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**Keep In Touch**

Please update your alumni information online.

www.atcofa.sfasu.edu/alumni
Welcome to the newly designed Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture News. The newsletter highlights recent activities and accomplishments of students, faculty, staff and alumni from throughout the college, spanning teaching, research and service programs.

I hope you’ll join me in thanking Jeff Williams, Travis Killen, Katelin Kombos and Samantha Miller for their hard work in developing this new design and for writing the newsletter stories. ATCOFA is dedicated to excellence in teaching, research and service, and Jeff, Travis, Katelin and Samantha have done an outstanding job of communicating the depth and breadth of these important programs.

If you’re an alum, a current student or a friend of our college, please join our Facebook page for regular news and updates, and please be sure to enroll in the “Keeping Track” section online (atcofa.sfasu.edu/alumni).

I look forward to working with you and our dedicated faculty and staff to continue the strong reputation and legacy of excellence of the ATCOFA Lumberjack nation. Please feel free to contact me with thoughts or advice, or if I can be of assistance in any way. My direct phone number is (936) 468-2164, and my e-mail address is bullardsh@sfasu.edu.

Steve Bullard
Leaders of student organizations and groups sponsored by ATCOFA have been invited to participate in a newly formed student advisory group to ensure that student perspectives are clearly communicated at the college level. The Dean’s Council of Student Leaders was implemented to facilitate effective dialogue in developing priorities for improving equipment, facilities, software and other resources that are important to students in the college. Council recommendations that have been or are being implemented include:

- new furniture in classrooms and student common areas,
- networked computers in student common areas,
- college-wide cookout in the fall,
- ceiling-mounted projectors in all classrooms,
- more clocks in classrooms, and
- course-rotation guides posted online.

**Library**

The Forestry Library has found a new home with the assistance of Bernice Wright, SFA research librarian for agriculture, environmental science and forestry, who helped sort and identify important resources to supplement those available in Steen Library. These include monographs, print volumes of “The Journal of Forestry” from 1918 to present and other research materials. In addition, she evaluated and recommended the transfer of documents containing 62 years of the history of forestry and forestry education at SFA to the East Texas Research Center’s forestry collection. Dr. Montague Whiting Jr., professor emeritus, is assisting the ETRC faculty in archiving the collection. The remainder of the ATCOFA library available for student use consists of forestry theses and dissertations as well as print copies of “The Wildlife Society Bulletin” and “The Journal of Wildlife Management.”
SFA Gardens

Located on the campus of Stephen F. Austin State University, the SFA Gardens include the SFA Mast Arboretum, Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden, Pineywoods Native Plant Center and the Gayla Mize Garden. The gardens offer a unique outdoor experience, including a vast and diverse collection of rare plants from around the world, Texas’ largest azalea garden, gardens and nature trails dedicated solely to native plants, and a new network of hiking and biking trails. Beauty and fresh air abound in this nearly 70-acre green space nestled along the LaNana Creek corridor in Nacogdoches.

SFA Recreational Trails & Gardens

Placement of a new sign for the SFA Recreational Trails & Gardens is the last element of the three-year project funded by the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. The sign, at the intersection of East College Street and University Drive, introduces a rich educational and recreational site. More than two miles of recreational trails allow for hiking or mountain biking along the slopes of Hunt’s Woods, while eight acres of open woodland now provide excellent growing conditions for new plantings. Boardwalks are being installed to protect wetlands, and more deciduous azaleas and camellias will be planted this winter season.

ARGENTINA

Ten SFA students from various majors traveled to South America in May 2011 to attend the study abroad Maymester course, Jaguar Conservation and Economic Development. Dr. Daniel Scognamillo, assistant professor of forest wildlife management, and Dr. Gary Kronrad, Bone Hill Foundation Distinguished Professor of Forest Economics, led the trip in collaboration with faculty from the Universidad Nacional de Misiones. During the 14-day class, the students enjoyed outdoor hikes and lectures in the remnants of the Interior Atlantic Forest (containing several World Heritage Sites) on the borderlands of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay.

In this vacation-like setting, the students studied and discussed solutions to economic stressors that affect people and wildlife alike in the Interior Atlantic Forest. Fragmentation by deforestation and land conversion temporarily feed starving farmers and natives but also displace jaguars. Because trees are rarely replanted, the infertile land is abandoned within two years. Sustainable forestry practices, according to UNAM and ATCOFA, can create forests that are suitable jaguar habitats even while providing income and jobs to locals and indigenous tribes. ATCOFA forestry degrees empower students to face global challenges like these. According to Laura Muston, a wildlife management senior from LaPorte, the trip made her more aware of just how global her chosen profession is. “Forestry practices don’t just impact a state or country; they have impacts on a global scale,” she said.

Go online: sfagardens.sfasu.edu
Go online: atcofa.sfasu.edu/argentina.pdf
The NCPC has pioneered the concept of “pharmaceutical crops,” plants that can be grown and harvested for the production of medicine. The development and production of nationally strategic pharmaceutical crops creates new ways for farmers to sustain their livelihoods. In October, U.S. Rep. Louie Gohmert visited SFA to learn more about promising cancer-treatment research being conducted by NCPC scientists who recently discovered cancer-treating potential in giant salvinia, one of the most noxious invasive species in the world. The congressman and representatives from his Washington, D.C., office, visited the center directed by Dr. Shiyou Li, research professor, and watched a demonstration on the medicinal properties of giant salvinia.

Researchers discovered that extracts of giant salvinia can effectively inhibit the growth of human tumor cells with minimum damage to normal cells. “Our research opens a new door to positive control of noxious invasive plants,” Li said. Giant salvinia currently is one of the most widespread environmentally and economically destructive invasive plant species in the world. The NCPC has explored a staggering 1,200 species, and the work of NCPC scientists has yielded more than 750 pure compounds, including 115 new structures.

Go online: forestry.sfasu.edu/NCPC

PWCC - Piney Woods Conservation Center

The Piney Woods Conservation Center, through SFA’s Office of Development, has implemented a fundraising program with Field Station alumni and “Friends of the PWCC” to generate funds for the construction of a Field Station pavilion/outdoor classroom, as well as repairs to the wood bridge from the lodge to the dormitories. The PWCC recently received a grant for roofing, gutter repair and new floor tile in the lecture hall. Additionally, SFA’s Physical Plant is preparing to replace the fluorescent lighting with a more energy-saving style. Now 25 years old, maintenance of the PWCC is an ongoing project.

Contributions may be sent to:
April Smith, Office of Development
Stephen F. Austin State University
P.O. Box 6092, SFA Station
Nacogdoches, TX 75962-6092
(936) 468-2278

Go online: forestry.sfasu.edu/PWCC

When you make a donation to SFA, you are helping provide educational opportunities for future Lumberjacks. Every gift truly makes a difference!
John F. Chapman

John F. Chapman ‘08 was honored by SFA with the William R. Johnson Outstanding Thesis Award, presented to him at commencement on May 9, 2011, when he received a Master of Science in spatial science. His thesis, “Evaluation of LiDAR Derived Estimates of Forest Measurements” directed by Dr. I-Kuai Hung, associate professor of spatial science, is an important research subject that addresses accuracy in forest measurements. The study assessed the effectiveness of TIFFS, an extensive GIS package, to process raw data collected from LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) technology. To analyze the terabytes of data TIFFS would produce, Chapman relied on the skills he learned from GIS courses at ATCOFA, as well as the extensive GIS computational resources available at the college. Collecting field data from a study area deep within the Stephen F. Austin Experimental Forest, Chapman used these tools to turn LiDAR data into information critical to foresters. The results are valuable in considering investments for using LiDAR as a cost effective alternative to timber cruising. Chapman’s work at the computer and in the field resulted in a peer-reviewed article published in the 2010 “International Journal of Mathematical and Computational Forestry and Natural-Resource Sciences.”
A Forest Insect Alphabet

is the brainchild of Dr. David Kulhavy, professor of entomology, and Charles Jones, retired professor of art. While the two men come from different backgrounds - science and art - they worked together for two years creating the artwork, book and music for the project. Fifty-one original woodcuts drawn and cut by Jones were printed and bound by hand at SFA’s LaNana Creek Press. Twenty-six images are color woodcuts of forest insects, chosen to represent each letter of the alphabet, and are accompanied by 23 black-and-white wood engravings. A descriptive poetic quatrain printed from handset type is below each color print. The wood engravings offer a detailed study of the insects and are accompanied by scientific text written by Kulhavy. The 72-page book features forest insects important for their beauty, their impact on the forest environment and their intricate ecology. The colors used for each woodcut are based on the named insect. Each book also contains a compact disc of songs that are Kulhavy’s texts set to music by Nacogdoches musician Miki Lynn. She, Kulhavy and Jones recorded the CD.

Dr. Theresa Coble, associate professor of forest recreation and interpretation, was honored during the 23rd annual SFA Gala as recipient of the 2011-2012 Faculty Achievement Award for Teaching. The faculty achievement award was presented for Coble’s innovation and excellence in teaching and research. “Dr. Coble is a very dedicated and resourceful teacher,” said Dr. Steve Bullard, dean. “Her passion for teaching is strongly reflected in her success with distance education at SFA. She is well-read and offers advice and direction in teaching based on a broad knowledge of the pedagogy of her teaching field.” Coble led the development of the first-ever online Master of Science in Resource Interpretation (MSRI) program in partnership with the National Park Service.

Dr. I-Kuai Hung, associate professor of spatial science, was the recipient of the 2010 - 2011 Faculty Achievement Award for Teaching. The award recognizes innovation and excellence in teaching and research. “Dr. Hung is always at the student’s side, patiently teaching the intricacies of geographic information systems,” said Dr. Steve Bullard, dean. “He brings a high level of energy to his teaching and has developed and refined his courses over the years to stay abreast of the myriad changes that characterize this computer-related field of science.” In addition to his work in the classroom, Hung has created and conducted GIS workshops to familiarize faculty, staff, students and practitioners with the latest developments in the spatial sciences.
Dr. Christopher Comer,
associate professor of forest wildlife management, received the 2010-2011 Kenneth G. Watters Teaching Award at SFA’s Teaching Excellence Awards Convocation. For Comer, it was a “pleasant surprise” to be recognized with the Teaching Excellence Award. He says he enjoys his students and that the faculty at ATCOFA are fortunate to have a chance to teach them. Comer noted in his experiences at ATCOFA that “some students were older individuals who left established careers in other fields to come back to school and fulfill dreams that had been put on the back burner.”

Dr. Hans Williams,
professor of forestry and associate dean of ATCOFA, was named the 2010-11 Stephen F. Austin State University Regents Professor. Williams joined the faculty in 1993 and was appointed associate dean in 2009. He teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in forest ecology, tree physiology, environmental assessment, urban forestry and wetlands functional assessment. Williams was awarded commendations from the Department of the Army in 1991, 1992 and 1993 for his work in forested wetlands restoration. He received SFA’s Teaching Excellence Award in 1998, 2002 and 2005 and the Kenneth Nelson Distinguished Professorship in 2004.

Dr. Jimmie Yeiser,
professor of forestry, was named the 2011-12 Stephen F. Austin State University Regents Professor. Yeiser holds the T.L.L. Temple Chair and is director of the Forest Resources Institute at SFA. Yeiser currently teaches intensive silviculture and chemical management of pastures, fence rows and forest pests. His research emphasis is herbicidal management of forest vegetation. “Dr. Yeiser is quite renowned and in demand for his work in this area,” said Dr. Richard Berry, provost and vice president for academic affairs. “He’s obviously a man who knows his business and knows how to communicate it.” Yeiser is recognized regionally, nationally and internationally as a leader in product development for woody and herbaceous plant control in Southern forests.

Dr. Erin Brown,
associate professor of animal science in the Department of Agriculture, was presented SFA’s 2010 - 2011 Teaching Excellence Award for Service Learning. Brown was the first-ever recipient of the award given to teachers who use service learning projects in their curricula. For her project, Brown’s students educated high school 4-H and FFA members on how to artificially inseminate cattle at a two-day clinic last year. Brown believes the clinic “gave students the opportunity to give back to the community and was also a way to learn about teaching.”

go ONLINE
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Dr. Steve Bullard, dean, is president-elect of The National Association of University Forest Resources Programs (formerly The National Association of Professional Forestry Schools and Colleges). It was formed in 1981 and represents 69 of our nation’s most prestigious universities and their respective scientists, educators and extension specialists. The association’s purpose is to advance the health, productivity and sustainability of America’s forests by providing university-based natural resource education, research, science, extension and programs.

Bullard also was elected Fellow of the Society of American Foresters at the 2010 national convention.

Dr. James Kroll, Henry M. Rockwell Chair professor of forestry, a.k.a. “Dr. Deer,” has been named as a Wisconsin whitetail deer trustee by Gov. Scott Walker.

Kroll also has been asked by the chairman of the House Committee on Culture, Recreation and Tourism to serve on a panel of experts to research and establish a wildlife conservation and management plan specific to the state of Texas.

Kroll is host of “Winchester Presents – Dr. Deer” and co-host of “North American Whitetail.” Both shows are featured on the Sportsman Channel.

Dr. Craig Morton, associate professor in the Department of Agriculture, received the 2011 Honorary American FFA Degree at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind., for his service with the National FFA Agricultural Mechanics Career Development Event. The award is given to those who advance agricultural education through outstanding personal commitment, and to recognize those who have gone beyond the valuable daily contributions to make an extraordinary long-term difference in the lives of students, inspiring confidence in a new generation of agriculturists. The national FFA organization is dedicated to enhancing the lives of youth through agricultural education with the goal of achieving personal growth, personal success and premier leadership that, in turn, contributes directly to the overall well-being of the nation.

Dr. David Creech, professor emeritus of agriculture and director of SFA Gardens, received the 2010 Honorary Membership Award for Lifetime Achievement from the Texas Nursery and Landscape Association.

Dr. Dean Coble, associate professor of forest management, received the 2011 Laurence C. Walker Distinguished Service Award from the Texas Society of American Foresters for recognition of his professional achievement and his demonstrated continuing service and leadership in the Society of American Foresters.
Dr. Matt McBroom, assistant professor of forest hydrology, was the recipient of the 2010 Young Forester Leadership Award presented by the Society of American Foresters in recognition of outstanding leadership by a young professional benefiting the practice of forestry and the Society of American Foresters.

Dr. Jeremy Stovall

The ATCOFA would like to welcome Dr. Jeremy Stovall, assistant professor of silviculture and dendrology. Stovall joined ATCOFA in 2010 after receiving his degree in forestry and forest products from Virginia Polytechnic Institute. To supplement his teaching materials, Stovall has developed a student Web page dedicated to dendrology resources, including photo and ID factsheets, morphology photos and interactive quizzes. He has also developed a silviculture Web page of student resources including an online silviculture textbook. Stovall’s teaching philosophy is based on his belief that a corps of well-educated foresters will be needed in the coming decades to manage our nation’s forests for timber, wood products, carbon sequestration, wildlife, water and recreation. “They must understand implications of management recommendations for sustainability while still meeting landowner objectives,” he said. “Furthermore, this must be accomplished while balancing substantial scientific uncertainty in a complex and dynamic socio-economic setting. I believe that a strong focus on higher-order thinking skills across our undergraduate curriculum is absolutely necessary for the success of these future professionals.”

Dr. Joe Gotti, professor of animal science in the Department of Agriculture, was elected to the 2012 Board of Directors for the Louisiana Stock Horse Association at its 2011 annual meeting. Gotti also took fifth place in the Cutting Horse Finals of the Louisiana Stock Horse Finals.

Dr. Joe Gotti

Dr. David Kulhavy, professor of entomology, was the recipient of the Society of American Foresters’ 2010 Carl Alwin Schenck Award in recognition of outstanding performance in the field of forestry education.

“Dr. Bug” continues to delight, entertain and educate.

“Dr. Bug” continues to delight, entertain and educate.
The field station's opening ceremony was a recollection of the primitive aspects of field stations past by Drs. Michael Fountain and Monty Whiting. Stories about how blessed we, the field station class of 2011, were to have restrooms and air conditioning echoed within the walls of the lecture hall. As the legends walked out the door, applause arose as though we were dismissing celebrities.

The first morning's sun arose to the sounds of alarm clocks buzzing at 5, doors slamming and grumbles to the realization that this was only the first morning of the next six weeks to come. In the coming weeks, we would participate in a variety of forestry-related activities, including large timber cruises, wildlife research, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), surveying, etc.

However, field station is not only a time when forestry students can really begin to learn their trade and the difference between college classes and real life, but it's more of a time for building relationships. Along with their newly found confidence in their abilities, friendships and partnerships that will be with the students throughout their future career, were a couple of major results from field station.

Weeks one and two consisted of three large timber cruises where we measured trees per acre, volume per acre and site index. The weeks also contained endless dendrology quizzes in areas only a dendrology professor like Dr. Jeremy Stovall could locate. In addition, week two provided enhanced practice of silvicultural applications that will help us become professionals in our future careers. Furthermore, we found ourselves meeting with professionals from the forest industry who were specialized in various fields, from site prep to harvesting and processing.

Read the full story: Go online
Week 3
In the third week, we began our wildlife research by setting up mist nets and, later that night, listening to owl calls vibrating out of a CD player operated by Dr. Warren Conway, with high hopes to spot an owl. After an owl-less hour, we headed to the trucks, then, with great surprise, the silent night was broken with sounds of a screech owl not even 20 feet away. The week continued with identifying bird calls and vegetation. In company with additional wildlife research activities, we checked the mist nets throughout the day, finding warblers, cardinals and many other animals.

Week 4
Week four brought GIS/surveying topics. This was the first time to have a GIS week at field station. One GIS activity found us split into groups with a GPS device to find our way to points that were spread out across a forested peninsula. With as much water as we could carry, and instructions to locate all the required points, all of the groups finally ended their search at the pickup area. The surveying day found us at a five-year-old, naturally regenerated pine stand. Using GPS units and traditional surveying equipment, our responsibility was to map the stand boundaries.

Week 5
This was non-timber week. We went to several forests that had just been burned and saw the immense effects of the fires. The third day found us at Boykin Springs with Dr. Pat Stephens Williams who took us to camp sites that were in disrepair. Afterward, with Dr. David Kulhavy leading, we walked to red-cockaded woodpecker sites and talked about fire effects on the clusters. The next day, we went to the coal mine near Carthage. There, we were given a grand tour through the strip mine and the reclamation lands, where we were amazed to see the rolling hills in the distance that used to be where the gigantic crane once sat digging.

Week 6
The sixth week focused on harvesting and processing. The sites we visited included a paper mill in Louisiana and the creosote treatment plant in Pineland. What some students considered “the best mill ever,” was the small family-owned hardwood mill in Jasper. However, the most impressive site that we visited was the newly finished biomass energy plant in Lufkin, where Danny Vines, the innovative designer and part owner, gave us a full descriptive tour of the finished plant. The tour ended with a generator so immense and dense that it generated its own gravity.
SAFE - Student Association for Fire Ecology

Penny Whisenant of Marble Falls, a member of SFA’s Student Association for Fire Ecology since ’09, was elected president of the national chapter of SAFE in the spring of 2011. Her duties as president require her to communicate with other chapters of SAFE across the United States and act as their representative to the Association for Fire Ecology Board. Additionally, Whisenant attended the annual AFE conference held in Snowbird, Utah, where she was presented the SAFE 2011 Outstanding Undergraduate Award for her leadership as SAFE national president and for her active leadership in SFA’s local student chapter.

In April, members of SAFE accepted an award for SFA from Firewise (www.firewise.org), a nationwide program that advises communities on landscaping and home design techniques that help safeguard homes against wildfi res. SFA became the first Firewise University in the nation. Furthermore, the organization is working with the SFA chapter of the Society of American Foresters where they are collaborating with Karen Stafford ’03 & ’11 and other Texas Forest Service Urban-Wildlife Interface experts to create a fire management plan that includes firebreaks and prescribed burns for SFA.

Agriculture Show Team

The SFA Show Team is an agricultural student organization established in 2005 that encourages interest in showing livestock and connects organization members with the livestock industry. The members feed, water, exercise and train their animals throughout the livestock showing season. The Show Team then travels with their animals to rodeos and stock shows across the state to be evaluated by livestock judges.

During spring 2011, the SFA Show Team won more than 13 awards from four events, including First Place in the Open Beefmaster Showing at the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo and Third Place in Good Herdsmanship at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

Advised by Dr. Erin Brown, the Show Team also supports the collegiate livestock judging team and the invitational livestock judging contest held in the spring on the SFA campus. The team hosts invitational steer and heifer shows in the spring and instructional livestock showmanship clinics in the fall for local 4-H and FFA clubs.
Chelsea Lopez

**Chelsea Lopez of Columbia, Tenn., a junior in wildlife management** and an active member in several college organizations, participated in a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service internship last summer. The Coastal Data Information Program in Mary Plantation, Maine, hosted the internship at the Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge.

Lopez and her co-workers first began conducting wildlife surveys for the American Woodcock conservation plan that was established in 2008. Using mist nets, the group caught and measured American Woodcocks, attached a leg band to each bird and released them. Additionally, the interns secured transmitters to the adult female woodcocks allowing for further research during the ongoing study.

During waterfowl surveys, Lopez observed and recorded the waterfowl from an elevated stand. Initially, she struggled to climb the stand because of her fear of heights. However, she overcame her anxiety and subsequently enjoyed monitoring the waterfowl. Aware of the benefits of interning for the USFWS, Lopez said working alongside her fellow interns made the summer a “success and the best summer of my life.” Lopez also was selected as one of eight Department of the Interior Student Ambassadors for the 2011-12 academic year.

Eric Kauffman

**Eric Kauffman of Plano, an environmental science senior,** was one of 29 undergraduate and graduate students from 28 colleges and universities nationwide who were chosen to partake in the six-week NASA Airborne Science Program. Through the internship program, Kauffman learned how to sample and test air quality from an aircraft.

While aboard the DC-8 flying laboratory based at NASA’S Dryden Aircraft Operations Facility in Palmdale, Calif., Kauffman made numerous flights over water treatment plants, dairy farms in the Los Angeles Basin and the city itself. During these flights, Kauffman collected air samples from different elevations to study air pollution of methane emissions and additional greenhouse gases.

Kauffman plans to publish the results of his research from the NASA program. His professional goal is to pursue a career in air quality control when he graduates from SFA.

Heather Grobe

**Heather Grobe of Seguin, a graduate student in agriculture,** is currently interning at the SFA Equine Center. The internship began in December 2010 and requires Grobe to maintain the health and living standards for SFA-owned horses and student-owned horses boarded at the Equine Center.

Grove decided to intern at the SFA Equine Center because she believed she could gain management skills that will help in her future career. She has already obtained a better sense of organization and a management mentality. The most important aspect of Grobe’s job is being able to manage people while they work with their horses. Her experiences with the Equine Center also have enhanced her desire to continue with the equine industry in the future.

For more information about our other student organizations, visit our website.

[www.atcofa.sfasu.edu/about-the-college](http://www.atcofa.sfasu.edu/about-the-college)
Graduate Studies

Agriculture

Jodi Hill

In August 2011, Jodi Hill of Nacogdoches completed research for a master's degree in agriculture. Hill's research was based on the prediction of in vitro true digestibility of coastal Bermudagrass hay using Near Infrared Reflectance Spectroscopy. Hill chose to attend SFA because of her respect for the agriculture professors from previous class work.

Hill was awarded a research assistantship with Dr. Leon Young, professor in the Department of Agriculture. Hill's decision to study forage quality complemented her bachelor's degree in animal science. With her newfound experience, Hill plans to incorporate NIRS into future research. She is currently working on a doctoral degree in forestry at SFA.

Forestry

Stephen McDowell

Stephen McDowell of Channelview is currently seeking a Master of Science in Wildlife Science and Management. His research topic focuses on the potential exposure of environmental lead in mottled ducks on the Texas Chenier Plains National Wildlife Refuge. "I am estimating blood lead concentrations in mottled ducks to isolate when the ducks are initially exposed to lead," McDowell said. In addition he is also estimating spent lead shot availability and distribution, as well as soil lead concentrations to conclude possible pathways by which mottled ducks acquire lead in their system. After graduating, McDowell plans to find a career in wildlife biology that focuses on waterfowl management; he hopes to end up on the Texas coast.

See more forestry graduate students at...

Go online: forestry.sfasu.edu/graduate-students.html
Environmental Science

T. Wells Shartle

Eighteen environmental science students from ATCOFA were invited to the Environmental Challenges and Innovations Conference in Houston in February 2011 held by the Texas Association of Environmental Professionals. Among the invited was graduate student Wells Shartle of Crockett who presented the preliminary results of his thesis research. His study follows the path of phosphorus in created wetlands that filter water from the Trinity River before it pours into the Richland Chambers Reservoir. The reservoir holds more than a million acre-feet of water and provides Tarrant Regional Water District with drinking water. Shartle’s father, whose company motto is “Forestry for the Future,” inspired him to pursue a graduate-level environmental science degree at SFA. Combined with his degree in business management from Baylor University, Shartle plans to establish his own environmental consulting firm.

Spatial Science

Joey Westbrook

Joey Westbrook of Hallsville is currently researching satellite image classification of forest cover types. Westbrook ’06 is pursuing the Master of Spatial Science degree focusing on sub-pixel image classification of forest cover types. Westbrook hopes to better understand the representation of forest cover types that are contained in a single image pixel. Studying GIS in natural resources under Dr. I-Kuai Hung, Westbrook is also Hung’s teaching assistant for undergraduate GIS Labs. He decided on his research topic because of his interest in maps and working with satellite imagery. Westbrook was recipient of the 2011 Best Student Presentation Award at the eighth Southern Forestry and Natural Resource Management GIS Conference in recognition of his high-quality oral presentation titled “Sub-pixel Classification of Forest Cover Types.”

After graduating from SFA, Westbrook plans to seek a professional GIS position solving natural resource problems.
In December 2010, Dr. Jimmie Yeiser was named director, joining Jason Grogan, research associate, at the Forest Resources Institute in Stephen F. Austin State University’s Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture.

Dr. Jimmie Yeiser joined the forestry faculty in 1999 as holder of the T.L.L. Temple Chair, and he is recognized for chemical control of unwanted herbaceous and woody plants in Southern forests. In 2006 he received the Faculty Achievement Award for Research from the SFA Foundation. In 2007, he was named a Fellow of the Society of American Foresters, and in 2008, he was honored with the Research, Development and Innovation Award from the Texas Forestry Association. Most recently, he was named the 2011-12 SFA Regents Professor.

Jason Grogan received his Bachelor of Science in Forest Management in 1996 before joining the FRI research staff in 1999. He earned his Master of Science in Forest Health in 2005, and is a certified forester with experience in the forest industry. He is recognized for his expertise in forest measurements and provides primary support for projects in forest inventory, remote sensing, GIS and nonindustrial private forestlands. He is the project coordinator and manager for ATCOFA’s carbon sequestration joint research project with STMicroelectronics.
East Texas Forest Inventory

FRI scientists are currently working on the East Texas Forest Inventory project. Forest inventory is an extremely important component of effective forest management. Knowing the type (pine, hardwood or mixed pine-hardwood), quantity, size class (regeneration, pulpwood, or sawlog) and distribution of resources will ultimately determine if East Texas remains competitive and productive in the forest products industry. Forest inventory is a contemporary issue for East Texans because our timberlands are changing. For example, International Paper Company in 2006 and Temple-Inland in 2007 sold millions of acres of East Texas timberlands. Since then, portions of these timberlands have been sold and resold, fragmenting the land base that once produced timber and that provided direct employment for one of every three East Texas families.

Management of thousands of acres formerly prioritized for timber production is now redirected to nontimber uses. These changes in land use alter the type, location and quantity of forest resources available for the economic development of East Texas communities. Information on the forest type, location and amount of timber by size needs to be developed. In 2003, the ETFI project demonstrated that satellite-generated data can be used for rapid and cost-effective assessment of the type, location and distribution of forest resources. Now, scientists can use 2003 as baseline data to detect change. Examples of change can be acres that are fragmented (managed for nontimber products), idle (harvested without planned regeneration) or under timber management (different stages of production).

The purpose of the 2011 ETFI project is to realize the potential of the 2003 initiative. That is: (1) develop methodologies for remotely-sensed data that determine the location, distribution, and quantity of forest type, age class, and timber volume, biomass, and carbon sequestration for sample years; (2) write original computer code quantifying changes in forest resources spanning the sample years; (3) design, implement and host a Web-accessible interface for users; and (4) provide outreach instruction on the availability and use of the Web-based report generator. For example, if a company is considering building a mill somewhere in East Texas, the first concern is usually location. The mill site will be selected based on the perceived sustained availability of timber resources (pulpwood, sawlogs, harvesting residues, etc.) needed to support the mill.

To determine the size, quantity and location of timber resources, the entrepreneur will access our database via the Internet and select the county or counties under consideration. The report generator will provide a coded county map with tables summarizing the forest type and location of stands of trees, complete with their ages and timber volumes (by timber class). The user can then locate the supply of resources within a reasonable hauling distance from the site(s) under consideration. Selecting different years provides results over time, illustrating changes in resource availability for a projection of future resource availability. Once the system is in place, this approach and technology may be used for comparisons of trends in land ownership changes, invasive species, forest health and other contemporary forest issues.
The Milam Forestry Summer Camp facility was built in the mid-1950s on a high ridge directly above Red Hills Lake, a U.S. Forest Service recreation area. Before establishment of the Piney Woods Conservation Center (PWCC), this facility was where summer field courses were taught.

Through the years, several different directors, student assistants and other faculty members invested time at Milam. From 1969 to 1986, two cooks, Zady Orie Wilson and her daughter, Doris Burrow, played an instrumental role in positively influencing students. Dr. Montague Whiting Jr., Professor Emeritus, the camp’s director in the summers of 1973-76 and 1979-86, said “these ladies probably cooked for more professional foresters than anyone in history.” Both women were great cooks, and their yeast rolls were “to die for.” The women were soft-spoken and rarely complained. However, one morning around 5, they were found sitting in their chairs in the kitchen. Wilson made it clear that they were not cooking breakfast until the picture of the Playboy playmate was removed from the dining hall; this never happened again!

In 1981, former Field Station students established the Zady O. Wilson Scholarship in her honor. Wilson passed away on January 12, 1994, at the age of 86; that year Whiting created the Field Station Cookbook featuring Wilson’s original recipes. Proceeds from the sale of the cookbook go to the scholarship fund. Burrow passed away in 2008 in an automobile accident.
Wilson and Burrow influenced many Forestry Field Station students during their years at the camp. Recently, Frank Vick, the student assistant during 1974 and 1975, came up with the name “Orie’s Boys” for students and faculty who spent their summers working at the camp. Orie’s Boys include two directors, Whiting and Billy Lemons who served during 1977 and 1978. Also included are Dr. Mike Fountain, Professor Emeritus, who taught at the camp many summers and the 11 student assistants who worked during the summers of 1973-1986.

Twenty-five years after the Milam facility was closed, Orie’s Boys held a reunion on Friday night, August 19, 2011, at Red Hills Lake near the old camp site. Some of the group enjoyed supper and lots of stories at Bryce’s Landing on Toledo Bend Reservoir. The next morning, some of the group ate breakfast at a cafe in Milam. Then the entire group met at the gravesites of Wilson and Burrow to pay their respects. While there, Tom Boggus, student assistant in 1979, recited a prayer.

The reunion continued at the lake, where Orie’s Boys, their family members and several visitors spent the day. During the reunion, the group sat in the shade to avoid the August heat, drinking, eating and recounting stories about the two ladies, each other, and the adventures and misadventures of the approximately 1,100 students who attended the camp from 1973 through 1986. Later, the group shared additional laughs and memories while visiting the camp site, which, except for a manhole cover, has been reclaimed by the surrounding forest. The reunion ended with everyone departing the lake with fond memories of their time at the camp. Pictures taken during the reunion are posted on the ATCOFA’s Facebook page under the photo album “Orie’s Boys – SFA Milam Camp Reunion, August 2011.”
Larissa Philpot

Larissa Philpot ‘03 received a Master of Science in environmental science in 2006. She now works as the city planner for the City of Nacogdoches. The planning department is responsible for current and long-range comprehensive planning including zoning, subdivision review, site plan review and downtown redevelopment projects. Philpot credits ATCOFA’s small class sizes, personalized degree plans and hands-on labs for her success. A large portion of her career involves the use of skills she learned in classes such as GIS, soils, ecology, reclamation, environmental law and dendrology.

Kevin Swor

Kevin Swor of Diboll is a 1989 SFA agriculture graduate. Kevin earned a master’s degree in administrative leadership in 2009 from SFA. He has been an agricultural science instructor for 21 years with the last 18 at Diboll Independent School District. Kevin has served on the State Leadership Committee and State Career Development Committee for more than eight years and has served as secretary, vice president and president of Area IX Vocational Agricultural Teacher Association of Texas. He served on the state board of directors of VATAT for 11 years and currently serves as vice president of VATAT.

Jason Isabelle

Jason Isabelle graduated in 2010 with a Master of Science in forest wildlife management. He is currently a resource scientist for the Missouri Department of Conservation where he manages the state’s ruffed grouse and wild turkey populations. Isabelle credits the ATCOFA courses he took for providing the knowledge necessary to perform his job for the people of Missouri. He recommends that future wildlife managers work extremely hard at school, get to know other wildlife managers, get as much hands-on experience as possible and learn new skills to set themselves apart in the highly competitive but highly rewarding field of wildlife management.

David Smith

David Smith is a 2008 Master of Science in resource interpretation graduate. Smith has spent the last 20 years in national parks across the western United States, starting out as a law enforcement ranger and eventually discovering his passion as an interpretive park ranger. He is currently one of two people chosen each year to serve as a Bevinetto Congressional Fellow. Under this distinguished fellowship, he is a congressional aide to the House Subcommittee for National Parks, Forests and Public Lands. Smith credits his advancement to the flexible, accommodating nature of the online courses and customized subject matter of the MSRI program.
Larry Lucas (BSF 1973)
Group Leader
USDA Forest Service
Manages the largest national forest recreation program in the Forest Service

Doug Arnold (BSH 1979)
CEO and owner of TreesUSA
Lindale, Texas

James Wilhite (BSH 1980)
Company Owner
Wilhite Landscaping

Chris Miller (BSF 1985 & MSF 1992)
Principal Project Director
Environmental Science and Planning
Atkins North America

Patti ‘Mitschke’ Turpin (BSF 1988)
NEPA Coordinator
Lincoln National Forest
USDA Forest Service

Gregory Anthony (BSF 1994)
Procurement Forester
Watson Wood Company

Judy Haney (BSFM 1994 & MSF 1997)
Strategic Fiber Resources Manager
Boise Inc.

Steve Hallmark (BSFM 1995)
Vegetation Management
Sacramento Municipal Utility District

Mechael Hellmann (BSFM 1995)
Planning - Parks and Recreation
City of Dallas

Roger Hooper (BSF 1998)
Real Estate Leader
Kingwood Forestry Services Inc.

Shea Wilson Sundstoel (BSF 1999 & MSF 2001)
Telemark University College Norway
Research on the effects of climate change

Brian Swiney (BSFM 2004)
Forester
CenterPoint Energy/Houston Electric

Seth Rodewald-Bates (BSH 2001)
Senior Landscape Architect
Newton Landscape Group

Brian Larson (BSFM 2004)
District Utility Forester
AEP Texas

Daniel Spethmann (PhD 2008)
Managing Partner
Working Lands Investment Partners

Caitlin Moore (BSFR 2010)
Platoon Leader
U.S. Army Waynesville, Missouri

Distinguished Alumnus

Dr. David Hyink, forester, scientist and businessman, was awarded SFA’s 2011 Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Hyink (BSF ‘71 & MSF ‘72) received his Ph.D. in forest biometrics from Purdue University in 1979. He joined Weyerhaeuser Company in 1980, and following his career-long scientific leadership roles in growth and yield, silviculture and wood quality research, he retired from Weyerhaeuser in 2007. Hyink is currently a principal for Deerfield Consulting in South Dakota and is on the board of directors for Tax Masters, Inc. of Houston.

Then and Now: ATCOFA Computing

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Welcome to a new format for the ATCOFA newsletter.

Beginning with this issue, the annual newsletter will be sent electronically. We need your contact information, so please go online and update your status.

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