

*We will continue to invent the future
 through our blood and tears
 and through all our sadness
 We will prevail*

-- Nikki Giovanni, University Distinguished Professor, poet

CNR NEWS

Looking Ahead

Who would ever have thought that the quirky mascot word "Hokie" would become known around the world to symbolize students and faculty standing straight and tall, responding with strength and dignity to an unparalleled tragedy as they mourned the painful loss of their peers and colleagues? Virginia Tech poet Nikki Giovanni acknowledged the deep grief and spoke for the university family at the Memorial Convocation when she declared, "The Hokie Nation embraces our own and reaches out with an open heart and hands We are the Hokies. We will prevail. We are Virginia Tech."

The College of Natural Resources pays tribute to the 32 students and faculty who lost their lives on Monday, April 16, in this tragic event and publicly extends its deepest, heartfelt condolences to their families and friends.

"It is at times like these that community becomes extremely important to our ability to pick up the pieces and continue on," Dean Mike Kelly encouraged the college. "In the hours, days, and weeks ahead it will be essential that each in his or her own way find the means and strength to support each other, our students, and the families and friends of those who have been lost. A strong sense of family exists in the natural resource community, and now is the time to take greatest advantage of those bonds and use them to our advantage to support all in need of our help. I know you join me in offering our thoughts and prayers for those families that have been most directly impacted by this tragic event."

As the world looked on and viewed the sorrow, outsiders were struck in awe by the unusually strong sense of community that was holding the hurting campus family up. The Hokie spirit overwhelmed onlookers, as the horrific events unfolded and we sorted through shock, disbelief, and bewilderment. "Our students have shown great poise and presence of mind throughout this ordeal and they have done a lot to help support each other and us," Dean Kelly praised. One of the college's students, Heidi Miller who has geography as a second major, was one of those injured in the shooting, and the college is looking forward to welcoming her back.

The university gave students many options for finishing the school year. Dean Kelly explained, "We have experienced unprecedented circumstances and it will take unprecedented actions to bring the semester to a close." The university made counseling services easily available to everyone for as long as they will be needed.

"In many respects we are still the university we were prior to April 16," Dean Kelly noted. "We still have excellent academic, discovery, and engagement programs. We still have some of the best students in the Commonwealth, and we continue to be known for the quality of our programs and the innovations that come from our research. And very importantly we have shown that we have a tremendous sense of family and a commitment to supporting each other through thick and thin. We will prevail! We will take this very negative experience and learn from it in ways that will help us to better understand how to prevent future occurrences of this sort. We will memorialize those whose lives have been lost, and in various ways use the remembrance of those 32 lives to provide us with the inspiration and strength to carry on in ways that may now not seem possible."



Julie Still, a seasonal employee for the Virginia Game and Inland Fisheries Department who received her B.S. in fisheries science in 2005, was one of the ministerial speakers at the April 17 Convocation to begin the healing process. President George Bush and Virginia Governor Tim Kaine brought messages of compassion and hope.

COLLEGE OF NATURAL RESOURCES
 Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

In Memoriam We Remember

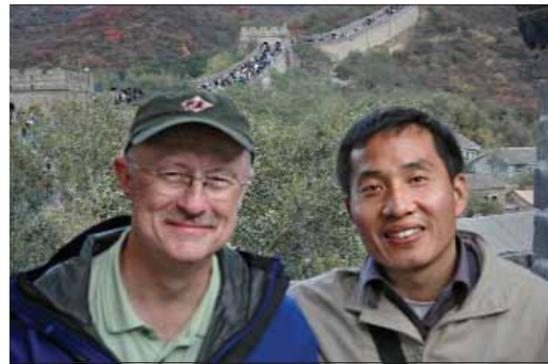
Ross Abdallah Alameddine
 Christopher James Bishop
 Brian Roy Bluhm
 Ryan Christopher Clark
 Austin Michelle Cloyd
 Jocelyne Couture-Nowak
 Kevin P. Granata
 Matthew Gregory Gwaltney
 Caitlin Millar Hammaren
 Jeremy Michael Herbstritt
 Rachael Elizabeth Hill
 Emily Jane Hilscher
 Jarrett Lee Lane
 Matthew Joseph La Porte
 Henry J. Lee
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 Michael Steven Pohle, Jr.
 Julia Kathleen Pryde
 Mary Karen Read
 Reema Joseph Samaha
 Waleed Mohamed Shaalan
 Leslie Geraldine Sherman
 Maxine Shelly Turner
 Nicole White





Collateral Dam-age?

Tiananmen Gate, the entry to the Forbidden City in Beijing.



Brian Murphy and Xie Songguang partnering scientists in China at the Great Wall, north of Beijing.

their homes. Additionally, many archaeological sites will be flooded.

Fish passage facilities were not included in the dam, meaning that migratory fish species are unable to move upstream. Some fish species below the dam have already ceased spawning due to temperature and flow changes in the river. If the fish do not spawn, many people's food and income sources will be impacted.

The Chinese government is contemplating 22 more dams similar to the Three Gorges Dam. Murphy and his team will be recommending design changes to the future dams in order to reduce their impact on the river, the wildlife, and the human population.

In November, Murphy was also appointed adjunct faculty with the CAS Wuhan Institute of Hydrobiology (IHB). He will be co-directing a graduate Ph.D. project with graduate students that is designed to solve over-fishing problems in Cao Hai Lake, which is in the upper area of the Yangtze Basin.

In April, Murphy and the CMI hosted three scientists from the CAS who will assist U.S. researchers in solving problems with invasive fish species that originated from China, including the snakehead fish that has invaded the Potomac River. Virginia Tech and CAS will also work together on other research aquatic projects in China.



Local fishermen prepare their traps and lines while fishing on the Yangtze River.

The use of amphibians as indicators of global health problems
Lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina
How environmental variability affects the emergence of infectious diseases
How cutting edge equipment is being used in plant biodiversity and food safety
How natural resources are used in the development of novel therapeutics
Careers for which the three colleges prepare students.

For details and to register, visit www.alumni.vt.edu under the Reunions and Events link.

September 15
 CNR Homecoming and Tailgate at Cheatham Hall
 Time: TBA. Virginia Tech vs. Ohio University Football Game Blacksburg, VA. For details to register and request football tickets, visit www.alumni.vt.edu under the Reunions and Events link. Contact Patty Foutz: 540/231-2512, pfoutz@vt.edu



A spectacled cobra in western China, where this deadly snake is often found on the menu of local restaurants.

The Yangtze River threads through China for 3,900 miles, making it the longest river in the world behind the Nile and the Amazon. The recently completed Three Gorges Dam, however, is causing major problems. Brian Murphy, professor of fisheries and wildlife sciences and director of the college's Conservation Management Institute (CMI), is working with a group of scientists from the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) to study the Three Gorges Dam and make recommendations for future dams in order to prevent additional problems.

The Yangtze runs from the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau into the East China Sea near the port city of Shanghai. China's two largest lakes, the Poyang and the Dongting, as well as 700 some streams, are all tributaries of the Yangtze. Approximately two-thirds of the fisheries production in China comes from the Yangtze River Basin, and it accounts for 16 percent of the



An IHB biologist feeds a captive Yangtze River porpoise at the CAS endangered aquatic mammals research facility in Wuhan.

world's freshwater fish production. Fifty-six major cities are located in the river basin, and more than 400 million people call it home.

The Three Gorges Dam, completed in June of 2006, is the largest hydroelectric dam in the world. Despite impounding water for over two years already, the dam's reservoir is not yet full. The reservoir will span 370 miles when full, and millions of people will lose

Upcoming Alumni And Friends Receptions And Special Events

June 11
 Forest Products Society 61st International Convention
 Student/University Reception, Time: 6 - 7:30 p.m.,
 Location: Knoxville Convention Center Knoxville, TN

July 5-8
 Summer Around the Drillfield 2007
 Colleges of Natural Resources, Vet Med, and
 Agriculture & Life Sciences – Global Health Issues
 Today - Laying the Foundation for a Better Tomorrow
 Blacksburg, VA

Join us for a weekend featuring exciting topics and fun events, including an ice cream social; optional movie, "Dreamer: Inspired by a True Story;" panel discussions, presentations, and learning lunches that will teach you about:

Avian influenza
Virginia Tech's food safety and microbiology research
How insect predators are used to battle plant diseases



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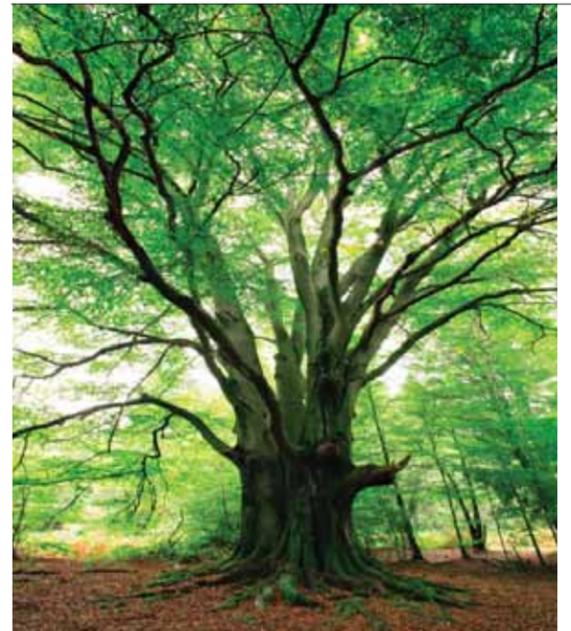
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College Helps Host Deans' Forum On The Environment



CNR helped plan a February program, Deans' Forum on the Environment, to showcase more than 200 faculty and student projects that presented solutions to many problems now confronting society. Poster sessions and speeches by Paul Gilman, former EPA assistant administrator for research; David Paylor, director of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality; and Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who is involved in many environmental efforts, highlighted the event.

Dean Mike Kelly opened up the forum.



Forestry Program Tops In North America

The college's forestry program scored at the top in an Auburn University study of research rankings. The peer reviewed academic study, which appeared in the *Journal of Forestry*, looked at the research impact of North American forestry programs. "Virginia Tech's programs ranked second on the perceptions-based composite score and third on the citations- and publications-based index," university distinguished professor and department head Harold Burkhart explained. No other program in North America ranked in the top three on both composite scores. When all the scores are considered, Virginia Tech scored the highest.

Citations/publications in the academic literature that reflected faculty scholarship was one of the two determining categories. The second category dealt with perceptions. In Virginia Tech's case, these objective findings were closely correlated with the outside world's perception of the program. Burkhart said, "The data shows the depth and impact of our research and scholarship."

Components of the citations included total citations to the scholarly contributions of current faculty, citations per research faculty member, total number of publications in five top forestry journals, total number of pages, total number of publications per research faculty member, and total number of pages per research faculty member from January 1997 to December 2001. The results were compared against a ranking of the top forestry schools, based on a perceived research profile, as indicated by survey responses from deans and department heads.

The ranking report noted that such rankings serve various purposes, including being of interest to prospective graduate students and to postgraduate students seeking an academic career that emphasized research. Rankings also help employers of forestry students in the hiring process, assist users of research services and expert witness services, and benefit other professional consulting services.

In 2001, the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors cited the forestry program as "A University Exemplary Department" because of its outstanding teaching, Extension, and research. In a previous ranking of forestry programs in 1988, a University of Illinois study cited the Virginia Tech forestry department among the top five in the nation. All five were grouped together "among the top five."

"All in all," declared Burkhart, "our forestry program stands tall due to consistent production of high-impact research results across a spectrum of topics that are crucial to the conservation, management, and utilization of forest resources."

(L-R) Evans with wood products professor Tom Hammett and Paul Winistorfer, head of the Department of Wood Science and Forest Products.



TFF Signs MOU With The College

Keister Evans, executive director of the board of directors of the Tropical Timber Foundation (TFF), recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Department of Wood Science and Forest Products and the college to educate the wood products industry and forestry officials about successful methods to reduce waste during harvesting and processing.

During his visit, Evans met with representatives of the college and members of Virginia Tech's Department of Geosciences and the Department of Mining Engineering to begin preparations for building a common strategy to serve the mining sector. TFF will bring a high-level delegation to Virginia Tech to plan how the university and TFF could work together to form joint research and educational programs.

Renowned Perlin Visits University Again



(L-R) Wood science and forest products professor Tom Hammett and department head Paul Winistorfer present Perlin with a Virginia Tech wood hat.

Distinguished writer John Perlin, author of Harvard's honored *A Forest Journey: The Role of Wood in the Development of Civilization*, made his second visit to the university in December. He gave public seminars on the history of wood, including a presentation at the Science Museum of Western Virginia in Roanoke.

Perlin recounted how wood, the principal fuel and building material from the Bronze Age through the 19th century, played a major role in the culture, demographics, economy, internal and external politics, and technology of the great civilizations of Sumer, Assyria, Egypt, China, Knossos, Mycenae, Classical Greece and Rome, Western Europe, and North America. Harvard University Press has named his book in the "One-Hundred Great Books" of all times list.

Rupert Named New Director Of CULD

Ralph L. Rupert, research associate in the Department of Wood Science and Forest Products, was named the new director of the Center for Unit Load Design (CULD) after the retirement of Marshall "Mark" White, founder of the CULD. Rupert joined the center in 1999 and will continue to manage all center testing and evaluations, as well as teach continuing education courses in addition to his duties as director.

Before joining the center, Rupert worked with plastics at Weyerhaeuser in northern Illinois, where he managed the containerboard division test lab. A native of Ohio, Rupert received his degree in chemical engineering from the University of Akron.

"I am pleased that Ralph Rupert has been selected to direct the activities of the Center for Unit Load Design," affirmed White. "Ralph brings continuity to the transition, while recognizing the importance and opportunities associated with industry and academia collaboration. I am confident that under Ralph's direction, and with the support of industry and the university, the center will flourish in the future."



Ralph L. Rupert, new director of CULD.

COLLEGE NEWS

SAF Recognizes Virginia Tech Members

The Society of American Foresters (SAF) presented Dave Smith with its John A. Beale Memorial Award, which recognizes outstanding efforts over a sustained period of time in the promotion of forestry through voluntary service to the Society.



Dave Smith

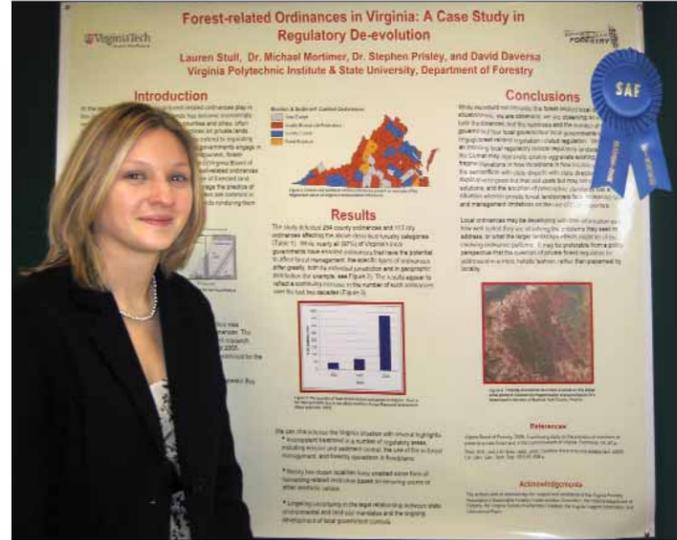
Smith joined SAF in 1967, was elected a fellow in 1998, and served as president in 2003. His dedication

in mentoring new leaders within the SAF and forestry profession garnered him this latest award.

As emeritus professor and former associate dean, Smith received many awards during his long tenure with the college. He was the Shelton H. Short Jr. professor of forestry, and in 1990 he received the Carl Alwin Scheck Award for outstanding achievement in forestry education.

The SAF also recognized forestry major Lauren Stull at the SAF national convention. Stull, along with Michael Mortimer, Stephen Prisley, and David Daversa, won first place in the student poster competition with the poster "Forest-related Ordinances in Virginia: A Case Study in Regulatory Devolution." Mortimer was also recognized as the 2006 Virginia Division Chair.

In addition, the student chapter won second place for outstanding student chapter. This is based on a variety of areas including service to the community, college, and the department.



Stull, a graduate student in the Department of Forestry, was awarded 1st place for Research Presented in a Poster.

STUDENT NOTES

Student Stir Stick Bridges On Display At Bollo's



The class of Wood Mechanics I with their bridges.

Research associate in wood science and forest products Bob Wright led students in Wood Mechanics I class last semester in a project to design bridge models with a targeted design load, or maximum capacity. In its fourth year, the project emphasized predicting the accuracy of strength based on students' bridge designs compared to the actual strength as tested, rather than the highest load-bearing design.

"The bridges are actually a result of the extensive instruction and learning we do in the course for trusses—a significant forest product with which students should be familiar," explained Wright. "Students design a truss and specify how strong it should be based on their design. Then they build two identical trusses and connect them together to form a bridge."

WEI Offers Special Summer Class

The Wood Enterprise Institute (WEI) is offering students the chance to take a class during the 2007 summer sessions that will allow students to conceptualize being in charge of a wood products manufacturing business.

Earl Kline, professor of wood science and forest products, said the class would not be taught traditionally as a lecture or lab, but would rather give students hands-on experience by allowing them to run a business in an academic setting. "There are no other classes like this one. It is offered for the first time with the intent of becoming a permanent offering," Kline said.

Eight students have shown interest in taking the class and some have even gone so far as to sign up for a one-credit class this semester that will help prepare them to take the WEI class this summer. All interested students are welcome to take the class - there are no restrictions or prerequisites.

According to Kline, WEI faculty and instructors have signed on to teach the class, and work is being done to determine what faculty members of other academic programs should be invited as guest lecturers.

"Such a class will benefit both the department and students by creating a 'community' in which all have shared interest in designing, planning, and conducting the learning process," Kline explained.

Students, working in teams of two to design and construct the bridges, test their designs by seeing how close they come to the design load before failure.

The bridges are on display at Bollo's Café and Bakery on Draper Road. "I had bought all of the sticks for the project at Bollo's, so I asked if I could display the bridges there too," says Wright.

Wood Mechanics II was taught spring semester by Dan Hindman as the second course in the sequence. "We revisited the bridge project in a structural analysis computer program," Hindman said. "We hope to do a project in conjunction with Earth Day and make a temporary wood structure that we might put on the Drillfield."



Wright and his students examine their models.

Students Partner With Gore To Fight Global Warming

Angie De Soto, environmental design and planning major in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies, and Natalya Hallanan, fisheries and wildlife sciences major in the college, met with former Vice President Al Gore during the Climate Project training in Nashville, Tenn. The Climate Project is a movement to inform citizens about the dangerous effects of global warming and what actions can be taken to fight the crisis.

De Soto and Hallanan were chosen as one of the 1,000 members who were brought to Nashville or Sydney, Australia, for training to become "Climate Change Messengers." They will travel around the world to educate others and present the information delivered by Gore in the documentary, *An Inconvenient Truth*. The documentary describes Gore's crusade to stop



(L-R) De Soto, Gore, and Hallanan.

the progress of global warming, and exposes the myths and misconceptions that surround it. Gore believes that global warming can no longer be viewed as a political issue, but the biggest moral challenge facing global civilization.

SAF Enlists Hokies

Virginia Tech Hokies, even former ones, are a hot commodity these days. The Society of American Foresters (SAF) held elections recently and two former Virginia Tech faculty members were among those named as Fellows of SAF. Gregory Brown and James Johnson were both elected to the position of Fellows, who are professional members of SAF identified by their peers for outstanding service to forestry and SAF.



Gregory Brown

Brown, a former professor at several universities, served Virginia Tech as the dean of the College of Natural Resources from its inception in 1993 until his retirement in 2003. His guidance played a role in the college's name changing from the College of Forestry and Wildlife Resources to its present name in 1999. Under Brown's tutelage, the college also increased its space and faculty, student body, and more than doubled its research grant and contract money. Brown also previously held the position of head of the Educational Policy Review Committee

and chaired numerous other committees for SAF and other professional organizations. He has been a member of SAF since 1959.

Johnson, currently employed at Oregon State, was a professor of forestry and the associate dean of outreach in the Department of Forestry at Virginia Tech's College of Natural Resources. He said, "Virginia Tech was a huge influence on my career, having received my Ph.D. there in 1981. I was thrilled to have the opportunity to return on the faculty of the then School of Forestry and Wildlife Resources in 1988. Virginia Tech was and is one of the premier programs of its type in the U.S., and I don't see that changing."

Johnson was the recipient of SAF's 2005 Technology Transfer Award and also was a critical player in several program partnerships with the Virginia Department of Forestry and the Virginia Chapter of the Nature Conservancy. He has been a member of SAF since 1976.



James Johnson

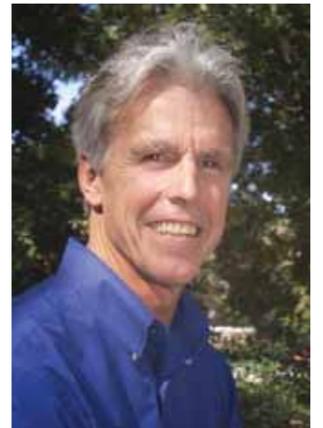
Pallet Enterprise Honors Mark White

The November issue of Pallet Enterprise recognized Mark White in response to White's announcement that he planned to retire as the director of the Center for Unit Load Design at Virginia Tech. White is the first individual to be featured on the cover of Pallet Enterprise in the magazine's 25-year history.

Publisher of Pallet Enterprise, Ed Brindley, acclaimed White "a truly unusual mixture of talents." While directing the Pallet and Container Research Laboratory, White utilized these talents to benefit the industry on a global level through research, outreach, and education.

In addition, White used various forms of funding to hire packaging structural design and performance professionals and expand the pallet lab into the Center for Unit Load Design. White also established a packaging science program within the wood science and forest products department. Through White's strenuous efforts, students have more options on available courses and a broadened scope of the industry.

Although White retired from the director position on January 31, 2007, he continues to contribute to the center on a part-time basis. White has started a consulting company, White & Co., that focuses on improving packaging and pallet design. Brindley noted, "There are many reasons to believe that Mark ... will build on his former accomplishments and bring new and better benefits to the pallet and container community."



Mark White

RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

Kwon Joins Wood Science And Forest Products Department

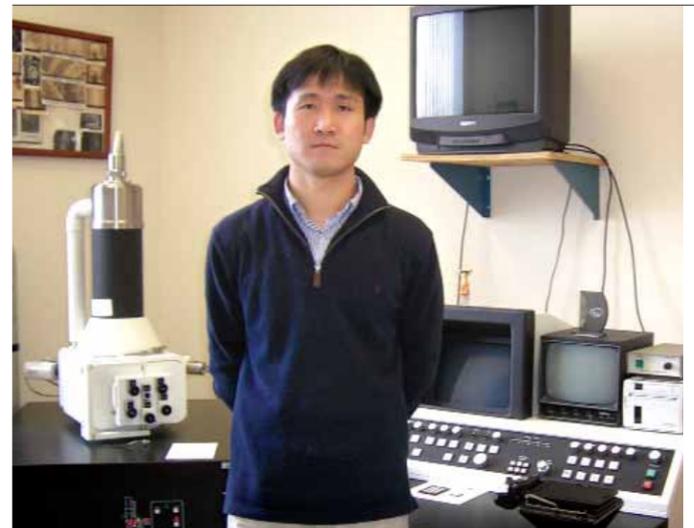
Ohkyung Kwon joins the college from the State University of New York's College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse, N.Y., where he earned his Ph.D. in environmental resource engineering.

He will do postdoctoral work under professor Audrey Zink-Sharp on intra-ring anatomical and physical properties of wood cells. He will also be working with the Sustainable Engineered Materials Institute (SEMI) at Virginia Tech.

"The people and work environment here have been great; it encourages me to devote myself towards my research," Kwon elaborated. "I hope to make a significant contribution."

Kwon's wife and 16-month-old son join him here in Blacksburg.

Postdoctoral student, Ohkyung Kwon, at his office in Cheatham Hall.



Pine Cooperative Host Canadians

A group of 12 researchers, government representatives, and industry foresters from Alberta, Canada, traveled to the Virginia Tech campus for a one-day briefing on the scientific approach and organizational structure of Virginia Tech's Loblolly Pine Growth and Yield Research Cooperative. Initiated in 1979, the program is well-known internationally for its field trials and forest growth models. A relatively new effort with similar objectives, called the Foothills Growth and Yield Association, has been started in Alberta to study lodgepole pine.



College Sets Up Brazil Exchange

Forest products professor Tom Hammett and fisheries professor Brian Murphy hosted Evoy Zaniboni Filho, who signed a memorandum of understanding to create exchange programs between the Federal University of Santa Catarina in Brazil and the college. While visiting the CNR, Zaniboni presented a seminar, "Actions for Fish Management and Conservation in the Upper Uruguay River." He plans to spend 10 months on sabbatical leave at Virginia Tech in 2008.

ALUMNI UPDATE



Alumni Meet At Fisheries Conference

Nearly 50 CNR alumni and friends attended the American Fisheries Society (AFS) conference reception at the Hilton Hotel in Lake Placid, N.Y. Alumni from as far away as Wyoming and Alaska attended the event, which has become an annual conference tradition.

CNR professors Steve McMullen and Brian Murphy with alumni Gary Martel ('76 M.S. in fisheries science) and Wayne Hubert ('79 Ph.D. in fisheries and wildlife). Martel is the fisheries division director with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, and Hubert is a fisheries extension specialist in Wyoming.



Recent CNR graduates Jeremy Shifflet ('06 B.S. in fisheries science) and Brad Fink ('01 B.S. in fisheries science), who are current graduate students in environmental science at James Madison University specializing in fisheries, also attended the reception.



CNR alumni Barbara Knuth ('86 Ph.D. in fisheries science) and Christopher Kohler ('80 Ph.D. in fisheries science) are past presidents of the AFS. Knuth is now a professor at Cornell University in the Department of Natural Resources, while Kohler is director of the Illinois Aquaculture Center at Southern Illinois University.

Alumni Work To Prevent Illegal Wildlife Trade

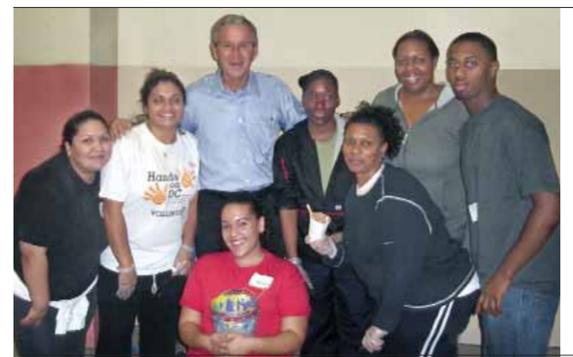
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) special agent Allen Hundley ('74 B.S. in fisheries and wildlife) traveled to Thailand to train Royal Thai Police on wildlife crime in an effort to reduce the illegal international trade in wildlife and wildlife parts. In collaboration with Hundley, Megan Gittinger ('04 B.S. in wildlife science), a geographical information systems and information services officer for WildAid in Bangkok, coordinated the course and served as a role player in the training scenarios.

"Illegal trade is a threat to wildlife worldwide, with an estimated value in the billions of dollars," noted Hundley. USFWS efforts to stem the rise of illegal wildlife and wildlife products trade include conducting training in several countries that cooperate with the U.S. in punishing lawbreakers, such as Brazil, Botswana, Cambodia, and the Galapagos Islands.

Since Hundley's training, the Royal Thai Police have formed a task force to conduct major wildlife investigations with other nations and have made several arrests.

Hundley, who is currently based in Fredericksburg, Va., is one of 200 USFWS special agents enforcing wildlife laws across the U.S. "My experience in international wildlife investigations has frequently been frustrating because of the limited resources and training available to many countries," said Hundley. "This international training course in investigative techniques and methods gives me optimism that future investigations will evolve with investigators in several different countries working cooperatively," he added.

CNR Graduate Meets President Bush



Santana (kneeling) with her group and President Bush.

Erica Santana, '05 B.S. in wildlife science, had an unexpected surprise visitor on Martin Luther King Day - none other than President George W. Bush. Santana was volunteering at City Year's 2007 Martin Luther King Day of Service. The event took place at Cardozo Senior High School in Washington, D.C., where she and others painted murals on the school's walls as part of a restoration and beautification project.

Taking the initiative to do things to help others is not a new experience for Santana. While at Virginia Tech, she helped start a Latina Sorority, Hermandad de Sigma Iota Alpha, Inc., an organization founded on the principles of scholarship, cultural awareness, and community service. As an alumna, she is now active in the graduate chapter in the Greater D.C. Metro Area.

Since graduation, Santana has had many new experiences and accomplishments. She is currently a research assistant in the Division of Mammals in the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. In February, she left the states to do field work in southeastern Turkey. She will be part of a Cornell University field team working on the behavioral ecology of golden hamsters (*Mesocricetus auratus*). In the future, she plans to pursue a master's degree at Auburn University.



Hundley and Gittinger pose together at the end of the Wildlife Crime Investigation Course.

DEVELOPMENT HAPPENINGS

Tom Jones, Longtime Friend Of The College

A major donor over the many years, Tom Jones personifies a generous giver that is essential to the success of the college.

Honored as Friend of Virginia Tech's College of Natural Resources in 1998, Tom continues a benefactor friendship begun in 1975 with the college when he first met John Hosner, director of what was then the School of Forestry, for advice on how to improve 80 acres of newly-purchased woodland in Middlesex County, Va., for forestry and wildlife conservation.



Tom Jones

So why does Tom give so much to the College of Natural Resources? "Because of my longtime friend, John," he quickly answered. "We have had a close relationship all these years. I want to help move Virginia Tech forward, and foremost I want to help Virginia Tech graduate more students in natural resources. I cannot tell you what it means to me when I receive letters of thanks each year from the students who have been helped by my scholarships. I enjoy hearing from them so much."

At 90 years-of-age, the successful trucking company mogul and erstwhile real estate investor provides funding for 10 scholarships each year and for an endowed College of Natural Resources Professorship.

His financial support created the Thomas H. Jones Professorship, which was first awarded to Otis Hall, professor of forestry. When Hall retired, it was awarded to Roy Kirkpatrick, also now retired, and currently is held by Donald Orth, a professor who headed the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences from 1999 to 2006.

The U.S. military paid his way through Virginia Tech when he entered college as a member of the corps of cadets and studied chemical engineering. He said, "Students today have it much tougher and are coming out of college with debts that will take half their lifetime to pay off. Helping students with the burden of paying for their education is why it has been important for me to give the college money for student scholarships. I really respect and admire these young people because it is so much harder today."

Widowed last year, Tom continues to live in his home on the Fort Myers, Fla., coast. One of his children, Tish Kashdan, is a Hokie with an M.S. in environmental science and engineering and often represents her father at Virginia Tech functions.

So what legacy does Tom see as being his important contributions to life? "I hope to be remembered for providing a line of jobs that benefited many people, and for helping not only my employees, but Virginia Tech graduates live a little better because of what I have done," he said.

"All through the years, our company carried on my father's principles of honesty, service, and dependability. These creeds served us well and will continue to do so in the future," noted Tom. And they are the pillars of what also serves Virginia Tech and the college so ably.

(cont. from back page)

A College Tradition

The elder Turner continues to exemplify the Ut Prosim motto as a Hokie alumnus. He serves as a Forestry Advisory Board member at the college and committee member of the college's Sustainable Engineered Materials Institute, as well as serves on the Alumni Board of Directors. In 2006, Turner was president of the College of Natural Resources Alumni Board. "Being on the alumni board has helped me stay connected with the university and, in particular, with the college," Harrell said. "I have been able to learn so much more about careers available to students who want to pursue a natural resources degree. It has also opened the door to many new friendships."

In addition to running his own business, Harrell is a registered forester in North Carolina, as well as a member of the North Carolina Forestry Association, where he served on the legislative committee. He has also been a Virginia Forestry Association (VFA) member since 1975 and served as the president from 2005-2006. In the VFA, Harrell has been on the board of directors since 2000 and on the executive board since 2001. He chairs the Government Relations Committee and has served in other ways, such as on the Forest Issues Task Force, Timber Security Committee, Sustainable Forestry Implementation Committee, and as chair of the Annual Convention Committee.

The seasoned professional is also a member of the Society of American Foresters, the Forest Resources Association, the Forest Council of Virginia committee, and his local Resource Conservation and Development committee; he serves on the forestry committee for the South Centre Corridors Resource, Conservation, and Development Council.

"Over the years I've learned to balance my commitments," he said, "with family, work, church, and other activities. I do not travel as much now as I did when I was employed

by IP. Most of my travels are in state now."

Harrell served on the Reforestation of Timberlands Board from 1989 to 1995, and as chair for four years. In 2002 and 2003, he was on the Virginia Agribusiness Council Board of Directors.



Harrell Turner

Other activities included serving on the Boykins Town Council, Southampton County Board of Supervisors, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, Southampton Memorial Hospital Board of Directors, Franklin-Southampton Alliance Committee, and as president of the Boykins Lions Club. The active community leader is a Hunterdale Ruritan Club member, sits on the Branchville Community Center Board, and has served Boykins Baptist Church in various positions, such as past chairman of Board of Deacons, trustee, finance committee member, chairman, and Sunday school teacher. He has also been on the Board of Directors of Franklin-Southampton Economic Development, Inc., since 2005 and contributes as a member of the Airfield Conference and 4-H Center Board of Directors, of which he has been president since 2003. "I am very involved with many organizations and love a challenge," Harrell admitted.



Harrell Turner's son, Josh.

IN MEMORIAM

Dwight R. Chamberlain



Dwight Chamberlain and his wife at the Hardy Lake Raptor Center named in his honor in Scottsburg, Ind.

Sixty-eight-year-old Dwight Chamberlain, a '67 wildlife master's graduate of the college, passed away March 10, 2007, at his home in Leota, Ind.

Chamberlain, an avid philanthropist, conservationist, and crow expert, presented seminars at Virginia Tech and other universities, and also created the Dwight R. Chamberlain Graduate Wildlife Scholarship Fund in 2001 to provide scholarships for CNR graduate students interested in studying conservation. Chamberlain, a member of the Virginia Tech Caldwell Society, received the Friend of the College award from the college at the 41st Annual Honors Banquet in the spring of 2006, as well as many other awards throughout his lifetime.

Chamberlain researched several bird species and recorded crows to classify and understand the function of their calls. He discovered 11 distinct vocalizations and tamed a raven named Rolf that he took with him when he gave presentations at schools, nature centers, and television programs.

(L-R) Secretary of Natural Resources Preston Bryant; Rachel Lauer, the Walker Fellowship Award winner; and Bill Walker, during the 2006 Water Center's research symposium awards luncheon.



William R. Walker

Eighty-one-year-old William R. "Bill" Walker passed away March 21, 2007, in Phoenix, Ariz. Walker started at Virginia Tech as a civil engineering professor in 1964 and was appointed by the university to be the first director of the Virginia Water Resources Research Center from 1965-1992. In 1982, Walker helped get state funding and support for the Water Center, which has allowed the Water Center to become a facilitator of research projects and information transfer. The William R. Walker Graduate Fellow Award was established in 1999 by the Water Center to honor Walker for his role in making the Virginia Water Center what it is today.

Walker was involved with many professional committees, councils, review panels, and organizations, such as the American Society of Civil Engineers, American Bar Association, American Water Works Association, and American Association for the Advancement of Science. Walker received many awards throughout his lifetime, including the Virginia Water Resources Leadership Award, Friend of UCOWR award from the Universities Council on Water Resources, and the Service to the Profession award from the American Society of Professional Engineers, as well as being listed in numerous Who's Who publications.

Walker also was a consultant to several organizations and is published in many different publications. When Walker retired in 1992 after 27 years as director, James B. Murray, chairman of the Water Center's Statewide Advisory Board at the time, said it best when he said, "He deserves to be recorded in the annals of Virginia as Mr. Water...More than any other individual, he has struggled with unshaken devotion, dedication, and determination to preserve and improve the waters of the state. All of us enjoy an improved quality of life because of his leadership at the Water Center."

The city of Salzburg: home of Mozart, The Sound of Music, and the Salzburg University of Applied Sciences.



The view from Smith's classroom overlooks the town of Kuchl, Austria, with the Alps in the background.

designed to provide short-term opportunities (two to six weeks) for U.S. faculty and professionals.

Smith has also visited the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization in Rome, Italy, to discuss research on marketing education systems for forest products he conducted in Chile a few years ago to see if similar research areas for collaboration exist.



Smith Travels To Europe As Fulbright Senior Fellow

Wood science and forest products professor Bob Smith spent January teaching a four-week course in strategic management for the wood products industry to 23 senior-level students in Kuchl, Austria, a town of 6,000 people in the Alps, approximately 30 miles south of the city of Salzburg.

As a Fulbright Senior Fellow at the Salzburg University of Applied Sciences in Salzburg, Smith reviewed changes to their program in the wood science curriculum. He met with Austrian wood manufacturers and retailers and discussed possible joint research with faculty regarding the hardwood flooring industry and customer perceptions of various products.

"The Fulbright Fellowship provided me the opportunity to work with Austrian students and faculty in a program in wood science and forest products similar to Virginia Tech's. It gave me the opportunity to better understand the European educational system and wood products industry and market," he explained. "The students bring a different perspective to the classroom due to their varying backgrounds, and I was able to learn and grow in a new environment."

The Fulbright Programs strive to increase the participation of leading U.S. scholars and professionals in academic exchange and to promote increased connections between U.S. and non-U.S. post-secondary academic institutions. The Fulbright Senior Specialists Program is

College Tradition Runs In Turner Family

Like father, like son - Harrell Turner and his youngest son Josh both came to Virginia Tech intending to major in engineering, and both ended up switching departments to major in the College of Natural Resources. Harrell graduated in 1971 with a B.S. in forestry and wildlife, and Josh is currently a junior in wood science. The elder Turner's brother, Kea Turner, is also a Hokie graduate.

Harrell first considered the university when a cousin who graduated from Virginia Tech encouraged him to go there. On thoughts of sharing his dad's alma mater, Josh said he "wouldn't have it any other way. Ever since I was a little kid, I had always wanted to go to Virginia Tech. I was pretty much born a Hokie, it was in my blood from the very beginning."

"There was something about the College of Natural Resources that made me feel at home," Josh said. "I came from a really small town in the woods to this large university, so it was comforting to find a place where I could connect with other people who come from the same type of place as myself."

Harrell was born in Franklin, Va., and currently lives in Branchville, west of Franklin, with his wife of 31 years, Cynthia, who is also a Hokie fan. "Cynthia graduated from Campbell University, but has adopted Virginia Tech as her alma mater as well," Harrell declared. The Turners have three sons: Mark, Ryan, and Josh. Mark graduated from Radford University with a degree in criminal justice and is currently working as a DEA federal agent. Ryan has moved to San Diego where he works for a company that specializes in detailed woodworking. "My wife will tell you that I brainwashed Josh and that he had no choice but to go to Tech," Harrell joked. "I just wanted the best for him and that, of course, was Tech."

After graduating, Harrell quickly established himself professionally. He worked at Union Camp Corporation for 28 years and then another five with International Paper after Union Camp Corporation and International Paper (IP) merged in 1999, holding such positions as timber cruiser, logging supervisor, timber purchasing superintendent, procurement operations manager, area manager, and area team leader for land management and wood procurement.



Harrell, Cynthia, and Josh Turner enjoying the CNR awards banquet.

He took an early retirement package in January 2004 after the company reorganized, and he went into business with his brother, a fellow Hokie, as a forestry consultant for three years. Now a forest consultant for his own business, CHT Forestry LLC, Harrell appraises timber for landowners and helps them sell their timber; he performs contract timber cruising for various companies and manages timberlands for several landowners. *(cont. on page 7, A College Tradition)*

