

Alumni Update Form

Please let us know of any notable milestones in your life.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Email: _____

Business Title/Position: _____

Company/Institution: _____

Year(s) Graduated: _____

Degree: _____

Specialization: _____

Career Activities, professional honors/accomplishments,
noteworthy news:

Comments or Suggestions:

Mail to: Mae Funk
SFRC Academic Services Coordinator
PO Box 110410
Gainesville, FL 32611-0410
Fax: (352) 392-1707

Without the support of
alumni and friends
we could not maintain our
level of academic excellence.

Consider supporting your School.

There are many ways to contribute:

Time, Cash OR

A Charitable Gift Annuity

that may increase your
retirement income and earn an income tax
deduction
(Must be 55 or older).

Send gifts directly to:
School of Forest Resources
and Conservation
PO Box 110410
Gainesville, FL 32611-0410
Makes checks payable to the University of
Florida Foundation, Inc.-SHARE
and designate the SFRC.

Upcoming Events

UF Forestry Club Field Day -- February 25, 2006 at the Austin Cary Memorial Forest. Alumni and friends are welcome. For more information contact Mae Funk at maefunk@ufl.edu.

37th Annual SAF/SFRC Spring Symposium - March 28-29, 2006, more information will be coming out in November.

SFRC Student Council Annual Award Banquet -- March 25, 2006 at the Austin Cary Memorial Forest. Alumni and friends are welcome. For more information contact Mae Funk at maefunk@ufl.edu.



Greetings from the SFRC

The biggest news in the SFRC is associated with two State Legislative Budget Requests aimed at expanding the School's faculty, staff, programs and impacts: (1) The Healthy Forest Initiative (HFI), appropriated during the 2005 legislative session; and (2) The Geomatics

Critical Needs Proposal which comes before the State legislature during the 2006 session (see story below).

The HFI appropriation will enable the hiring of 5 new faculty members who will build programs in the following areas: (1) Forest utilization, markets and economic sustainability; (2) Forest wildlife management and ecology; (3) Forest pathology; (4) Forest geomatics, GIS and GPS; and (5) Fire science and forest conservation. The first two faculty positions will be located at the IFAS Research and Education Centers in Milton and Quincy, respectively, while the remaining three will be in Gainesville.

To our knowledge, the HFI legislative appropriation is the first one for the SFRC since the 1970s, and it never would have been possible with-

out the support and active engagement of our alumni, stakeholders and friends. In fact, one of the most rewarding aspects of the process involved working with the broad coalition of supporters of HFI. It started with unanimous support from the SFRC external Advisory Board chaired by **Jack Vogel** and evolved from there to include active support from the Florida Forestry Association (**Bob Cook, Kelley Smith, Jeff Doran** and **Alan Shelby**), Florida Farm Bureau (**Carl Loop** and **Kevin Morgan**), Florida Surveying and Mapping Society (**Marilyn Evers, Steve Gordon, John Clyatt** and **Ron Vilella**), The Nature Conservancy (**Vicki Tschinkel** and **Marianne Gengenbach**), Florida Wildlife Federation (**Manley Fuller**), Audubon of Florida (**Eric Draper**) and SFRC Alumni Association (**Harold Mikell**).

We sincerely appreciate the support from all of these people and their organizations and also that of the IFAS administration. Special thanks to **Cindy Littlejohn** for leading the efforts in Tallahassee. Our promise to all of those involved is to work with you and all of our stakeholders to optimize the benefits from these new funds and to continue to strengthen our collaborations. It is clear that working together we can have a major impact on the future economic, environmental and social benefits that our forests provide.

Amos L. White - Director

Critical Needs in Geomatics

The Geomatics undergraduate program in the SFRC educates students who go on to work in all aspects of surveying, mapping, remote sensing and other geospatial sciences (like GIS and GPS). Geomatics is facing a critical shortage of licensed professionals due to: (1) Rapid growth of Florida; (2) Rapid growth of geospatial technologies; and (3) An ageing workforce (half of all of the licensed surveyors in Florida will retire in the next 10 years).

The SFRC Geomatics program is the only one of its kind in Florida and as currently staffed, it simply can not produce enough graduates to meet the demand in the State as evidenced by the fact that each graduating senior has an average of seven job offers.

For these reasons, UF/IFAS is supporting a Legislative Budget Request for 2006 that would support increases the number of B.S. graduates each year from 15 currently to 80 by 2011. The funds from this appropriation would be used for a variety of ef-

orts including expanding the program so that students could graduate from three other UF/IFAS locations in the State in addition to Gainesville:

Ft. Lauderdale, Plant City and Milton. This would mean that place-bound students could attend community colleges for two years, and then receive their upper division Geomatics courses at these four locations distributed across the State.

As with the Healthy Forest Initiative (see story above), we hope to build a broad coalition of supporters for this Geomatics Critical Needs Legislative Proposal. We also hope that this coalition will help us guide the program as it expands. Please contact Cindy Littlejohn (IFAS, clittlejohn@mail.ifas.ufl.edu) or Marilyn Evers

(Florida Surveying and Mapping Society, director@fsms.org) if you or someone you know might be able to help. Thank you all for your support of SFRC, IFAS and UF programs.

The School of Forest Resources & Conservation Newsletter is published to inform alumni and friends. Comments and information to share should be directed to the Main Office: phone - (352) 846-0850, fax - (352) 392-1707, email - sfrc@ifas.ufl.edu. Visit our website at www.sfrc.ufl.edu.

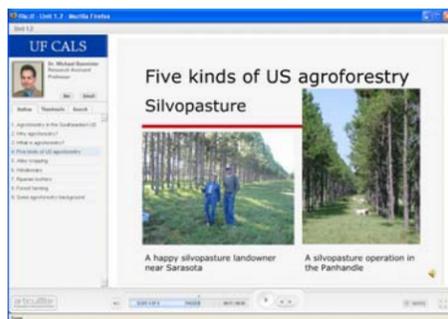


Instruction

The SFRC currently has 142 undergraduates most of whom are juniors and seniors studying one of three majors: Forest Resources and Conservation, Geomatics, or Natural Resource Conservation. SFRC faculty serve as major advisors for approximately 80 graduate students pursuing masters and doctoral degrees. The faculty is currently engaging staff, students, alumni and stakeholders in discussions to revise the undergraduate curriculum.

Instruction Highlight: First SFRC Web-based distance education course

SFRC's first undergraduate web-based distance education course, FOR 3855, Agroforestry for the Southeastern United States, enrolled seven students in spring 2005. **Michael Bannister** developed and taught the course, supported by a USDA Higher Education Challenge Grant. The course has a Web site (see below) developed using WebCT Vista software; this is the student "headquarters" or point of departure for all course activities. Students go there to consult the syllabus and calendar, download assigned readings, participate in chats and discussions, use the email system, and take quizzes and exams. Large files containing narrated PowerPoint lectures and video interviews with farmers and researchers are mailed to the students on CDs. The students ranged from a French woman in her 60s residing in Key Largo to a young mother just out of the Army and now residing in the panhandle. Course activities began slowly as students got used to the system, but by the end of the course they were all very enthusiastic and participated actively. The high point for the students was the required field exercise, involving a farmer interview followed by interaction with IFAS County extension agents. The course will be offered again in spring 2006. The SFRC plans to develop more distance education courses.



Narrated PowerPoint Lectures.

Fulfilling Our Mission

Research

The SFRC has 25 research faculty that generate nearly \$3 million annually to conduct research in five focus areas: (1) Forest systems biology; (2) Human dimensions (broadly defined to include social sciences, economics, recreation and policy related to forest resources); (3) Agroforestry and tropical forestry; (4) Urban forestry and the wildland-urban interface; and (5) Geomatics.

Extension Highlight: Benefits of integrated land-use systems

Agriculture and forestry in the southeastern United States face significant natural resource problems, yet are essential to the southeastern economy. It is increasingly important for these systems to be economically and ecologically sustainable. Integrated systems like agroforestry may provide economic incentives and ecological



benefits. The Center for Subtropical Agroforestry (CSTAF) was established in 2001 and is a multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional entity for undertaking research, extension and education in agroforestry. Silvopasture, the integration of trees and livestock, was found to be the most prevalent form of agroforestry in the region. Research suggests that silvopasture may mitigate potential problems of nutrient pollution associated with beef-cattle pasture. CSTAF also developed the Southeastern Agroforestry Decision Support System. This is a web-based tool that assists in the planning and tree/shrub selection with data for 12 Florida counties. These and other worldwide agroforestry research, development and education were highlighted at the 1st World Congress of Agroforestry organized by UF/IFAS. Delegates from 82 countries participated in the Congress. CSTAF collaborates with research, extension and education institutions such as Florida A&M University, Auburn University, University of Georgia and the University of the Virgin Islands.

Extension

Extension specialists develop a wide variety of programs and materials to be used by DOF county foresters, IFAS county extension agents and others to educate natural resource professionals, landowners, policy makers, citizens and youth.

Extension Highlight: Project Learning Tree

Project Learning Tree (PLT) is the PreK-12 grade environmental education program of the American Forest Foundation. PLT uses the forest as a "window on the world" to increase students' understanding of our complex environment and to help students learn the skills they need to make sound choices about the environment. PLT is pleased to share a new SFRC staff person with the growing the urban forestry program. **Jenny Seitz** will be the half-time PLT Coordinator.

Florida PLT annually reaches about 800 educators a year in formal and nonformal settings with workshops to introduce materials. This program is designed to work in rural, suburban and urban areas; in formal and nonformal educational settings; and both indoors and outdoors. SFRC has been able to make significant contributions to Florida's PLT program



by conducting an evaluation of how teachers use PLT and by developing an urban forest supplement. We are currently exploring how to best help teachers use PLT to teach reading and writing skills, along with forest stewardship.

By providing teachers with quality materials to use in their classroom, we hope the students will become forest stewards of the future and by participating in hands-on activities outdoors they may be our future scientists too. For additional information contact **Jenny Seitz**, Florida PLT Coordinator at 352-846-2329 or visit our web site at <http://sfrc.ufl.edu/plt>.

Alumni News

- '76 **Kurt Olsen**, forester at Avon Park Air Force Range, has begun a taxa comparison study in association with **Don Rockwood**. Some 15,000 acres of the Range's 106,000 acres is commercial forestland that could benefit from faster growing trees.
- '79 **Steve Jennings** was promoted to Bureau Chief of Forest Management for the Florida Division of Forestry.
- '97 **Kristin Kahler** is now working for the USDA Forest Service on the Arapaho National Forest and is in charge of starting a conservation education program for the district.
- '00 **Alissa Blank** was recently promoted to Senior Attorney in the Water Group of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.
- '01 **Jennifer Gagnon** recently moved to the Virginia Tech's College of Natural Resources to fill an extension position of the Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program.



Appreciation For Our Supporters

Without the support of friends we could not maintain our level of academic excellence. Thanks to all our supporters. Many thanks to the following who made donations to the **Forest Stewardship Program: Farm Credit of North Florida; Environmental Services, Inc.; Meeks Farm & Nursery, Inc.; DuPont; Farm Credit of Northwest Florida; Dr. Michael Parker DMD; Blanton's Longleaf Container Nursery; and BASF Corporation.**

Thanks to the following who made donations to the **School's Unrestricted Fund: The Rayonier Foundation** and for matching **Mark Miller's** gift, **Andrew Ruth** ('03), **Stephanie Bloyd** ('84), **George Park** ('54), **Charles W. Godfrey** ('59), **Mark S. Miller** ('74), **Robert J. Marshall** ('81), **Charles B. Hill** ('79), **Jeff Lewis** ('63), **Thomas J. Renison** ('68), **Diane Ensminger** ('80), **Francis Spirek** ('82), **Robert Simons** ('64), **Mr. and Mrs. John Cantele** ('76), **Norman A. Carlson** ('51), **Janet K. Hinchee** ('74), **William R. MacKay** ('57), **Gilbert and LaVonta Schenkel** ('45), **Anne H. Todd Bockarie** ('96), **William O. Cleckley** ('78), **Mary E. Mason** ('95), **Jay Peacock** ('86), **Frances H. Mason** ('71), **J. Donald Lewis Jr.** ('69), **Lawrence V. Stanislawski** ('88), **Fabco-Air, Inc.**, **James Schaeffner** ('50), **Charlie Houder III** ('74), **Robyn Cobb**, **James Rath** ('84), **Charles Schneider Jr.** ('77), **Dawn DeGraw** ('04), and **Ryan Morrell** ('97). Thanks to **Mark C. Barnes** and **Jeffery R. Glassburn** for donating to the **Surveying/Mapping Scholarship Fund** and to **Richard Kosior** for donating to the **Surveying Support Fund**. **Bob and Mickey Swinford** recently made donations to the **Learning Center Fund** in memory of Dr. Lona Davis Spencer, Mrs. Peg Lyons and Mr. Merlin Dixon. **Mrs. Jean Stocker** and **Mr. and Mrs. George Smith** made a contribution to the **Leigh A. Walker Memorial Scholarship Fund** in memory of Robert L. Walker. **Mr. and Mrs. Noel de Roodenbeke**, **Michael Karas**, **Corning Inc. IDM Facility**, **Verena M. Clement**, **J. MacPherson**, **Mr. and Mrs. Franz Peterson**, **PA Management LLC**, **Mr. and Mrs. Vipin Papat**, **Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth L. Walker**, **Mr. and Mrs. George Diamond**, and **C. V. Kessel Jr.** also made contributions to the **Leigh A. Walker Memorial Scholarship Fund**. A special thanks to **William C. Harrell Sr.** for his donation of a turpentine still and components and to **Carroll Butler** and **Hollis Brown** for their contributions of tools, books, and artifacts regarding the Florida turpentine industry to the Austin Cary Memorial Forest Learning Center. Thanks to **Josephine Ziegler Auten** for her donation to the Newins-Ziegler Scholarship Fund.

Student News

Xi Sigma Pi, the national forestry honors fraternity, held its national meeting Oct. 21 in Ft. Worth, TX at the Society of American Foresters National Convention. The University of Florida's Pi Chapter of Xi Sigma Pi had the most representatives at the meeting of any chapter in the country: seven students and the faculty advisor. Attendees included **Taylor Stein** (faculty advisor and chapter Forester), **Sarah Lumban Tobing**, **Tyler Dreaden**, **Jenny Goodrich**, **Bryan Croft**, **Ethan Sadowski** and **Laura Paterson**. Students also attended the Florida Forestry Association Annual Meeting in St. Augustine, FL and the SESAF Annual Meeting in Savannah, GA.

Faculty & Staff News

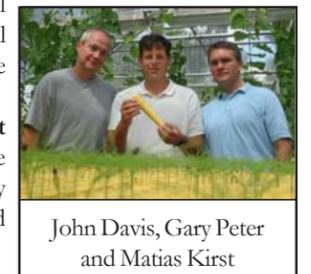
The Wayne Smith Student Leadership Fund was recently endowed in recognition of **Dr. Smith**, former director of the SFRC. Thank you to **Harold Mikell** ('50) for initiating this recognition and to all who contributed to this fund that will enable student participation in leadership building activities.

P.K. Nair was awarded the Scientific Achievement Award and his former student **John Bellow** ('04) received the Outstanding Doctoral Research Award from The International Union of Forest Research Organization.

Shibu Jose received the SESAF Award of Excellence in Research at the annual meeting. He has also been appointed to the Forest Science and Technology Board of the National SAF.

Tim Martin and **Greg Starr** received a grant through the Joint Fire Science Program of the U.S. Forest Service to better understand the understory dynamics of fuel loading and fuel moisture in the Southeastern U.S. coastal plain forests in association with remote sensing and mapping techniques.

Gary Peter, **John Davis** and **Matias Kirst** received a \$6 million dollar grant from the National Science Foundation to identify genes that regulate wood properties and disease-resistance traits in loblolly pine.



John Davis, Gary Peter and Matias Kirst

College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

Greetings from the CALS Alumni and Friends (CALSAF) organization. CALS Alumni & Friends fosters a spirit of loyalty and fraternity among graduates, former students and friends of the University of Florida's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, School of Forest Resources and Conservation, School of Natural Resources and Environment and off-campus degree programs. CALS Alumni & Friends members strive to promote attendance in these programs and assist in the maintenance and enhancement of their academic standing. We hope you will stay connected with the college by participating in the following activities: -In the spring, CALSAF will be hosting alumni events around Florida to introduce you to Dr. R. Kirby Barrick, Dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. To learn more about these events please visit www.cals.ufl.edu/alumni. -Are you interested in becoming an alumni volunteer? If so, complete the alumni volunteer form found at www.cals.ufl.edu/alumni/calsaf.html or call (352) 392-2251. Alumni volunteers can focus their efforts in areas that help the college and schools connect with their alumni through special events and enhance the current student experience (mentoring, speaking in classes, recruiting new students). CALSAF also has opportunities associated with the following member committees: alumni programming, student affairs and finance. Keep your contact information up-to-date! If you have moved or changed your email, please consider updating your records at www.ufalumni.ufl.edu so we can keep in touch with you.