



Choi Leaves Lasting Impression On College

COLLEGE OF NATURAL RESOURCES
 Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

After two years as a visiting forestry professor at Virginia Tech's College of Natural Resources, Jungkee Choi will return to the Kangwon National University in Korea not only having enriched the community here, but on his way to fulfilling a legacy with which his late mentoring professor charged him - that of giving Korea access to a book on forest measurements.

Choi specializes in forest measurements, statistics, growth modeling and simulation, and inventory. At the college, he worked with forestry department head Harold Burkhart and senior research associate Ralph Amateis.



Choi digs out an old stump in preparing a site for the miniature-scale loblolly spacing study on campus.

A lot of Choi's personal interest stems from the fact that Virginia and his home country, Korea, have many similar geographic aspects and forest resources. "I want to compare the two because they are so similar, with the same latitude for forest species. My work may even lead to more Korean pine plantations," said Choi. Choi's efforts along this line include publishing an article, "Loblolly Pine Growth and Yield Research



Ralph Amateis and Jungkee Choi take a break from measuring and pruning trees in Appomattox, Va.

Cooperative," submitting a manuscript on the "Forest Resources Statistics of the State of Virginia in the USA," and developing a research paper on a growth model and diameter growth characteristics for Korean oaks. In addition, he is currently developing an article to further introduce Korean vendors to loblolly pine

plantation management in the U.S. He is highlighting the important role pine plantations serve and how to maximize growth and yield.

Choi recently introduced the college's forestry department in an article published by *The Journal of Research Forest* of Kangwon National University, a Korean journal. In his article, he detailed the program requirements and course offerings, as well as including pictures of the college and university.

In addition, Choi has translated the college's Strategic Plan for Kangwon National University. This is particularly noteworthy since Dean Mike Kelly has emphasized several improvements to the college's Strategic Plan saying, "The college will place greater emphasis on faculty, staff, and graduate students publishing high quality research in nationally and internationally recognized top-tier, peer-reviewed journals in the signature research areas of the college." Kelly also pointed out, "The college will also grow its portfolio of international development and research projects, and encourage more faculty and graduate students to engage in these projects." Choi's translations have furthered the college's goals of strengthening international relationships.

"The goal of my research is to ultimately develop my university, college, and department, which is the main reason I have worked so hard on translating many documents," noted Choi.

Before he left, Choi finished the development of a loblolly pine stem quality model. "This project was a major priority for me and one I worked very hard on with the help of Harold Burkhart and Ralph Amateis," said Choi. His paper, titled "Trends in Stem Quality of Loblolly Pine Trees," was first presented this fall at the Southern Mensurationists Annual Meeting. It focused on how to determine stem quality changes over time in loblolly pine trees and how to model stem quality characteristics through time.

Yet another, more personal goal Choi has set for the near future is the translation of *Forest Measurements*, a book by Avery and Burkhart. "This book is known as the 'Bible' of forest measurement," acknowledged Choi. Though the importance of the book would greatly benefit his home university, Choi says it is more personal as he remembers the words of his former advisor, Jong-Hwa Yun. "Before he passed away, Jong-Hwa called me and asked me to make a textbook because he did not have the opportunity to make one. His words are always in the back of my head, and that is why translating this book into a Korean textbook is a great goal of mine and one I hope to finish within the next year," said Choi.



One of the pruning tools Choi uses.

Burkhart, Choi's host advisor, noted, "It has been a pleasure having professor Choi as a visiting faculty member. He has been an enthusiastic and effective participant in our teaching, research, and outreach activities."

Burkhart said that Choi took full advantage of all opportunities to learn about the conduct of academic programs of forestry in the U.S., while freely sharing his insights and experiences with forestry teaching and research in Korea. "We have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know Choi and his family, and we look forward to continued collaboration with him in the future," Burkhart added.

Though his many research contributions are the highlight of his career, Choi admits that the friendships he has gained is what he will remember most. "I am very lucky to have met so many wonderful people in the college. Friendship is very important, and I will never forget my friends here at Virginia Tech."



Choi's daughters, Yoosun and Insun, help water the study's trees.

FROM THE DEAN'S PERSPECTIVE

During the fall semester graduation ceremony, one of the student speakers quoted former NBC News anchor Tom Brokaw "that it's easier to make a buck than to make an impact." In those quiet moments when we all think about what we do and why we do it, I think most of us would say it is the hope that we will have an impact in our professional life. We want our actions to positively impact the lives of others or the resources that sustain us.

As natural resource management professionals, we have by definition undertaken a career that hopefully will better the world we live in as well as provide a means to sustain economic vitality in communities across the Commonwealth and beyond. As we train the next generation of managers, scientists, and citizens, it is doubly important that we provide them with the best learning experience possible. Likewise, as we conduct research, extension, and outreach programs, we need to carefully assess where contributions are needed and how best to make them.

For those goals to be achieved in today's environment, a shift in approach is required so that we are neither out-of-touch nor out-of-date. In its 1999 report, the Kellogg Commission on the Future of State and Land-Grant Universities noted that "despite the resources and expertise available on campuses," as a group "our institutions are not well organized to bring them to bear on local problems in a coherent way." This suggests that the time has come for a cultural shift within the land grant universities leading to our reformulation as an "engaged university." The report goes on to say that "engagement refers to institutions that have redesigned their teaching, research, extension, and service functions to become even more sympathetically and productively involved with their communities, however community may be defined."

Within the recently completed University 2006-2012 Strategic Plan Update you will find important first steps that will help Virginia Tech and the College of Natural Resources to make this transition. For CNR to become an engaged college, it is important that we are responsive and respectful of the needs of our partners, that our faculty and programs are accessible, and that we successfully integrate service into our research and teaching programs. It is also essential that we, to the great-

est degree possible, continue to be seen as an unbiased source of information and support. Engagement in the form of service-learning, outreach, and community partnerships will play an important role in the achievement of these goals and the future of this college. The commission believes that "one of the best ways to prepare students for the challenges of life lies in integrating the community with their academic experiences, including exposure to research."



Dean Mike Kelly and Judy Araman, student recruiter for the college, chat during December graduation festivities.

As the year progresses, we will be reporting on steps that we are taking to position the college to be better engaged with its traditional constituencies, to develop new constituencies, to provide unique learning experiences for our students, and to continue to strengthen the impact of the college.

J. M. Kelly



COLLEGE OF NATURAL RESOURCES QUARTERLY NEWSMAGAZINE Winter 2007

Dean **J. Michael Kelly**

Editor **Lynn M. Davis**

Associate Editor **Crystal Beach**

Assistant Editors **Thien-Kim Le,**

Helen Broemmelsiek, Lauren Taylor

Designer **Joe Swope**

Photography Contributors

Lynn Davis, Crystal Beach, David Arnold,

Thien-Kim Le, Lauren Taylor,

Helen Broemmelsiek

Printer **Progress Printing of Lynchburg, Va.**

Alumni Office **(540) 231-2512**

Development Office **(540) 231-8859**

Public Affairs **davisl@vt.edu**

Sports Information **(540) 231-6796**

Hokie Links

College web **www.cnr.vt.edu**

VT News **www.news.vt.edu**

Virginia Tech **www.vt.edu**

Virginia Tech does not discriminate against employees, students, or applicants on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, veteran status, national origin, religion, or political affiliation. Anyone having questions concerning discrimination should contact the Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Office.

NEWS, NEWS, SEND US YOUR NEWS! Please let us know what is happening in your life so we can include the news in our next college news magazine. Send your information to Crystal Beach at cbeach@vt.edu with "For Newsmagazine" on the subject line; or to 324 Cheatham Hall, Blacksburg, VA 24061. Thanks! We would love to hear from you. Send it NOW while you are thinking of it!

Smith Announced As Interim Associate Dean

College dean Mike Kelly announced that Bob Smith will be the new interim associate dean following the departure of Jim Johnson, who has become the associate dean of extended education in the College of Forestry at Oregon State University.

Smith, professor of wood science and forest products, works in the area of the marketing of forest products. He is also the director of the Center for Forest Products Marketing and Management, and is on the faculty advisory boards for the Wood-Based Composite Center and the Sustainable Engineered Materials Institute.

"I am very excited and it is an honor to serve the College of Natural Resources as its Interim

Associate Dean for Extension and Outreach. The College of Natural Resources is recognized throughout the world for their outreach mission. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the college, university, and the Commonwealth to continue this success," stated Smith.



New interim associate dean Bob Smith.

Mark Your Calendars: Selling Forest Products

Personal selling methods provide most forest product companies the differentiation strategy needed to be successful in the marketplace. As the forest products industry becomes more competitive, the need for personal selling skills increases. A sales course will be held at the Inn at Virginia Tech March 28-29 in Blacksburg, Va. For additional information, please contact Bob Smith at (540) 231-7107 or rsmith4@vt.edu.



Save the Date!

May 17, 18, and 19 of 2007

A Southwest Virginia Regional Trails and Green Infrastructure Conference

Radford University

Building Trails to a Greener Future:
Linking the Economy, Healthy Communities,
and the Environment

LandCare Center Established

Professors David Robertson, Jim Johnson (who now is at Oregon State), Jeff Waldon, and Bruce Hull have come together to establish The LandCare Center at Virginia Tech. The center works with government and local conservationists to develop specific projects relating to forestry practices, local product development, water management, tourism, and livestock production.

"To date, the LandCare Center has submitted \$4 million in grant requests for federal government and private foundation funding to support the Commonwealth LandCare Initiatives," said Robertson.

At the local and regional level, Grayson LandCare and the Headwaters LandCare Partnership are working with supporters to develop a series of initiatives in the headwaters of the James, Roanoke, and New River watersheds.

The center's efforts are not just within the CNR, but are also working with the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

"We are working with numerous faculty throughout the college to establish a series of LandCare programs that will set the lead for other universities nationwide," elaborated Robertson. "We are enthusiastic and invite others to also join us in this effort."

New Packaging Science Minor Offered

The Department of Wood Science and Forest Products now offers students the option to minor in packaging science. The courses involve the use of materials, methods, and equipment to develop and produce packages that protect products and enhance sales.

"Packaging science minors will be in high demand as their expertise will be unique and highly desired

in the growing packaging industry," noted Paul Winistorfer, department head in wood science and forest products. Graduates can expect careers in a variety of fields, including packaging to manufacturing, suppliers and users, transport packaging, and unit load systems-based design. Students in food science, business, agriculture, and engineering will find the science minor complementary to their disciplines.



Students Braden White and Jim Bisha perform TMI puncture tests on corrugated packaging.

Wood Week 2006: A Second Year Of Success

Wood Week at Virginia Tech, which was coordinated in the fall by the Department of Wood Science and Forest Products, spotlighted the utilization of renewable materials, achievements of students in the department, the advisory board with associates from partner universities and industries, and the education of elementary students and their teachers.

Paul Winistorfer, department head, explained, "We have a leading North American program in wood science and forest products, and our role for the future will be even more critical as our global dependence on renewable materials will only increase.



The Department of Wood Science and Forest Products awards over \$40,000 in scholarships.

STUDENT NOTES

Two Fulbrights Choose CNR

The college welcomes international student Daniel Waiswa, who is pursuing his graduate studies in the Department of Forestry under a Fulbright Scholarship. Waiswa, an honor student from Uganda, holds a B.S. in forestry and an M.S. in computer science from Makerere University in Uganda.



Daniel Waiswa

Working with his adviser, associate professor Stephen Prisley, Waiswa hopes to develop research in the areas of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), forest measurements/inventory, and modeling and computer-assisted forest management, while obtaining his Ph.D. in forest biometrics and geomatics.

"I have always longed for a university offering quality postgraduate education, and from my short stay so far, I believe Virginia Tech is the right one based on the care, expertise, and facilities that I am experiencing for the first time in my life," said Waiswa.

Another Fulbright scholar from abroad, Claudia Wultsch, is also attending the college. She earned an M.S. in zoology at the University of Graz in Austria, and will work towards her Ph.D. in fisheries and wildlife.

With the guidance of her advisors, professors Mike Vaughan and Marcella Kelly, Wultsch will pursue research in the areas of carnivore ecology and population dynamics. For her Ph.D. project, she will work on the population ecology of jaguars in Belize.

"I feel very welcomed in my department, and I am also amazed at how many opportunities students here have. The last several weeks definitely exceeded my expectations, and I am really glad that I decided to pursue my Ph.D. in the fisheries and wildlife program here at Virginia Tech," said Wultsch.

The Fulbright Program provides grants for graduate students, scholars and professionals, and teachers and administrators from the U.S. and other countries to go anywhere in the world in

pursuit of research and education. The program is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries.



Claudia Wultsch

It has provided more than 250,000 participants chosen for their academic merit and leadership potential with the opportunity to study and teach in each other's countries, exchange ideas, and develop joint solutions to address shared concerns. The program was established in 1946 under legislation introduced by former Sen. J. William Fulbright of Arkansas.

Perkins Represents Grad Community On University's Energy Committee



Brian Perkins, graduate research assistant from the Department of Wood Science and Forest Products, receives a scholarship from wood science professor Bob Smith.

Brian Perkins, graduate research assistant from the Department of Wood Science and Forest Products, represented the Graduate Student Assembly (GSA) at the university's Energy Committee meetings.

The main focus of the Energy Committee is to target short and long-term energy goals within the university by organizing overall strategy for energy use, identifying energy reduction opportunities, and disseminating knowledge of energy to the university community. Student representatives were self-selected on a volunteer basis from their respective organizations, which includes the GSA and the Student Government Association.

Perkins said, "This role gives me a chance to educate myself about the university's energy policy and find ways to promote energy conservation within the graduate community. It's a satisfying experience soliciting and incorporating fellow students' ideas and concerns about energy issues and relaying them to the energy committee."

As a graduate research assistant, Perkins is working on his thesis on the utilization of small diameter timber in Southwest Virginia. His area of focus is forest products businesses, sustainability, life cycle analysis, and information systems.

Students Celebrate December Graduation



Judy Araman, student recruiter for the college, and Richard Oderwald, associate dean for academic affairs, enjoy the celebration.



Ryan Smith, a graduating forestry student, with his friend.



Laura Hendrick (center) celebrates with her family. Hendrick was the president of the Forestry Club.

FACULTY BRIEFS

Faculty Promotions

The Board of Visitors granted several college faculty promotions and approvals for tenure. Phil Radtke was promoted to associate professor of forestry, and both he and Tom Fox, also of forestry, were approved for tenure as associate professors. Promoted to full professor from the college were Greg Amacher of the forestry department, Paul Angermeier of the fisheries and wildlife sciences department, Audrey Zink-Sharp of the wood science and forest products department, and forestry extension specialist Jeff Kirwan. Zink-Sharp has also been named associate head of the wood science and forest products department. Arriving to the college in 1992 as the first female faculty member, she was the first tenured woman in the college, and now becomes the college's first woman faculty member at rank of professor.



Phil Radtke



Tom Fox



Greg Amacher



Paul Angermeier

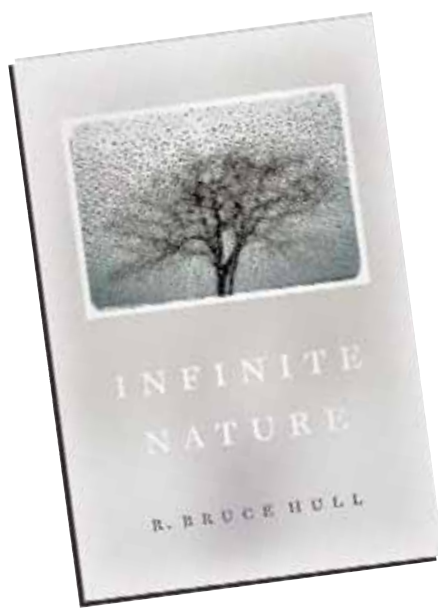


Audrey Zink-Sharp



Jeff Kirwan

Hull's New Book On "Human" Nature



Infinite Nature by forestry professor Bruce Hull.

Bruce Hull's latest book, *Infinite Nature*, tackles the complexities of human and nature interactions. Published by the University of Chicago Press, the book is geared towards a mainstream audience and focuses on the fundamental logic of environmentalism. "Only when we acknowledge the infinite perspectives on how people should relate to nature will we forge solutions that are respectful to both humanity and the environment," stated forestry professor Hull.

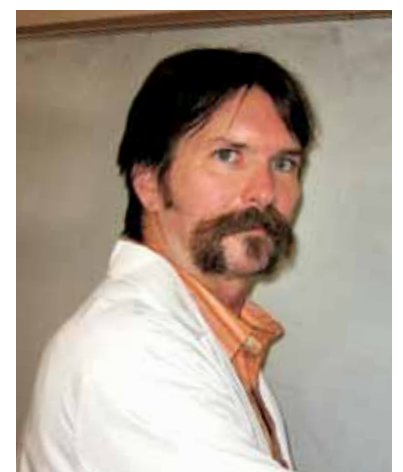
Infinite Nature has received high acclaims throughout the academic community. E. Franklin Dukes, director of the Institute for Environmental Negotiation at the University of Virginia, calls the work an "extraordinary book." Dukes noted, "This always lively book will engage, challenge, and even entertain anyone concerned with how humans can live within natural systems."

Hull's primary research and academic interest concentrate on areas such as public ecology and sustainability, human dimensions of natural resource management, and forest fragmentation and urbanization. He has written extensively for many academic journals and is active in numerous forestry and ecology projects.

For more information on Hull's book, visit www.publicecology.org/infinitenature/index.html.

Sheffield Appointed To Board Of Directors Of The American Society Of Mammalogists

Steven Sheffield, adjunct professor of field biology and ecology in the college's National Capital Region Program, was re-elected to the board of directors of the American Society of Mammalogists (ASM) at its annual meeting at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. The society is the world's oldest and longest running scientific organization dedicated to promoting the study of mammals. Sheffield will work to update the business and service of the society. Since his membership in 1980, he has served on numerous committees and is currently chairing three of the committees.



FACULTY BRIEFS

30th Annual Forestry And Wildlife Field Tours Always A Hit

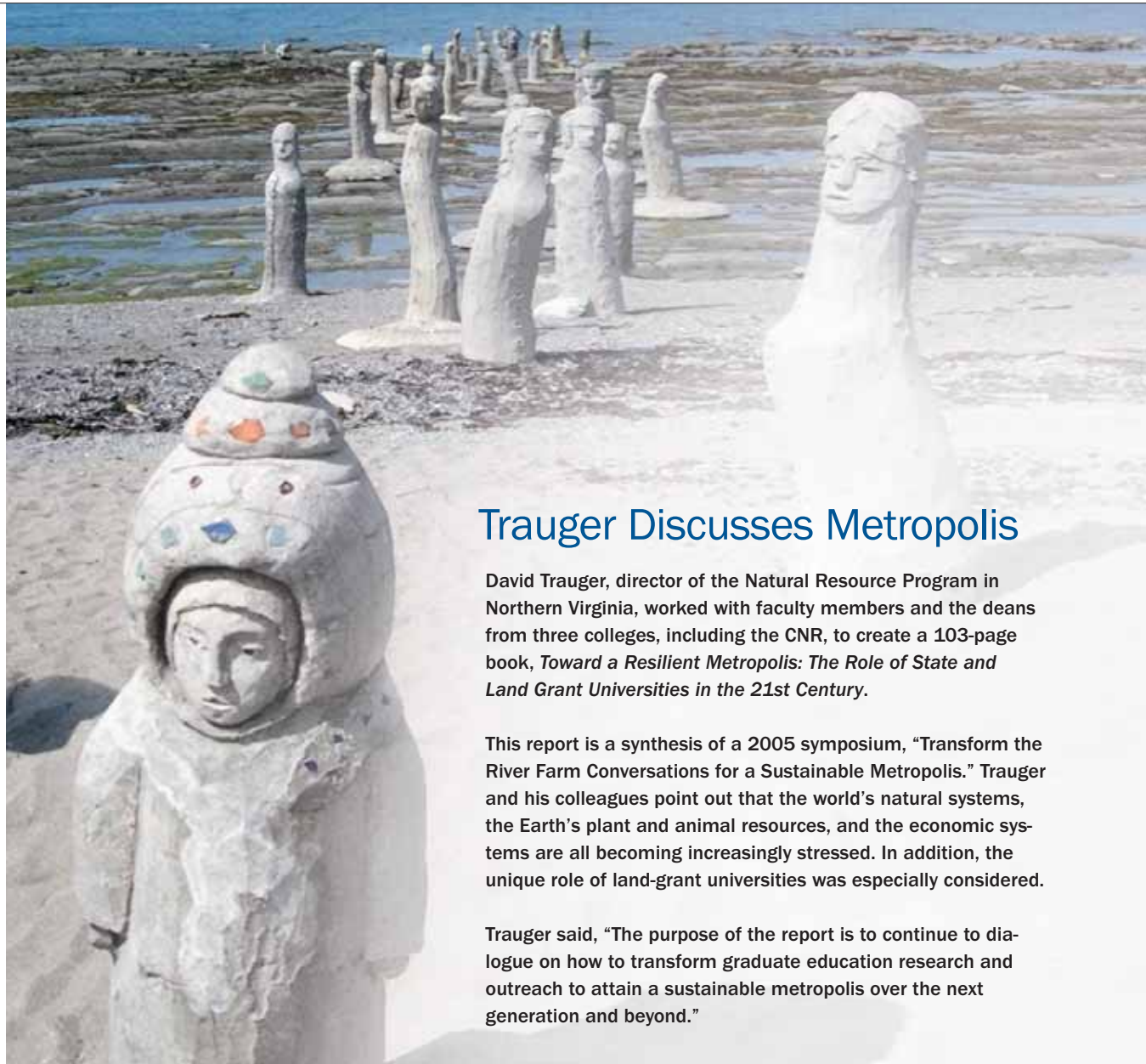
The Virginia Cooperative Extension in collaboration with the college and Virginia's natural resource agencies, companies, and associations, recently held their 30th Annual Fall Forestry and Wildlife Field Tours. The tours featured sites in King William, King George, Bath, and Grayson counties, as well as in Southside Virginia.

Jennifer Gagnon, coordinator of the Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program based at the college said, "The tours promote wise resource management on private forestlands and focus on science-based forestry and wildlife management practices, public and private sources of technical and financial management assistance, and networking among landowners and natural resource professionals."

The tours are the longest running program of its kind in Virginia. Stops on private, industry, and public lands demonstrated multiple-use management opportunities and practices.



Wayne Bowman and Jerre Creighton of the Virginia Department of Forestry explain the benefits of crop tree release treatments to landowners on a field tour in the Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest.



Trauger Discusses Metropolis

David Trauger, director of the Natural Resource Program in Northern Virginia, worked with faculty members and the deans from three colleges, including the CNR, to create a 103-page book, *Toward a Resilient Metropolis: The Role of State and Land Grant Universities in the 21st Century*.

This report is a synthesis of a 2005 symposium, "Transform the River Farm Conversations for a Sustainable Metropolis." Trauger and his colleagues point out that the world's natural systems, the Earth's plant and animal resources, and the economic systems are all becoming increasingly stressed. In addition, the unique role of land-grant universities was especially considered.

Trauger said, "The purpose of the report is to continue to dialogue on how to transform graduate education research and outreach to attain a sustainable metropolis over the next generation and beyond."

RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

Symposium Features Pathogen Research

Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources, L. Preston Bryant Jr., addressed the awards luncheon at the Virginia Tech Water Science and Technology Symposium in the Skelton Conference Center at the Inn at Virginia Tech.



Dean Mike Kelly (center) hosted Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources Preston Bryant (L) for a tour of the college's mussel aquaculture facility, where fisheries professor Dick Neves (R) explained his mussel repropagation work.

This year's conference focused on pathogen research, including methods of detecting cryptosporidium, fecal indicators and pathogens in estuarine/marine environments, pathogen research at Virginia's colleges and universities, and state agency perspectives.

Virginia Water Resources Research Center of Virginia



Wildlife toxicologist Bill Hopkins showed Secretary Bryant his research lab in the new Latham Hall, where he studies the health of salamanders to determine the health of their wetlands.

Tech sponsors the program each year for state and local government professionals, university faculty and students, experts from environmental consulting and environmental law firms, and other interest groups.

Well-known expert Valerie "Jody" Harwood from the University of South Florida spoke on pathogens in water environments.



Joe Maroon, director of Virginia's Department of Conservation and Recreation ('76 B.A. and '78 M.A. in political science), and his Secretary of Natural Resources, Preston Bryant, who gave a presentation at the Water Symposium awards luncheon.

British Columbian Scholar Researching Pine Growth In CNR

Oscar Garcia, who holds the Forest Renewal BC/West Fraser Endowed Chair in Forest Growth and Yield at the University of Northern British Columbia, recently visited the forestry department.

Garcia stated, "I'd like to say that Virginia Tech has one of the strongest and most respected programs in quantitative forestry anywhere, with a critical mass of excellent staff and graduate students that create a stimulating research environment."

While on his visit, Garcia will conduct research with the Loblolly Pine Growth and Yield Research Cooperative. He expects to look into models of stand development at the whole-stand level, and also at ways of incorporating microsite-induced spatial structure in individual-based modeling.

University distinguished professor and department head Harold Burkhart noted, "Professor Garcia is a well-known and highly regarded scholar."



Oscar Garcia

South American Winemakers Visit College

Twelve winery owners with the South American Reverse Trade Mission visited the college at the invitation of wood science and forest products professor Tom Hammett. Hosted by Jim Green ('68 B.S. in forestry and wildlife science), international marketing specialist in forest products from the Office of International Marketing in the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the group included wine makers and two trade journal writers from Uruguay, Argentina, Paraguay, and Chile.

The goal of the visitors was to learn more about wooden barrel manufacturing and sustainable forest management in Virginia and Kentucky.

Green noted, "I received some very positive feedback from the participants. Many specifically mentioned that they think Virginia Tech has a stake in working with their industry in developing information that can be used so as to better develop the white oak resources we have to meet the needs of the winemaking industry."

Thais And Japanese Visit

The Center for Unit Load Design (CULD) hosted faculty members from the Department of Forest Products of Kasetsart University and a pallet manufacturer, all from Bangkok, Thailand. Mark White, former director of the center, said, "The visitors learned about our facilities from the international reputation of the William H. Sardo Jr. Pallet and Container Research Laboratory and CULD." The international guests toured the design center to learn about its operations and capabilities, as well as to discuss the possibility of collaboration, faculty, and student exchange.

Opas Cheewatammanon, the pallet manufacturer, hopes to become an affiliate of CULD—expanding the program's international scope. A delegation of six Japanese businessmen from the distribution center, along with a Canadian interpreter, also visited the CULD in the fall to learn about center operations and capabilities.



Wood science and forest products department head Paul Winistorfer, with Bob Smith and Tom Hammett, welcomed a group of wine industry members to campus. They are interested in using white oak, which is an ideal wood for wine barrels and which is abundant in Virginia.



Thailand faculty on their visit to the college's Center for Unit Load Design (L-R): Host Mark White, Teera Veenin, Opas Cheewatammanon, and assistant professors Songklod Jarusombuti, and Ampai Peamaroon.

Stauffer Teaches In Mexico

Representatives from 24 different national parks and reserves from throughout Mexico attended a workshop on Wildlife Population Analysis at the University of Chihuahua, in Chihuahua, Mexico in the fall, taught by fisheries and wildlife sciences professor Dean Stauffer. The class was organized for the Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas (CONAP), which is equivalent to the U.S. National Park Service.

The participants represented a diversity of parks, and work with a wide range of species, including gray whales, sea lions, shorebirds, horned lizards, manatees, songbirds, quetzal, desert pupfish, harpy eagle, marine snails, jaguars, tapirs, macaws, and trogons. The workshop focused on design and monitoring of approaches for wildlife of special concern within the various parks. Stauffer worked with individual man-

agers to design approaches they could implement to monitor wildlife populations important to their particular parks.

Support for the workshop came from the Global Environment Fund (GEF) through the Fondo Mexicano para la Conservación de la Naturaleza to CONAP. The workshop was organized and coordinated by Juan Carlos Guzman ('04 Ph.D. in fisheries and wildlife science) who works for the Protección de la Fauna Mexicana, A. C. (ProFauna). Guzman also served as Stauffer's translator for the workshop.

Dean F. Stauffer (back row, 5th from R) and some of the participants in the course on Wildlife Population Analysis in Chihuahua, Mexico.

Stauffer is an affiliate faculty of the Facultad de Zootechnia at the University of Chihuahua and has been presenting annual workshops on their campus since 2000.



EXTENSION AND OUTREACH

College Faculty Help Organize Woodlot Owners Conference

Wood science and forest products professor Tom Hammett and Jim Chamberlain, of the U.S. Forest Service, helped organize a major forest land owners conference held at the Dabney S. Lancaster Community College in Clifton Forge, Va.

Hammett, the keynote speaker, talked about the value of non-timber forest products and how to identify the income opportunities for forest landowners. He also presented a session on how small forest-based enterprises should develop marketing and business plans.

He joined Phil Radtke, who demonstrated charcoal kiln that they had developed to utilize wood waste.

The purpose of the conference was to expose forest landowners to a range of methods and products that

can help them increase their income. The two-day event was sponsored by the college in partnership with the Virginia Cooperative Extension at Virginia State University and the Virginia Department of Forestry.

College alumni involved in the conference included conference chair Mark Yancy ('00 B.S. in wood science and forest products, '06 M.F. in forestry) and local host Brigitte Parsons ('05 M.S. in wood science and forest products), who also heads the forestry department at Dabney S. Lancaster Community College.

Phil Radtke demonstrates the charcoal kiln, developed under his project with Tom Hammett, used to add value to wood waste.



ALUMNI UPDATE

SHARPening The Skills Of Virginia Loggers

For the past four years, alumnus Scott Barrett ('98 B.S. and '01 M.S. in forestry) has been helping to SHARPen up the future for the Commonwealth's forests. Barrett coordinates the Sustainable Harvesting and Resource Professional (SHARP) Logger Program at the college, which forestry professor Bob Shaffer assisted in developing. The goal of the program is to train loggers in the Commonwealth how to do their part in maintaining sustainable forests, workplace safety, and providing environmental protection to the area's forests. The SHARP Logger Program is not required by law for forest professionals, but the 18-hour class has been attended by over



2,800 individuals, which represents a majority of Virginia's logging companies, since its creation in 1996.

In order to complete the core program and become a SHARP Logger, participants must attend three specific classes: logging safety, sustainable forestry, and harvest planning/best management practices. In addition to the free core SHARP Logger classes, the SHARP Logger Program offers many different continuing education classes covering topics such as chainsaw safety, wildlife management, and GPS mapping. To keep all SHARP Loggers up to date on current information, participants are required to complete 12-hours of continuing education every three years in order to maintain current SHARP Logger status.

The SHARP Logger Program is currently funded by Virginia's Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). For more information about the SFI, visit www.virginiasfi.org/. Additional information about Virginia's SHARP Logger Program and a complete list of current SHARP Loggers can be found at the program's website: www.sharplogger.vt.edu/.

A group learns about chain saw safety through the SHARP Logger Program.

CNR Offers Summer Program For Alumni

Alumni singles, couples, and families and friends are invited to attend Summer Around the Drillfield 2007 (SAD S007) featuring Global Health Issues Today - Laying the Foundation for a Better Tomorrow. This program will be offered July 5-8 in Blacksburg, Va., on the Virginia Tech campus. It will feature global health presentations from the Colleges of Natural Resources, Agriculture and Life Sciences, and Veterinary Medicine demonstrating the collaboration of three colleges working together for global health through teaching, research, and extension. Time will be available in the afternoon to enjoy the New River Valley.

For more information on this new, exciting program, visit www.alumni.vt.edu and look under the Reunions and Events link.

Alumnus' Sculpture Accepted Into Permanent Collection

George Bumann ('02 M.S. in fisheries and wildlife science) recently had his bronze sculpture of a bull bison, entitled "Unyielding," accepted into the permanent collection of the National Museum of Wildlife Art in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.



"Unyielding" by George Bumann.

In addition to "Unyielding," Bumann has also created bronze sculptures of "Wolf 21" and "Wolf 42" - two grey wolves that have been an integral part of the grey wolf reintroduction efforts in Yellowstone National Park since the 1990's. Alpha male 21 and beta female 42, as they are referred to by wildlife researchers and enthusiasts alike, have not only helped restore Yellowstone's current grey wolf population to 31 strong, but also were featured in the widely-acclaimed National Geographic documentary in 2000 titled *Wolves: A Legend Returns to Yellowstone*.

When he is not sculpting or observing the wildlife featured in his artwork, Bumann is teaching ecology and art at the Yellowstone Association Institute. His interest in wildlife sculpture stems from both his upbringing amidst his mother's upstate New York art studio and his formal training in wildlife ecology.

Portions of the proceeds from his artwork are used to defray the costs of wolf research, conservation, and management in Yellowstone National Park and in the state of Montana. As the sculptor points out, "It truly is a special opportunity to take all the emotion and experience that people hold and turn it into bronze."

Bumann and his wife Jennifer ('95 B.S. in wildlife science) currently reside in Gardiner, Montana. www.GeorgeBumann.com

Fettig Honored By President Bush

Chris Fettig ('93 B.S. in forestry, '96 M.S. in entomology) was one of three U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) scientists to receive the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE) in Washington, D.C. PECASE is the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government on outstanding scientists and engineers beginning their independent careers.

Fettig earned the honor for outstanding contributions to understanding the impact of insects and fire on forest health, the importance of semiochemicals on the behavior and management of tree-killing bark beetles, and for leadership and commitment to professional and scientific societies. His award also included a \$125,000 research grant.

Currently, Fettig is the research entomologist and project leader of the Chemical Ecology and

Management of Western Forest Insects research unit in the Pacific Southwest Research Station (USDA Forest Service). He says, "I am most proud of these honors and to work for a department and agency that still recognizes hard work and heart."



Fettig evaluates bark beetle attacks on ponderosa pine to determine the effectiveness of novel treatments that offer hope for tree protection. Record amounts of bark beetle-caused tree mortality have occurred in the western U.S. in recent years.

Kays Receives Excellence In Teaching Award

Natural resource specialist Jonathan Kays ('85 M.S. in forestry) was the first Maryland Cooperative Extension field faculty member to be honored with the University of Maryland Regents' Award for Excellence in Teaching. Kays works at the Western Maryland Research and Education Center.

One of his highly esteemed programs is the Coverts Project, conducted in cooperation with the Ruffed Grouse Society. The program has provided training to 365 woodland owners or managers since 1990, and is free, provided that in exchange, the individuals share what they have learned with others. Kays says, "My goal is to help learners manage forest resources in a way that meets their current needs, but does not detract from or degrade potential use by future generations."

Other research and extension programs developed by Kays can be found at www.naturalresources.umd.edu.



(L-R) Dan Mote, University of Maryland College Park president; David Nevins, Maryland Board of Regents; Jonathan Kays; and William Kirwan, University of Maryland System chancellor.

Stay Up-To-Date With Virginia Tech News!

For more Virginia Tech news, featuring the latest campus stories, notices, photos, awards, and podcasts, please visit Virginia Tech News at www.vtnews.vt.edu. A daily e-mail highlighting all of the news blurbs is also available by subscribing to the news service at www.vtnews.vt.edu/email.php.

Recent Fisheries Grad Returns From Second Subarctic Expedition



The crew is anchored on the east coast of Québec. Miller is exercising as well as having some fun during a little downtime.

Photo by Karen Adey.

Alca i is anchored in the Bay of Islands, Newfoundland, located on the southwest coast of Newfoundland.

For many recent graduates, receiving a long-awaited degree is both a time of celebration and transition. However, after earning two bachelor degrees this past May in fisheries science and environmental policy planning, Alex Miller chose to “stay the course” and return to the familiar territory of the Subarctic on a summer-long research expedition.

Miller’s research in the Subarctic began in 2003 when he was a sophomore. For three months Miller accompanied Smithsonian curator and research scientist for the National Museum of Natural History, Alex Adey, on the fourth season of Adey’s eight-year research project to study the Subarctic/Arctic distribution of seaweed species based on biomass.

Trinity, on the southeast coast of Newfoundland. Miller’s ship, Alca i is in view on the left.

Iceberg located near Englee, which is on the northeast coast of Newfoundland.

Photo by Alex Miller.

One of the crew collects algal biomass in a mesh bag on the right. The biomass was removed from the researchers’ defined one-meter area. The water could be as cold as 28 degrees F and as deep as 100 feet.



Upcoming Alumni And Friends Receptions And Special Events

March 20-24, 2007

North American Wildlife & Natural Resources Conference
Location, Reception Date & Time: TBA
Portland, OR

March 28, 2007, Time: 6:30PM

CNR Student Awards Banquet
Location: German Club
Blacksburg, VA

April 14, 2007, Time: 8AM

23th Annual Mudbass Tournament
American Fisheries Society Student Chapter
Location: Duck Pond on VT campus
Blacksburg, VA

May 11, 2007

Graduation Exercises & Graduate Student Graduation
Time & Location: TBA
Blacksburg, VA

May 11, 2007

College of Natural Sciences Graduation Exercises
Time & Location: TBA
Blacksburg, VA

July 5-8, 2007

Summer Around the Drillfield 2007
Colleges of Natural Resources,
Vet Med, and Agriculture & Life Sciences
Global Health Programs
Blacksburg, VA

