

# FOCUS

Fall 2012

THE MAGAZINE OF OSU COLLEGE OF FORESTRY



**Oregon State**  
UNIVERSITY

# Dean's Column



Greetings. It is a real honor to be writing the Dean's Column. Two years ago I was wondering about the challenges and opportunities of coming to Oregon State University as a department head, and now I've just quadrupled those thoughts for myself. Actually, I'm really excited to be in this position!

Since arriving I've learned that the College has a very talented faculty and staff who are dedicated to the success of our students and programs. I want to thank them for their confidence in me to provide leadership for this continuing quest. I've had the opportunity to meet many others around campus. I look forward to continuing and new collaborations between units as we all

work to make OSU a world-class land-grant university.

I've also had the opportunity to meet many leaders around the Northwest who value our forests and natural ecosystems for a multiplicity of economic, social, and environmental needs. I look forward to expanding this list of stakeholders and deepening our relationships and mutual respect for the sustainable management of our natural resources to meet the needs of an ever-expanding population.

Finally, I must thank Hal. He has faced new challenges while serving as Dean, and has helped the College to adapt to change. He has left me a strong foundation and starting point for implementing new ideas on broadening the reach of our research, expanding our programmatic collaboration with others, and producing the most sought-after, professional students in the world.

I have seven overarching goals that I will always bear in mind. Space is limited, but the basic ideas are: (1) We will provide top-tier professional forestry education. With many schools abandoning science-based land management, OSU will be the destination of choice for students and employers. (2) Diversify. Our graduates will work in diverse communities and cultures around the world, so we need to set the benchmark for inclusion of faculty, staff, and students. (3) Double enrollment. We need a critical mass for our degree programs to remain sustainable. (4) Broaden our funding base. Relying on state appropriations and student tuition provides too much flux for program planning. (5) Strengthen the FRL. Our scientific efforts will be channeled into four broad reaching institutes. One of them is described in this issue. (6) Internationalize, with a focus on the Pacific Rim. (7) Strengthen the public/private partnership. Our R&D must enhance the competitiveness of the Northwest forest sector.

This is an ambitious plan. I hope it is a vision we can share and work toward.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas Mess". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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## 2012 Phi Kappa Phi Initiation and Awards

Congratulations to the 2012 College of Forestry initiates into the honor society Phi Kappa Phi, the land-grant university equivalent of Phi Beta Kappa:

*Juniors* — Todd Bertwell and Shane Prohaska

*Seniors* — Dorian Alexanderson, Alexandra Pederson, Glynnys D. Pentecoste, Lori Leigh Price, and Danielle Lynn Womble

*Alumnus* — Benjamin LeBlanc

*Faculty* — Michael Wing

At the ceremony, Matt Betts received a Phi Kappa Phi Emerging Scholar Award in recognition of his outstanding research efforts.

Additional representatives from the College of Forestry who attended the initiation and awards ceremony included PKP Student Vice President Claire Rogan, outgoing PKP President Temesgen Hailemariam, PKP Treasurer Kevin Boston, John Sessions, Thomas Maness, and Jessica Fontaine.

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Cover: Cal Poly Logger  
Melissa Pechter  
competes in vertical  
chop at the 73rd  
AWFC Conclave in  
Corvallis, March 2012.  
Photo credit: Jeffrey  
Wimer, Director of  
the Student Logging  
Training Program and  
Advisor of the OSU  
Logging Sports Team.

## Attention Job Seekers and Employers!

The Student Services  
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site where alumni can find  
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their open positions.

See what's available at  
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Or call 541-737-1594  
to advertise your open  
position(s).



*The previous dean inherited an institution that differed in many ways to today's College of Forestry with its technological focus and its emphasis on new and emerging ideas of sustainability. How will you ensure that the College continues to grow and evolve?*

Public attitudes have shifted greatly over the past 12 years. The public is becoming increasingly concerned over large wildfires, insects and disease outbreaks, and rural poverty. The lack of active forest stewardship is seen as playing a role in these trends. In order to remedy that, we need to bring our college together and focus on the things that we have in common. Related to that, another key idea for the future is to broaden and expand the College's funding base to include conservation organizations and foundations, while at the same time ensuring that we continue to offer strong professional programs and research.

*Your research platform emphasizes a mosaic of ideas from the sectors of both timber production and ecosystem services, among others. As dean, what is the most effective means to ensure that representatives from each of these areas have their needs met? In what ways will you work to create a balanced curriculum, or encourage faculty to create a balanced curriculum, for new and continuing students?*

We have developed a very balanced Advisory Council for the new Professional Forestry Program. In our recent meeting we found that conservation organizations and private companies have many common needs and could actually be served by the same curriculum. I think one principal understanding is that not everyone can have their needs met by a single forest, but everyone's needs *can* be met over a large landscape through holistic management, with each landowner or agency showing a willingness to adapt to achieve a greater good.

Good communication is the key to success, and that means really trying to understand the issues instead of taking inflexible positions. The College of Forestry of the future will be the "coming together place" for all organizations that believe in stewardship and wise management of forests. Our social science researchers can help to develop the tools for better collaboration, and our students will

## Introducing Dean Thomas Maness

By Bryan Bernart

On August 1st, Thomas Maness, professor of Forest Economics and Policy and Head of the Department of Forest Engineering, Resources and Management, became the new Cheryl Ramberg and Allyn C. Ford Dean of Forestry and Director of the Oregon Forest Research Laboratory. This appointment followed Hal Salwasser's planned departure from the position at the conclusion of the 2011-2012 school year. Maness inherits a College that has grown significantly in size as well as in the breadth of its academic scope under Salwasser's leadership.

Maness first arrived at Oregon State in 2009. Prior to his involvement at OSU, he earned degrees at West Virginia University, Virginia Tech, and the University of Washington, and was a member of the Faculty of Forestry at the University of British Columbia. His experience outside of academia includes work for Weyerhaeuser and for the USDA Forest Service. His achievements include founding the Canadian National Centre of Excellence in Advanced Wood Processing and the BC Forum on Forest Economics and Policy. His international experience also includes program development for the University of Concepción and the University of Bío-Bío, both in Chile.

Dean Maness agreed to an extended Q&A style interview with the *Focus* in order to share his goals for the future of the College of Forestry.

be the beneficiaries of seeing these working relationships develop.

***Did you have a personal connection to Oregon State prior to your arrival at the College in 2009 as a professor and department head? What has been your relationship to the state of Oregon, generally?***

I worked in Oregon as a forest engineer in the early 1980s. During that time I backpacked in the Cascades, fly-fished in eastern Oregon, and generally had a great time in the state. My personal connection with OSU was that Professor Darius Adams was my PhD supervisor in Forest Economics when we were both at the University of Washington in the late 1980s. It's a happy coincidence that we both ended up here at the same time.

The appointment of Thomas Maness as the new Dean of the College of Forestry has generated enthusiasm from many at OSU. "Dr. Maness is passionate about the College of Forestry and he has extensive industry and academic experience," said Sabah Randhawa, OSU provost and executive vice president. "He is a broad thinker and understands sustainable, long-term management of forests and the resulting implications for forestry education, research, and outreach. His vision and experience will help us further advance the college and its contributions to the university's signature area of advancing the science of sustainable earth ecosystems."

*Bryan Bernart (OSU '10, English) is a Portland-based writer and actor.*

## Congratulations to our Successful Graduate Students

### **Josh Baur, PhD in Forest Resources**

Urban natural parks in Portland : nature, networks, and community health

### **Jenny Dauer, PhD in Forest Science**

Calcium-oxalate in sites of contrasting nutrient status in the Coast Range of Oregon

### **Eric Dinger, PhD in Forest Resources**

Characterizing early-seral competitive mechanisms influencing Douglas-fir seedling growth, vegetation community development, and physiology of selected weedy plant species

### **Cristina Eisenberg, PhD in Forest Resources**

Complexity of food web interactions in a large mammal system

### **Ryan Gordon, PhD in Forest Resources**

Public perceptions of sagebrush ecosystem management: a longitudinal panel study of residents in the Great Basin, 2006-2010

### **Kraisorn Lucksiri, PhD in Wood Science/Civil Engineering**

Development of rapid visual screening tool for seismic evaluation of wood-frame dwellings

### **Dirk Pflugmacher, PhD in Forest Science**

Remote sensing of forest biomass dynamics using Landsat-derived disturbance and recovery history and lidar data

### **Jacob Strunk, PhD in Forest Resources**

Modeling and estimation of selected forest attributes with Lidar and Landsat

### **John Tokarczyk, PhD in Wood Science**

An examination of strategic challenges and opportunities in the wood-based building product industry

### **Brian Wing, PhD in Forest Engineering**

Connecting the Dots: Using Filtered Airborne Discrete-Return Lidar to Identify and Predict Unique Forest Attributes

### **Jennifer Barnett, MS in Forest Engineering**

Estimating volume and value on standing timber in hybrid poplar plantations using terrestrial laser scanning

### **Mary Barnwell, MNR in Natural Resources**

Managing human resources to protect wildlife and natural ecosystems: A case study of the Weekiwachee Preserve, Hernando County, Florida

### **Patrick Fekety, MF in Forest Resources**

A History of southwestern Oregon's forests: People, ecology, and socio-politics that shaped the landscape

### **Todd Flournoy, MF in Forest Ecosystems & Society**

Local land-use planning for biodiversity conservation in exurban America

### **Dong-Wook Kim, MS in Forest Engineering**

Modeling air drying of Douglas-fir and hybrid poplar biomass in Oregon

### **Xiang Lin, MS in Wood Science**

Direct coupling of imaging to morphology-based numerical modeling as a tool for mechanics analysis of wood plastic composites

### **David Linton, MS in Wood Science/Civil Engineering**

Tsunami loading on light-frame wood structures

### **Michael Lovejoy, MNR in Natural Resources**

Willamette River Watershed management: Portland Oregon's Green Streets Initiative as a resource to manage stormwater flows and retention of heavy metals and other pollutants

### **Carolin Maier, MS in Forest Resources**

Building social capital through community-agency collaboration: a survey of residents in northeast Washington

### **Andrew Neill, MS in Forest Science**

Overstory density and disturbance impacts on the resilience of coniferous forests of western Oregon

### **Emily Pomeranz, MS in Forest Resources**

Direct stakeholder perceptions of collaboration, indicators, and compliance associated with the wilderness best management practices in Tracy Arm-Fords Terror Wilderness, Alaska

### **Kennedy Sichamba, MS in Wood Science**

Potential utilization of western juniper residues

### **Venkatesh Viswanath, MF in Forest Ecosystems & Society**

Transgenic modification of gibberellin metabolism and signaling for modifying growth rate and tree architecture in poplars.

### **Jennifer Wig, MS in Forest Science**

Effects of 20 years of litter and root manipulations on soil organic matter dynamics

### **Svetlana Yegorova, MS in Forest Science**

Bird-vegetation relationships across ten years after thinning in young thinned and unthinned Douglas-fir forests

### **Ruoqing Zhu, MS in Forest Science**

Growth, morphology, and in vitro development of transgenic poplars with RNAi-inhibited PtDDM1-1/2 gene expression

# Seeing the Forest and the Trees



Fire ecology class taught by OSU professors Rick Miller and Stephen Fitzgerald and USFS Ecologist Gregg Riegel. The Deschutes National Forest site illustrates a dense forest that may benefit from forest restoration treatment. Photo credit: Stephen Fitzgerald.

## New Working Forests Institute to highlight connections between communities and the natural environment

By Bryan Bernart

The College of Forestry has proposed the creation of a new research, education, and outreach institute focused on working forests. The institute will endeavor to promote a strong economy and high environmental quality from managing public and private forests in the Pacific Northwest in innovative ways.

So what, exactly, is a working forest? Put simply, a working forest is one that produces revenue and other societal benefits simultaneously. These goals may at first seem at odds with one another, and indeed that is the popular perception in the media and elsewhere. Randy Rosenberger, professor of environmental economics, asserts that this assumption is “counter-productive and antagonistic,” and that, in fact, “some lands can sustain a primarily timber production objective with constraints that ensure a reasonable level of other ecosystem services.”

Dean Thomas Maness notes that Aldo Leopold, a luminary of modern environmental ethics, wrote that the oldest challenge in human history is to live on a piece of land without spoiling it.

“This challenge is at the core of our purpose in the College of Forestry,” Maness says. “There is evidence that this is not only possible, but happening right now. What we have to do, however, is show people how it can work. You can holistically manage the entire landscape so that we get more public benefit from it—but this requires communication, collaboration, and compromise.”

The College’s proposed Working Forests Institute (WFI) will be a showcase for these ideas, and it will focus on providing long-term studies, both ecological and economic, in order to learn from the experience. The WFI, like other working forests, may consist of a blend of short and long-term rotations as well as areas managed for their conservation value. It will focus on the differences, as well as opportunities for consolidation, between management strategies on public and private lands. Potential revenue sources for the WFI will include sustainably harvested timber, carbon offset projects, provision of clean water, and wildlife habitat.

The institute will function as a means to address concerns that foresters and communities have grappled with for many years, chiefly, the fact that forests managed for only one or two purposes (as opposed to the WFI’s multiple simultaneous uses) can have limited efficacy. For example, short-rotation forestry, while often economically viable, is governed by a boom-and-bust economy that can be detrimental to the communities in which the industry exists. By expanding the range of products that come from forestlands, economic stability is improved, and investment in the community can be sustained. Further, the results of various research projects, including those taking place at the College, can be synthesized into a balanced set of management prescriptions that professional foresters may use to make critical decisions. The proposed institute could serve as a proving ground for those prescriptions, particularly because the ultimate goal of the WFI will be to provide for human needs, while also maintaining and enhancing land health.

The institute will be led by a director and will bring together researchers from a number of related institutes, research cooperatives, and agencies to form interdisciplinary teams. The WFI will include an outreach unit with the goal of educating important stakeholders as well as the general public regarding possibilities for implementation and forest improvement. Potential collaborating partners include the USDA Forest Service, and the OSU Watersheds Research Coop, along with dozens of others.

The College is well-prepared to support the proposed institute, Maness says. This is largely due to its strength across a variety of fields—ecological research, forest engineering, and social science—demonstrating the power of balanced enterprise on a small scale. Proponents of the WFI hope to demonstrate a similar balance on a large scale, both for forestlands and for communities.

“Communities know the value of future generations,” says Maness. “Our ancestors were not concerned only for themselves—they built schools, hospitals, and parks because they were mindful of those who would follow them.”

This applies to forest management as well, Maness asserts. “Forestry was created as a profession because without careful ethics, discipline, and science, the focus can turn to short-term gain without concern for what happens next. In taking the long view, we are ensuring the future of our sector.”



(Top) Loading logs to be transported to a local mill; and ponderosa pine stand after thinning, Deschutes National Forest. Photo credits: Stephen Fitzgerald. Hinkle Creek Paired Watershed site. Photo credit: Caryn Davis. Recreational trail riders, McDonald-Dunn Forest. Photo credit: OSU College Forests.



Varied thrush. Photo credit: Adam Hadley (PhD student, FES).

## Bioacoustics in Birdland

### How computer scientists and wildlife ecologists are changing the way we listen to the environment

*By Bryan Bernart*

It's 5:30 AM. While many of us are fast asleep, for a field researcher taking a bird census, the day has already begun. For the next several hours, he or she will hike many miles, stopping for 10 minutes at each site to listen for, and then identify, bird calls. The next day, and for every day following it, the process is the same.

"Honestly, it takes a lot of effort," says Matt Betts, an associate professor of forest wildlife landscape ecology. "It's a highly skilled occupation; there aren't many people who can do this kind of job."

Even some who are trained for it will not end up working in the forest. "There are a lot more interesting things to do in ecology than stand around and count birds," Betts notes. "With that in mind, we came up with the question, 'Can we automate this process?'"

The answer arrived in 2008 following the formation of the OSU Bioacoustics Group. The group comprises a number of scientists, including students, faculty, and outside collaborators, hailing from such disparate fields as ecology, electrical engineering, computer science, and marine resources. Its aim has been to solve ecological problems using tools from mathematics, as well as to discover new problems in mathematics due to the necessity of solving environmental issues.

With such a broad scope, why study birds, specifically? "Birds are often excellent indicator species—the canaries in the coal mine, so to speak," Betts explains. As is the case with frogs and amphibians, the health of a bird population can say much about the rest of an ecosystem. Thus, it would be useful to have an effective



means for studying bird populations, especially if it doesn't involve time-consuming and arduous fieldwork.

This is where Forrest Briggs, a PhD student in Computer Science at OSU, and other members of the group come in. A 2006 graduate of Harvey Mudd College, Briggs has been working to develop software capable of identifying species of birds using recordings of their songs collected in the field and uploaded to a laboratory computer many miles away. Birds can be classified using algorithms. Briggs explains that an algorithm "is a step-by-step, unambiguous sequence of instructions for how to accomplish a particular task. A cooking recipe, for example, is an algorithm."

By using machine learning, a sub-field of artificial intelligence, algorithms can, through exposure to many different instances of bird song, be made more effective in classifying the birds present in those recordings. An algorithm does this by analyzing the spectrogram that is generated when a recording is represented visually, allowing properties such as frequency, length, and amplitude of the sound to be observed. The algorithm compares results with



Clark's nutcracker pulling seeds from a whitebark pine cone. Photo credit: Rebecca Brenton ('11, NR; post-bacc, FM). Brenton is currently working on the fish bio crew for the USDA Forest Service, Tiller Ranger District, Umpqua National Forest.

other human-expert-labeled examples to make a prediction based on similarity.

It is simpler to classify other animals than it is to classify birds, says Betts. For example, it's easy for an algorithm to identify a single species of cricket because a cricket will chirp at a certain frequency. "With birds, it's more difficult. Their songs are intricate, and when multiple species are audible, they will even sing over each other," he says. "Because of the many variables involved in this study, the algorithms we employ are complex."

At present, the Bioacoustics Group is using 16 microphones in the H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest in order to capture birdsong recordings, and would like to expand the study over a larger area. Betts envisions 24-hour surveillance of bird populations, which would enable researchers to know precisely when birds enter and exit a site, and, when analyzed alongside other data, including environmental and climatological changes, why they do so.

In a few years, a form of this technology may even become available to citizen scientists who are interested in bird ecology. "People have a lot of affinity for birds," says Betts. "We'd like to have an iPhone app that would use our technology to allow citizen scientists to classify birds in their own backyards, or in locations around the world. That's a really exciting possibility."



Researcher Sarah Hadley (PhD student, FES) is using this instrument to monitor bird sounds in the forest. This technology is far more effective than any available before. Photo credit: Forrest Briggs.



# Tomorrow's Research Today

WS&E undergrads are shaping the face of renewable materials science

By Bryan Bernart

The Department of Wood Science & Engineering distinguishes itself from other departments on campus by offering an extensive undergraduate student research component through its Renewable Materials major. Opportunities to work in the forest products industry enable CoF undergraduates to take valuable steps forward in their careers even before receiving their diplomas.

David Smith, undergraduate advisor and instructor in the WS&E department credits Ed Jensen and Eric Hansen for starting the program. "One of the casualties of our new Renewable Materials curriculum was the cancelation of the Senior Project requirement. We were looking for a

way to expand hands-on learning opportunities for our students when Ed Jensen, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, suggested we take better advantage of the College's undergraduate mentor/protégé program," says Smith. "We found that this program, generously supported by the College's Board of Visitors, is ideally suited to getting undergraduates started in research."

The primary goal of the program is to provide experiential learning opportunities to students in a way that enables them to work directly with faculty on research and problem solving projects. "Eric Hansen, Professor and Interim WS&E Department Head, was instrumental in encouraging the WSE faculty to recognize the advantages of embracing the program and taking on students in their labs. It not only enhances classroom learning and promotes critical thinking skills, but helps faculty expand their research," says Smith. "Eric also perceived it as a way for the department to better serve industry through collaborative applied research."

Examples of successful student research projects include "Structural Properties of Laminated Beams made with Bamboo," by Skylar Mlasko and Danny Way, who graduated in June 2012 and are working in industry. Their project was funded by the first-ever grant from the OSU Student



(Top) Thor Dodson (RM) making a wood fiber composite with a hot press; Dodson and Elijah Wilson (RM) pressing LVL in the composites lab in Richardson. Photo credit: Logan Bernart.



(Left) Thor Dodson (RM) making a wood fiber composite with a hot press (photo credit: Logan Bernart, WST '11 & WS grad student); Allison Zumwalt (junior, RM) working on an industry-sponsored project to assess wood quality in hybrid poplar. Zumwalt's advisor is Scott Leavengood, Associate Professor and Director of the Oregon Wood Innovation Center. Photo credit: Scott Leavengood.

Sustainability Initiative. They partnered with Bamboo Revolution and Western Structures, two companies in the renewable materials industry, to fabricate and test beams in a lab in Richardson.

Another project, “Stormwater Filtration Markets for Biochar,” originated from the wood products industry and involved recent graduate Annie Simmonds ('12, RM) and junior Camille Moyers (RM). Biochar, created when woody biomass is processed for other purposes, can capture zinc and other heavy metals that contribute to site contamination. Knowledge gained through this study may help industry justify investment in and re-tooling of closed wood-processing mill sites in rural Oregon into biomass processing centers. These sites will use locally available and underutilized forest resources to make valuable products, as well as provide jobs and energy self-sufficiency to economically depressed communities.

Smith emphasizes that in addition to providing educational opportunities, the program helps fortify relationships between the forest industry and the College. “Having a close relationship with our students’ future employers is good for both the department and for our students,” Smith says. “We want to both help companies solve product performance problems, as well as help students learn about application issues. By developing our students’ skills, we increase our capacity to do testing work that the industry finds financially valuable.”

As for the practicality and usefulness of student research in a professional environment, Smith points out that the RM students often work on projects that originated in industry or were created in order to address industry problems, and that some students are working on supported research in faculty labs. “There is very little, if any,

‘busy work’ being done simply to teach skills,” says Smith. “In all cases, the work has value to every party involved.”

The newest batch of research is led by students such as sophomore Thor Dodson, who has been working with Professor John Nairn on a project combining wood pulp fibers with polymers to form new composites. After his first year in the RM program, Dodson, a member of the University Honors College, is impressed with the research environment. “The College has excellent facilities and a professional atmosphere—these already help prepare students for work in the industry.”

Based on his experiences so far, Dodson has advice for the next wave of freshman entering the program: “Do your homework! And don't be afraid to talk to the professors,” he says. “They really do enjoy teaching and ensuring that their students are successful.”



The Department of Wood Science and Engineering welcomed its new department head, Laurence “Laurie” Schimleck, on June 1, 2012.

Originally from Australia, Dr. Schimleck joins the College from the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources at the University of Georgia. His research interests include the development of new and innovative technologies for the measurement of wood properties.

# Cold Play: Conclave Comes to Corvallis



## 73rd Annual AWFC gathering a time for competition and camaraderie

By Bryan Bernart

Spring break came just a few days after record-breaking cold temperatures and late snow in the Willamette Valley. The wet, chilly conditions may have added an extra challenge or two, but didn't prevent the OSU Forestry Club from hosting a terrific event. "They put on a great Conclave!" said a participant from Cal Poly's forestry club.

Thirteen schools from throughout the West participated in the 73rd annual AWFC Conclave. The tradition began in 1939, two years after a

group of Montana Forestry Club members founded the Association of Western Forestry Clubs (AWFC). Oregon State's Forestry Club, founded in 1906, joined AWFC, along with other clubs from schools west of the 100th meridian. The first Conclave was held in Montana in 1939 as a means to foster community between the schools.

Since its inception, schools from California, Idaho, Nevada, Colorado, Utah, Washington, and Oregon have taken turns hosting the event. This



(Top) Pat Fitzmorris (Ag Sciences), of the OSU Logging Sports Team, competes in the vertical chop; Justin Thomas (FE) of the OSU Logging Sports Team, spins a competitor into the chilly waters of Cronemiller Lake in the log roll; Cody Cone (FOM), Sam Dussel (RRM) and another student near a warming fire. Photo credits: Jeffrey Wimer.



year marked OSU's first time hosting since 2003. Held primarily at Peavy Arboretum, Conclave is a chance for students to learn about natural resources and other fields, as well as demonstrate their prowess in timber sports.

The week's events began on Monday, March 26, with a tour of the World Forestry Center in Portland, followed by dinner at Camp 18, a historic logging museum in the community of Elsie, north of the Tillamook State Forest. On Tuesday, the action moved to Corvallis. Students and faculty toured the historic Hull Oaks facility, as well as managed forest sites. Over the remainder of the week, students split their time between competing with each other and enjoying the camaraderie of the event. On Friday, the teams came together for a celebratory barbecue and awards banquet to mark the close of Conclave.

Susan Duncan ('12), believes that the strength of the College was critical for the success of the event. "The host school has many responsibilities," she says. "There must be a suitable and prepared space in order to hold a competition this size. The event requires a committee and many forestry volunteers. For that reason, it's important that we have such significant student support."

Jeffrey Wimer, Director of the OSU Student Logging Training Program, concurs. "Conclave was a huge undertaking, much larger than anyone had anticipated," he says. "I have to commend the students who stuck with it and stepped up and helped out. It was a successful event with over 180 contestants from all over the West Coast."

In addition, the STIHL TIMBERSPORTS Western Qualifier was held immediately after Conclave. Several TV channels were on campus to film the event, which will be broadcast at a later date (see [www.stihltimbersports.us](http://www.stihltimbersports.us) for schedule details).



OSU Logging Sports Team members Avery Kool (RRM) and Amanda Mendez (RRM) identify samples in the dendrology competition (top); and Kasey Johnson (FM) competes in single buck. Photo credits: Jeffrey Wimer.

## CE Award goes to Melissa Stone

Melissa Stone (FE) was awarded David Evans and Associates, Inc. Excellence in Civil Engineering Award for the 2011–2012 academic year. The award was given in recognition of her outstanding individual performance throughout the Capstone Project; passion for and interest in her civil engineering discipline; initiative and creativity; collaboration and teamwork; communication skills; and leadership abilities. Congrats, Melissa!

## Sundberg awarded prestigious Honors College Scholarship

The OSU University Honors College (UHC) has chosen Ben Sundberg (RM/CE) as a recipient of the prestigious Honors Promise Finishing Scholarship. Recipients are chosen by faculty from a pool of UHC nominees. The \$5,000 scholarship recognizes the most dedicated, involved, and accomplished students of UHC—which is already a select group of OSU's brightest and best students. Congrats, Ben!

## 2012 Outstanding Alumni

The College of Forestry was pleased to honor Dennis Dykstra, Andrea Thorpe, and John Murphy, Jr. as Outstanding Alumni for 2012. Each year at the Spring Awards Ceremony in May, the College recognizes alumni who have used their education to excel professionally, provide inspirational leadership, and benefit others in their communities, the state of Oregon, and beyond.

Dennis Dykstra earned his bachelor's degree in forest engineering at OSU in 1966, returning a few years later as an instructor. He earned a PhD in industrial engineering from OSU, and then went on to teach at three additional universities, including one in Tanzania. Dykstra has had an outstanding career in global forestry and global forest conservation, including serving as Director of the World Forestry Center in Portland, Director for the International Center for Forestry Research, and Forestry Officer for the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization. Dykstra has also represented the College and profession as an active member and leader in the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO).

Andrea Thorpe graduated from OSU with a bachelor's degree in natural resources in 1998, then earned her doctorate from the University of Montana in 2006. She has worked for the Coast Range Association, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and is currently the Conservation Research Program Director



(From left) Dennis Dykstra, Andrea Thorpe, and John Murphy at the Institute for Applied Ecology in Corvallis. Thorpe's research focuses on the restoration and conservation of native species and habitats.

John Murphy, a 2003 forestry graduate with a bachelor's degree in wood technology and minor in business administration, is considered an early career award winner. After graduation he began with Murphy Veneer to learn production from the arrival of logs at the mill. He now oversees Murphy Companies' southern region.



### CEM Award to CoF Prof Pyles

Congrats to Professor Marv Pyles (FERM) on receiving the "CEM Instructor of the Year Award" from the Construction Engineering Management students

at OSU. The award is given in recognition of excellence in teaching, and is the CEM students' equivalent to the Aufderheide Award. Pyles received the award at "Contractor's Night," which brings together CEM students, faculty, and members of the Associated General Contractors.



### Our Forestry Hero

The Professional Faculty Leadership Association (PFLA) awarded Terralyn Vandetta the OUR HERO award for February 2012. Vandetta, who is Associate Director of Forestry Computing

Resources, was presented the award for exceptional customer service "beyond the call of duty" and her incredible contributions to CoF efforts in the annual Food Drive to benefit Linn-Benton Food Share. Congrats, Terralyn!

### Twelve Years and Still "Top Banana"

For the 12th consecutive year, the College of Forestry won the coveted "Top Banana" Award in the OSU Food Drive, after collecting contributions equaling 56,962 pounds of food for Linn-Benton Food Share.

OSU collected a grand total of 635,845 pounds of food campus wide, exceeding the target for 2012 by more than 55,000 pounds. Special thanks to the CoF Food Drive Planning Committee and everyone else who participated by helping with events and giving generously.



# Reflections from the Dean

I am pleased to welcome Thomas Maness as the new Cheryl Ramberg and Allyn C. Ford Dean of Forestry. He brings a wealth of experience to the position. The search process was exciting, with outstanding candidates from across the nation. The three finalists who interviewed on campus were all superb individuals. The message to me—the strong reputation of the College makes it a desired destination for scientists and leaders.

Reflecting about twelve years in this job is overwhelming. One would think colleges operate in a repetitive cycle with routine tasks each term. In reality change is the one over-riding constant at the University. You watch the best and brightest graduate, wondering how they will be replaced. The next year our classrooms are filled with a larger number of new, eager faces. Budgets have gone up, and just as quickly they have gone down. Faculty retire, vacancies go unfilled, we restructure, faculty and staff adapt, and we continue to achieve excellence. I can't say enough about the productivity and creativity of our people. Areas of research have changed as new issues have come to the forefront. Also, the approach to research has changed. There are now more large-scale, collaborative projects connecting the expertise from different colleges, universities, agencies, and industry for inclusive approaches to complex problems.

The unmatched generosity of alums and friends of the College has continued to amaze me. A steady stream of gifts for scholarships has been a key factor for attracting and retaining future stewards of our heritage. The number of endowed faculty positions has risen from 4 to 15—enabling us to attract and reward world-class faculty.

This job has also allowed me to interact with a wide range of land owners/managers, industry leaders, government officials, and directors of conservation/environmental groups from Oregon, the Northwest, and across the nation. These people have different perspectives, and place different values on components of forestry and natural resources, but they have more in common than not. They value the mix of environmental, social and economic benefits of our forestlands, and recognize that all must work together to help retain these values for now and the future.

Finally, I think educating students and producing top quality graduates for the workforce, as scientists, and as future educators is our most important task. As I step down from my Dean duties, I plan to continue this task and spend time in the classroom sharing my experiences and perspectives from both my US Forest Service and OSU careers.

Thanks to all for providing me this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

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## 2011–2012 College of Forestry Awards

### *Harold Bowerman Leadership Award*

Michael Shettles and Quincy Coons

### *Paul & Neva Dunn Outstanding Senior Award*

Claire Rogan and Annie Simmonds

### *Kelly Axe Award*

Patrick Boedigheimer

### *Aufderheide Award for Excellence in Teaching*

John Bailey

### *XSP/Julie Kliever Award for Excellence in Mentoring*

Jo Tynon

### *Outstanding Student Awards*

FE/CE: Claire Rogan

FM: Chris Hoffman

FOM: Garren Hitner

NR: Becky Brenton

RRM: Chad Lilly

TOL: Elyse Lynch

WST: Annie Simmonds

### *Photo of the Year*

Dora Anderson, NR, "Ash Cave, OH"

### *CoF t-shirt design contest*

Riley Peck, NR



## National Award to Extension Forester

CoF Professor and Extension Forester Stephen Fitzgerald will receive the 2012 National Technology Transfer & Extension Award from the Society of American Foresters (SAF) at the annual meeting in October. This national award recognizes Fitzgerald’s long career of service and excellence to private forest owners, professional natural resource managers, and the Society of American Foresters throughout Oregon

and beyond. He will join an impressive list of Extension & Technology Transfer experts from around the country who have received this award in past years. The award comes with a \$1,000 cash prize and a travel stipend to attend the 2012 national convention, which will be held in Spokane.



## National and Regional Award for Climate Change Handbook

Professor Viviane Simon-Brown’s *Climate Change Handbook: A Citizen’s Guide to Thoughtful Action* won both a Western Regional

and National Educational Piece-Team Award from NACDEP, the National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals.

The *Climate Change Handbook* (CEO 4b) is part of the CoF/FRL “Contributions in Education and Outreach” series. It is available with its companion, *Sustainable Living Handbook* (CEO 4a), online at the OSU Libraries Open Access database, ScholarsArchive@OSU. This free online collection contains more than 2,215 publications by researchers from the College of Forestry/Forest Research Laboratory. View or download them at [ir.library.oregonstate.edu/xmlui/handle/1957/7530](http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/xmlui/handle/1957/7530).

## Oregon SAF Awards

The recent annual meeting of the Oregon SAF ended with an awards banquet that included honorees in the College.

- **Research Award.** Doug Maguire (FERM) and the 15 members of the “RipStream” study team, for their research on watershed and stream conditions in western Oregon’s forests. The team also included Liz Dent (MS, forest hydrology, ‘93), the new deputy chief of the State Forests Division, which manages 830,000 acres of state-owned forest land under the Oregon Department of Forestry.
- **Lifetime Achievement Award.** John Bell, Professor Emeritus, for his teaching, research and long-time support of SAF.
- **Outstanding Student Award.** Mike Shettles (senior in Forest Management) for his leadership of the student chapter and his outstanding academic career.
- **Forester of the Year.** Mike Cloughesy, former Forestry Extension Agent, faculty member and OFRI collaborator on many College projects.

## In Memoriam

William Allison McKinnie (Bill)

October 19, 1952 — March 31, 2012

William Allison McKinnie, 59, died at Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center in Corvallis in March. Born in Portland in 1952, Bill was raised in California. He knew from a young age that he wanted to be a professional forester; he attended OSU, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in forestry in 1975.

After a short time with Georgia-Pacific, Bill formed his consulting businesses, ForEvergreen Woodland Management and Yaquina Forestry Services. He handled all aspects of private forestland management.

He became interested in forestry abroad and formed International Forestry Investments. He was part owner in a large radiata pine plantation in New Zealand and oversaw all aspects of this forest, including planting an old sheep pasture into a thriving, healthy plantation. He worked with investors in forests in the Amazon Basin of Brazil, in Peru, Belize, and Chile.

Bill was selected the 2011 Lincoln County Tree Farmer of the Year for his exemplary practices on his family’s 160-acre American Tree Farm System Certified Tree Farm. He was a longtime member of the Association of Consulting Foresters, a Certified Forester and member of the Society of American Foresters. He was a qualified Technical Service Provider for forestry projects of the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

He was a member of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association, the Tropical Forest Foundation and the International Society of Tropical Foresters; and he played with the OSU Alumni Band.

Survivors include his wife, Gerciane Dias De Lima McKinnie of Belem, Brazil; daughters Amber McKinnie and Megan McKinnie, both of Portland; sisters Christine McKinnie and Jean Tennon, both of California; and mother, Virginia McKinnie.

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