, GA. He was Regional Extension Forester at University of Georgia. He traveled throughout the southern region. He retired in 1992. He always appreciated his fellow forestry alumni and faculty at MSU. Jim also played center on the winning Rose Bowl Team of 1954. He was also elected a Fellow by the Society of American Foresters. Following retirement he and his wife went on short term mission trips to Central and South America doing medical, educational, and church planting.

GURDON L. TARBOX, JR. (B.S. ’52) died on April 21, 2010 at Tidelands Hospice House at Georgetown, South Carolina. Mr. Tarbox was born in Plainfield, NJ on December 25, 1927. He served in the Army of the United States as an enlisted volunteer in Japan, China and Korea, was a graduate of Michigan State College, received a Masters Degree from Purdue University and the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Public Service from the University of South Carolina in 1993. He was employed as forester in 1954 by Archer Milton Huntington and Anna Hyatt Huntington, founders of Brookgreen Gardens, elected a Trustee and Assistant director in 1958, Director in 1963, President in 1990 and retired in 1994 following 40 years of dedicated service. Mr. Tarbox was a board member of the Bartlett Tree Expert Company of Stamford, CT and Charlotte, NC from 1995 to 2006.
PROFESSOR SOPHAN (STEVE) CHHIN completed two Master’s students this past summer: Matthew Magruder, “Effects of forest management and climate on productivity of red pine in Michigan” and Eric David, “Effects of climate on productivity in tropical tree species in western Kenya.” Dr. Chhin also worked on several funded grants including a 4-year grant from the World Wildlife Fund and Global Environment for $995,000 on “Carbon Benefits Project: Carbon, conservation, and livelihoods,” led by DR. DAVID SKOLE, Department of Forestry. Lastly, Dr. Chinn was recently elected president of the Michigan Forest Foundation, effective 2013.

Along with his family, PROFESSOR ANDREW FINLEY, enjoyed a Summer 2012 Visiting Scientist position at the National Science Foundation’s National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) headquarters located in Boulder, CO. There he helped NEON staff scientists develop new statistical methodology for scaling field measurements taken at NEON’s 60 monitoring sites to continental-scale estimates. Dr. Finley notes, that “NEON and similar Big Data initiatives, for example DataOne (www.dataone.org) are going to have a profound impact on how next generation environmental scientists access data and explore complex ecological questions over space and time.” In addition to his work with NEON, Dr. Finley has also recently been invited to join the NASA Carbon Monitoring System (CMS) team, and is currently working to develop and implement forest biomass/carbon modeling frameworks for three ongoing NASA CMS grants. In the coming year, he’s looking forward to returning, with his family, to Boulder for the summer where he’s been invited to participate in the National Center for Atmospheric Research’s program entitled, “Next Generation Climate Data Products.”

PROFESSOR ROBERT HAACK traveled to China in Spring 2012 to initiate studies on several species of beetles in the genus Agrilus that are close relatives of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB, Agrilus planipennis). Given that EAB has already killed tens of millions of ash (Fraxinus) trees in North America, there is great concern that other Asian Agrilus could become established here in the future and threaten our hardwood forest and landscape trees. This threat seems reasonable given that there are more than 200 species of Agrilus known from China, with dozens more yet to be described. They conducted their studies at several
field sites in southwest China in Yunnan Province, which is the area of China believed to have the greatest diversity of *Agrilus*. Most of the high-risk *Agrilus* that are close EAB relatives occur in southwest China and infest oaks (*Quercus*) and closely related genera (e.g., *Castanopsis*, *Cyclobalanopsis*). They worked primarily with entomologists at Yunnan University and the Yunnan Academy of Forestry during their visit, and plan to return to Yunnan in early 2013 to continue their field work.


**PROFESSOR DAVID MACFARLANE** (pictured below) was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship and spent the first half of 2012 in Kenya working as a visiting scholar at the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) where he conducted research on potential carbon benefits from tree planting and forest protection. In addition, he helped build research capacity for KEFRI and assisted in writing their first-ever climate change action plan, which became part of its five-year strategic plan for forestry research. He also organized a special session at the first Regional Congress of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations and the Forestry Research Network of Sub-Saharan Africa held in Africa, in Nairobi, Kenya. The theme of the Congress was, “Forests and Trees: Serving the People of Africa and the World.” Since returning in July 2012, he has begun a new research project with the USDA Forest Service to help develop new protocols and data for developing and testing new national biomass equations for the Forest Inventory and Analysis Program. Dr. MacFarlane also became the Director of Undergraduate Studies for the Forestry Department and has been working with Forestry colleagues on revising the forestry curriculum.

**PROFESSOR CHEIKH MBOW** joined the faculty as an Adjunct Associate Professor in Spring 2012. His research focuses on the potential of agroforestry to mitigate climate change, land use stakes in Africa—including land grab and competition of emerging bioenergy needs, and vegetation productivity and climate variability, and vegetation productivity and climate variability. He currently teaches forestry and climate change (carbon, water recycling, ecosystem services, community forestry) and carbon modeling at the Institute for Science of the Environment at Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar, Senegal and Kumasi University in Ghana.

**PROFESSOR CHARLES NELSON**, who works with governmental units at the local, state and national levels on natural resources recreation management and planning, was involved with the currently running PBS special “Sustaining Our Young Forests.” This MSU Extension video, and its companion videos including “Wetland Restoration” (winner of the 2009 MI Emmy Award for Environmental Films), “Balancing Development and Environment: Wetland Mitigation” and “Throwing Sand: The Silver Lake Story,” have been shown across Michigan and beyond on PBS.

**PROFESSOR PHUNG VAN KHOA** joined the faculty as an Adjunct Professor in Spring 2012. He is a lecturer at Vietnam Forestry University. Currently, he is conducting an international research project entitled “Research on Integrating Community-Based Participatory Carbon Measurement and Monitoring with Satellite Remote Sensing and GIS in a Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) System for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation-Plus (REDD) and Agroforestry Carbon Sequestration Activities.” This project is being conducted in Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and Michigan State University.
On August 15, 2012, PROFESSOR DENNIS PRObst officially retired from the Department of Forestry at Michigan State University. Dr. Propst joined MSU Forestry in 2004, after spending 21 years in the Department of Park, Recreation and Tourism Resources before it merged with the Department of Community, Agriculture, Recreation and Resource Studies.

In his 30 years at Michigan State, Dr. Propst taught 14 courses. His most recent courses included Environmental Attitudes and Concepts (PRR302), Foundations of Natural Resource-Based Recreation Management and Parks (PRR448) and Protected Areas Policy and Management (FOR/ACR872). Reflecting on these courses, Dr. Propst says, “I hope they collectively taught students to appreciate the complexity of the natural resource management profession, think critically about messy natural resource management issues, to question their assumptions, to know what to do when they are embroiled in some of these messy issues, and to understand the implications of the fundamental relationship between humans and natural resource settings.”

During his tenure, Dr. Propst’s used multivariate statistical methods and social science research designs to build a better understanding of how we should manage natural resources, specifically in regard to outdoor recreation behavior, landscape perceptions and economics. He worked with many organizations outside of Michigan State, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service, developing tools for resource managers to estimate the economic impacts of recreation visitors to their facilities.

But as times change, so has Dr. Propst research. “In recent years, I have focused on the role of the Internet in communication between resource agencies and citizens with particular emphasis on using the Internet for public participation and issues of website usability for diverse recreation users,” says Dr. Propst. In fact, he’ll continue this research into retirement, testing out a mobile app that will help outdoor recreation and other resource managers quickly obtain and analyze public comments on natural resource-related plans and policies.

In addition to continuing his research, Dr. Propst will help a couple students wrap up their doctoral degrees and assist in the development of an online course. So Dr. Propst will indeed be seen in the halls of Natural Resource Building. But when he’s not in the building, home improvement tasks will keep him busy, as well as visiting children who live on opposite ends of the country and spending time outdoors, hunting and fishing. And in the longer term, says Dr. Propst, “I’m looking for some volunteer opportunities and rekindling some long-neglected skills in watercolor painting and fly fishing.”

“I HOPE MY COURSES COLLECTIVELY TAUGHT STUDENTS TO APPRECIATE THE COMPLEXITY OF THE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROFESSION, THINK CRITICALLY ABOUT MESSY NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES, TO QUESTION THEIR ASSUMPTIONS...”
The Study Abroad Program at Michigan State University is dedicated to providing MSU students, as well as students from other colleges and universities, with high quality international academic opportunities that allow them to develop knowledge and skills needed to become productive and successful members of the global community.

**CARBON, CLIMATE AND LIVELIHOODS IN TROPICAL AGROFORESTRY SYSTEMS**

**MAY 16 TO JUNE 11, 2011**

**EARTH UNIVERSITY, COSTA RICA**

In collaboration with EARTH University in Costa Rica, **PROFESSOR DAVID SKOLE** led 12 students in a 4-week intensive hands-on learning experience in the tropical rain forests of Central America. EARTH University is a private university that has a long collaborative history with MSU. It provides undergraduate education to students from all over the world on sustainable agriculture and natural resource management in the humid tropics, and is the home base for the course.

Students arrived on the EARTH University campus for a week-long series of lectures and classroom exercises before heading out to the various rain forest venues across Costa Rica. The first venue was the University forest stands and natural tropical forest reserve—a spectacular 2,400-acre primary forest. Here, students received rigorous training in forestry inventory and carbon measurement methods.

Armed with this technical knowledge, the course moved first to the lowland rain forests of the La Selva Biological Station, where they stayed at the famous River Camp deep in the forest and toured the forest at night. They even encountered the infamous Fer De Lance viper—but at a safe distance. They also got a first-hand look at a sustainable forest management project that was part of the government’s Payment for Ecosystem Services program, and saw an actual harvest operation underway.

Students then traveled to the coastal Caribbean rain forests of the Tortuguero National Park, only accessible by a 2-hour boat trip. The heart of an old logging town in the early 1920s, this is now one of the most spectacular examples of coastal rain forests in the world.

From there, the class moved to the high mountain cloud forests of the Monteverde Forest Reserve where they were guided by some of the best tropical field naturalists in the world. This classic cloud forest ecosystem is being protected as a private trust, and completed the students’ broad cross sectional perspective of the entire range of management and protection strategies at play in Costa Rica. Pura Vida (Pure Life), as the Ticos (Costa Ricans) say!
COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE CHALLENGES IN FORESTS & PROTECTED AREAS IN SOUTHEAST EUROPE
May 13 to June 8, 2013
Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, & Macedonia

PROFESSOR MAUREEN MCDONOUGH and graduate student DORI PYNNONEN will introduce students to challenges associated with the effects of long term political tension and unrest on community based natural resource management.

While Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Macedonia share a common history as part of the former Yugoslavia, they are unique in long term history (prior to the formation of Yugoslavia), racial and ethnic makeup, religious heritage, natural resources, landscapes, architecture and cultural adaptation. These unique characteristics affect how they develop strategies to move forward with natural resources management in a post Yugoslavia and with cross-boundary natural resource management and protection initiatives to overcome post-conflict problems and build peace. In this program, students will examine collaborative participation efforts to manage natural resources by countries emerging from communist rule. Students will visit national parks, urban forests, and protected areas. They will also participate in field experiences that involve interacting with local managers, landowners and community members.

CANADA-U.S. COMPARATIVE NATURAL RESOURCE POLICY
Summer 2013

PROFESSOR LARRY LEEFERS will lead students on a tour of the similarities and differences between natural resource policies in Canada and the United States. The proximity of Ontario and Michigan offers a region in which many of the natural resources are similar. However, policies have evolved differently on the two sides of the border. When combined, policies in the region reflect many approaches used around the world—for forests, parks and protected areas, wildlife, fisheries, and minerals. Both countries are part of an international market for extractive industry products, and each has its own policy framework for addressing global opportunities and threats. Similarly, for non-extractive resources, unique policies have evolved. Students will visit multiple sites over two weeks, including the 1.9-million acre Algonquin Provincial Park and Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.
With a great group of students and a diverse set of activities, the 2012 Forestry Field Studies course left Professor Michael Walters and his students all with new hands on knowledge, and memories of a time well spent. The first week was spent practicing forestry on the Luken’s property—a 60-acre MSU property north of Onekema on the Lake Michigan shore. The property was a good challenge for students, as it’s largely high quality northern hardwoods impacted by Emerald Ash Borer and Beech Bark Disease. The property also includes conifer plantations, aspen stands, a house, vistas and ecologically sensitive areas. Students mapped and inventoried stands, identified sensitive areas, developed a management plan, and planned a harvest including marking and tallying trees. No mock exercise, the stand is currently being harvested (October 2012) per the students’ plan. During our Onekema week, we spent a day with the foresters from Packaging Corporation of America in Manistee, including Andy Klein (M.S. ‘04) and Todd Siegert (B.S. ‘93). They shared their experiences as procurement foresters and we toured from the woods to the mill.

After a week with precious few, but cherished, moments soaking in the sun on bluffs over Lake Michigan, we hit the road. With a focus on the ecology and management of Michigan forest types, we spent a day in the pineries near Grayling and at Hartwick Pines, another with MDNR Forester Tori (Strebe) Irving (B.S. ‘07), in mixed conifer-hardwood and red pine plantations, and another in bio-energy plantations and lowland conifer stands with Ray Miller (Ph.D. ‘84). We finished this leg of the trip contrasting managed and unmanaged forests at Porcupine Mountains State Park and camping at Lake Superior. Along the way, we became familiar with a broadly used habitat classification system (i.e. Kotar’s) and the flora necessary to identify the habitat type.

The last two days were spent with our friends north of the border. Over 10 personnel from the Ontario Forest Research Institute, Canadian Forest Service and industry guided us expertly through a broad range of topics including fire management, practicing forestry in Canada, and boreal forest ecology and management (including a full-day boreal forest tour). In the middle of all this, we were invited to a great barbecue, including a full contact game of croquet (to appease off-season hockey players?) at Abbie Obenchain and Bill Cole’s (M.S. ‘86), house. Exhausted after two weeks on the road and ready for the comforts of home, no one had issue, even after the long last day we spent well north of the Sault, with driving back to East Lansing. The students this past year were truly a wonderful bunch. They got their hands on forestry, and connected with each other and everyone we encountered along the way. It was a positive experience for all.
On Friday, March 23, 2012, the Department of Forestry held its 1st Annual Graduate Student Research Symposium. The symposium began with an introduction from Chairperson, DR. RICH KOBE and continued with presentations from 17 Forestry graduate students on their current or future research. Congratulations to MATTHEW MAGRUDER who gave a talk entitled, “Effects of forest management and climate on Red Pine productivity” and was awarded $200 for the best retrospective talk, and to ELLEN HOLSTE who gave a talk entitled, “Restoring tropical forests: the role of mycorrhizal fungi and soil nutrients” and was awarded $100 for the best prospective talk. The event concluded with a social in the Natural Resources Building, catered by East Lansing’s favorite local Mediterranean restaurant, Sultan’s. The symposium was generously sponsored by the ANDERSON FAMILY ENDOWMENT, MSU’S COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES and THE GRADUATE SCHOOL. We wish to thank all of the graduate students, faculty judges and staff who made the Forestry Department’s 1st Annual Graduate Student Research Symposium such a success!

2012 Student Scholarship Winners

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SENIOR AWARD - Randi Bradley

BUDRES FOUNDATION AWARD - Ryan Simon & Alex Grieve

CHAPMAN FOUNDATION AWARD - Randi Bradley

CARL O. BASE - Lydia Vanderbilt

CLARE & MYRTLE HENDEE AWARD - Ben Schram

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP - Ben Savoie

FORESTRY FACULTY SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP - Ryan Simon

HERBERT HUMPHREY AWARD - Ryan Hauser-Jeryc

JAMES GRAHAM HELMBRECHT AWARD - Lydia Vanderbilt

KARL DRESSEL AWARD - Lydia Vanderbilt

KARL H. LUKENS SCHOLARSHIP - Ben Schram, Randi Bradley & Ryan Simon

LEAVENGOOD SCHOLARSHIP - Matt Foster

TERRILL D. STEVENS AWARD - Lydia Vanderbilt

THERON E. DAW SCHOLARSHIP - Ben Alexander

Fall 2011 - Summer 2012 Graduates

B.S.
(pictured above)
Corey Blake, Sam Clark, Alyson Pierce, Molly Rooney, Scott Shooltz, Margaret Studer, Heather Surface, Ashley Wildeman, Clara DeYoung, Nora Hughes, Max Mokijewski, Kelly Schmiermund, Ryan Simon, Lydia Vanderbilt

M.S.
Benedicte Bachelot, John Rademacher, Jacob Slusser, Huirong Zhu, Alexa Wilson

Ph.D.
Hong Su An, Emily Scott
TREE RESEARCH CENTER
Tree Research Center (TRC) manager RANDY KLEVICKAS and staff began replacement of diseased and storm damaged nursery windbreaks this past spring and also started installation of a new deer fence around the property. In July, JILL O’DONNELL, DR. PASCAL NZOKOU, and BERT CREGG hosted a delegation of Christmas tree growers from Germany at the TRC and in September, Bert joined extension specialist TOM DUDAK hosting the Michigan Seedling Growers Association here. If you heard that the TRC has “gone to the dogs”, it’s not a rumor. Michigan Search and Rescue, a volunteer canine response team, is conducting training exercises at the Tree Research Center for locating missing or deceased persons.

Research manager PAUL BLOESE implemented an ambitious whole tree harvest operation on over 25 acres of plantations at our Sandhill research annex to provide open ground for future research plantings. Greg Kowalewski assisted with the logistics, DR. FEI PAN collected time and motion data, and the wood chips provided fuel to the MSU Power Plant. Paul oversees all greenhouse projects, continues long term tree improvement studies, and collaborated with RAY MILLER (biofuel), DR. PASCAL NZOKOU (Christmas trees), and outside agencies including the MDNR and U.S. Forest Service.

DR. DEB MCCULLOUGH expanded her emerald ash borer research at the TRC this year and DR. PASCAL NZOKOU’S graduate students ISMAIL KOC and ALEXA WILSON completed their masters thesis projects. From the nursery, the TRC staff harvested over 10,000 poplar cuttings this spring for RAY MILLER’S biofuel plantations.

Undergraduate students completed outdoor field work at the TRC for DR. MIKE WALTERS, DR. RICH KOBE, and DR. FEI PAN in silviculture, ecology, and forest harvesting. RANDY KLEVICKAS taught chainsaw safety and MDNR personnel conducted forest fire certification training. Forestry Club projects at the TRC this year included home-coming float, conclave practice, maple syrup production, and the annual Shindig pig roast. In 2013, please consider joining us at the TRC for our 50th anniversary celebration.

KELLOGG EXPERIMENTAL FOREST
At the Lukens property in Manistee County, MSU Forestry Field Studies class assisted the Kellogg Experimental Forest (KEF) crew with managing the 60-acre property. The class conducted a field inventory, reported inventory results and drafted management suggestions for the various forest types, and marked the harvest areas. In addition, the class visited Packaging Corporation of America and several ongoing logging operations. Due to Emerald Ash Borer and Beech Bark Disease, over 100,000 bdft of timber will be harvested. The plan is to plant, broadcast and monitor black cherry seed and place tree shelters on naturally-regenerated sugar maple and oak seedlings for deer protection.

At the MSU Lux Arbor Reserve and the Tree Research Center, whole tree chipping operations supplied chips to the MSU boiler. DR. FEI PAN had two forestry students conduct harvest time studies at both sites.

The Forestry Wildland Fire class joined the KEF crew to conduct an oak savanna prescribed burn at the MSU MacCreedy Reserve this spring.

Forestry Silviculture, Field Studies and Introduction to Forestry toured MSU forestry properties to observe forest management projects in the field. BRETT KUIPERS (B.S.)
'10, M.S. ’12) is a new full-time employee at Kellogg Forest and recently assisted the MSU Kellogg Biological Station with a 120,00 bdft salvage of ash killed by Emerald Ash Borer. Brett, along with the Kellogg Experimental Forest crew, has been involved in two prescribed burns, the Lukens 1100,00 bdft sale, and SER-Short Term Rotation Energy planation data collection.

At the MacCready Reserve, they have completed the planting portion of a 12-acre restoration project. A red pine stand with an almost impenetrable understory of glossy buckthorn is the focus of this Hardwood Forestry Foundation grant sponsored project. The buckthorn was eliminated and 4,000 oak seedlings planted each year for three years. The newly planted oaks compare trees growing with deer buster fence protection, trees with shelters and those left to grow with no protection. All the trees receive yearly release via herbicides.

The KEF crew has also been busy assisting DR. DAVID MACFARLANE in establishing biomass equations via a United States Forest Service grant. The KEF crew is field testing measurement equipment and then processing whole trees by cutting and measuring the individual tree parts to establish biomass of both green and oven dry material.

The Kellogg Experimental Forest crew is working with DR. DENNIS FULBRIGHT and a team of researchers in testing treatment options for the spruce decline, primarily blue spruce, in parts of Michigan. The decline is primarily blamed on Phomopsis, a fungal pathogen.

FOREST BIOMASS INNOVATION CENTER
Activities at the Forest Biomass Innovation Center in Escanaba, MI continue to increase in support of MSU’s greater emphasis on developing wood products for the emerging bioenergy and bioproducts industries. Research at the Center supports grants from the US DOE and the USDA to explore the silvicultural, genetics, ecological, and economic implications of increased use of Michigan’s forests and idle agricultural land as sources of feedstocks for emerging markets. DR. DAVID ROTHSTEIN, DR. DAVID MACFARLANE, DR. DANIEL KEATHLEY (Horticulture), KURT THELEN (Crop and Soil Sciences), DOUG LANDIS (Entomology), and RAY MILLER (Forestry) together with partners at the Universities of Minnesota, Wisconsin, New York, and Cornell all have active projects at the Center.

Knowledge gained at the Center has been shared with numerous touring groups and visiting scientists during the past year, including scientists from the Northwest German Research Institute, 20 students from the Northwestern University of Agriculture and Forestry in Yangling, China, and over 50 members of the public during the first Woody Biomass Field Day. In addition, work at the Center has been presented at conferences ranging from East Lansing to Arizona to New Orleans to Dehradun, India to Beijing, China. In short, there is a great deal of interest in what is happening here and we are most anxious to share what has been learned. Be sure to save time to visit during your next trip to the UP.
Thank you...

The Department of Forestry is pleased to acknowledge the cash contributions received from alumni and friends. We sincerely thank all donors.

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The Department of Forestry is continuing the campaign to raise the funds necessary to cast and erect a MICHIGAN HISTORICAL MARKER to commemorate the CHITTENDEN FORESTRY CABIN. The cabin, located just south of the Red Cedar River, was a popular gathering place for students during the period 1931 to 1965. It was razed to make room for the new Wells Hall. Several other historic sites on campus—such as the Band Shell—have been so recognized. The memorial plaque has been approved by the MSU administration, and we are a little over half way towards the fundraising goal.

MIKE MOORE (B.S. ’61) is leading the fundraising campaign. Be a part of this worthy endeavor to recognize a significant part of MSU history. Send contributions of any amount to the address below. Please use APPEAL CODE 01203.

KATE POWERS
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