



# FOCUS

Spring 2013

THE MAGAZINE OF OSU COLLEGE OF FORESTRY

**Oregon State**  
UNIVERSITY

# Dean's Column



## College of Forestry — the Next Generation

Some people believe that forestry is just about growing trees. At the College of Forestry, we believe it's about growing healthy landscapes. Healthy landscapes are composed of more than just healthy ecosystems; they also include vibrant communities, sustainable businesses, and healthy people connected to the land. To help realize this vision, our next generation of researchers will create new science to link sustainable communities to a resilient, working landscape. We have much work to do to achieve our goals, but we've already made great progress.

This year has been filled with new developments. We have added six new faculty members and searches for three more are underway. New faculty equate to new energy, new research, new learning opportunities, and new graduate students. Old labs are being remodeled and new equipment is arriving. The energy is contagious—our faculty and staff are involved in exciting conversations to develop new goals and ideas focused on our future accomplishments. FERM is moving ahead with our new field-based professional school and cooperative education program. FES is developing a new science-based education program to support the tenants of collaborative conservation and prepare students for new careers in natural resources management and for graduate school. The Renewable Materials Program in WSE is attracting a generation of new students who will create innovative products from the most sustainable raw materials on earth.

To lead these efforts, we have a fresh leadership team in place. Randy Rosenberger, our new Associate Dean of Undergraduate Programs, is working to step up the academic excellence and relevance of our professional programs by dramatically increasing experiential learning opportunities with new and existing partners of the College. In the newly created position of Associate Dean for Graduate and International Programs, John Bliss is focused on achieving excellence in our graduate programs and nurturing our global connections, especially in the Pacific Rim. Jim Johnson has added Outreach to his portfolio as Associate Dean of Extension, and will be developing new professional education and alumni programs. Steve Tesch is taking on a new role as Director of Research and will work to re-frame and expand research excellence in our College, with an eye toward new private research partnerships. Finally, Geoff Huntington has joined the College as Director of Strategy. Geoff's job is to keep everyone hopping—and so far he's been succeeding!

With this team in place to support and leverage the energy of our great staff and faculty, I am excited every time I walk the halls of Peavy and Richardson and proud to be Dean of this dynamic College. The months to come will bring much more to share, and I look forward to doing just that.

*Thomas Mess*

Dean  
Thomas Maness

Development Director  
Zak Hansen

Managing Editor  
Caryn M. Davis

Writers  
Bryan Bernart  
Caryn Davis  
Nick Houtman

Designers  
Caryn Davis  
Sandra Arbogast

Photographers  
Bryan Bernart, Ed Jensen,  
Aureo Aparecido Abreu, Jr.,  
Fred Kamke, Nick Houtman,  
Forestry Communications,  
and others

**How to Reach Us**  
Address changes:  
Tonya Fodge  
Oregon State University  
Foundation  
850 SW 35th Street  
Corvallis, OR 97333  
Tonya.Fodge@oregonstate.edu  
(541) 737-9846

Other questions/comments:  
Caryn Davis  
College of Forestry  
Oregon State University  
154 Peavy Hall  
Corvallis, OR 97331-5704  
caryn.davis@oregonstate.edu  
www.forestry.oregonstate.edu

For information specifically about the *Focus* magazine and other publications, call (541) 737-4270. For questions about College of Forestry events and other matters, contact the Dean's office at (541) 737-1585, or visit the website at [www.forestry.oregonstate.edu](http://www.forestry.oregonstate.edu)

*Focus* is published by Oregon State University College of Forestry. Our goal is to keep Forestry alumni, friends, faculty, staff, and students informed about the College of Forestry and its many activities and programs.

All or parts of this publication may be reproduced with credit to the OSU College of Forestry. Oregon State University is an Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity employer and complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Gift funds provided to the OSU Foundation and the College of Forestry help pay for color reproduction of the *Focus*.

Does the College of Forestry have your e-mail address? Please help the college save money and improve communication by sharing your e-mail address. Please send an e-mail to [Tonya.Fodge@oregonstate.edu](mailto:Tonya.Fodge@oregonstate.edu) and ask us to update our e-mail records. Thank you.

# FOCUS

Spring 2013

THE MAGAZINE OF OSU COLLEGE OF FORESTRY

## Contents

Building Partnerships, Building Trust: Community-based wildfire research includes Australia and Canada	2
Road Trip! WSE 465 goes on the road again to learn about renewable materials manufacturing	4
Cutting a Trail: How Claire Montgomery's vision is shaping the FERM Department	6
Changes in Latitude, Positive Attitude: Brazilian students seek challenges inside the classroom and beyond, while finding fun and friends in forestry	8
Steps Toward a Bright Tomorrow: First-generation college student ShyAnne Woods looks forward to helping others	10
Nice to meet you: College of Forestry welcomes six new members of the faculty	11



Cover: *The "Moon Tree" in front of Peavy Hall, 2010.*  
Photo credit: Ed Jensen.  
See also back cover: *planting the Moon Tree seedling, 1976.*

## Attention Job Seekers and Employers!

The Student Services Office offers an employment site where alumni can find job announcements and employers can advertise their open positions.

See what's available at [jobs.forestry.oregonstate.edu](http://jobs.forestry.oregonstate.edu)  
Or call 541-737-1594 to advertise your open position(s).



# Building Partnerships, Building Trust

## Community-based Wildfire Research includes Australia and Canada

By Bryan Bernart

The magnitude and severity of wildfires in the United States has greatly increased in recent years, particularly in the wildland-urban interface (WUI), where steady population growth has resulted in risk to people and property. Conditions present a serious challenge to forest management agencies and citizens. Perhaps surprisingly, however, the most important tool needed to meet this challenge may not be the latest in fire-fighting equipment or electronic technology, but something much more traditional: the ability to forge and maintain working partnerships that lead to effective programs. “Most everyone now realizes that the wildfire problem is too big for any one agency or organization,” explains Bruce Shindler, professor in the Forest Ecosystems and Society Department at the College of Forestry.

For the past 12 years, Shindler has worked with the Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP), the research cooperative of the six federal agencies that respond to fire problems on federal public lands. Although most of these agencies’ resources have gone toward fire suppression, particularly where fires threaten homes and property, there is an increasing emphasis on

the ways in which communities prepare for fire events, as well as recover from them. Shindler’s research explores the implementation of successful management strategies and is focused particularly on collaboration among agencies and communities for pre-fire mitigation and post-fire restoration.

We are not alone in these challenges, Shindler notes, as other nations are experiencing similar problems, particularly Canada and Australia. Recent catastrophic blazes in southeast Australia include the 2009 Black Saturday bushfires that killed 173 people. In May 2011, Alberta Canada experienced its largest wildfire on record in the community of Slave Lake and Sawridge First Nation, resulting in the loss of 400 homes and the evacuation of 10,000 residents. With support from the JFSP, Shindler leads an international team of scientists that includes Christine Olsen at OSU and as researchers from the USDA Forest Service, Natural Resources Canada, University of Alberta, and Charles Sturt University in Australia.

In each setting, resource professionals agree that community-based relationships are essential to creating strategies that will stand up to the

unpredictability and complexity of wildland fire management. Citizen trust in natural resource agencies is one of the most significant factors influencing support or opposition to management activities. The research team is utilizing an innovative field-based approach to examine factors in how agencies and stakeholders come together to reach agreement. They are conducting workshops in at-risk communities in Oregon, Alberta, and Victoria (Australia) with highly skilled agency managers and community leaders. Participants utilize their knowledge of local conditions and interactions with one another to describe specific actions that contribute to successful outcomes. In addition, field visits to wildfire sites in each location provide a useful forum to discuss current conditions and treatment alternatives. These activities are providing an atmosphere in which all participants (researchers, management personnel, and community leaders) learn from one another.

“We see that many of the same issues and problems exist in our three countries and understand we can benefit from our common experiences,” Shindler says. “For example, the public responds well to programs that target familiar places they care about and plans have an element of give-and-take discussion with forest managers. Overall, there is an awareness of the fire problem, but fuels reduction treatments such as prescribed fire and thinning programs must be understood and well supported by the individuals who are most affected.”

Another similarity is the additional layer of complexity created by increasing numbers of urban dwellers, often retirees, moving to rural communities or into WUI areas. This complicates the wildfire problem in that long-time residents, who have sometimes personally defended their properties from fire, now live side-by-side with inexperienced neighbors. Good communication and trust-building in these settings becomes essential. The Australians have adapted quite well in these cases, largely because of the Country Fire Authority—a community-based, volunteer fire-fighting force that is widely respected and supported.

Although government structure and fire management responsibilities vary across settings, experienced resource professionals in all three countries agree that agencies and personnel must make a deliberate decision that collaboration with stakeholders is part of how they will conduct business. This often means interagency cooperation, partnerships with residents for community wildfire protection plans, sharing



resources, and allowing local leaders to play a central role. Different communities have different levels of knowledge and expertise. Recognizing them is essential to crafting strategies that respond to both ecological conditions and citizen expectations.

The research team will continue its work through 2013 as it highlights common factors leading to success in at risk-communities and examines important differences that will influence each country’s management approach.



Photos: (p. 2) international team at local fire station in Yackandandah, northeast Victoria, Australia; (p. 3, from top) home in the path of a wildfire (Steve Whitby, courtesy of CAL FIRE); prescribed burning in central Oregon; Bruce Shindler.

# Road Trip!

## WSE 465 goes on the road again to learn about renewable materials manufacturing

By Bryan Bernart



Fred Kamke, professor in the Wood Science & Engineering (WSE) Department, was this year's stalwart guide during a mobile class that takes students through the mountains, valleys, and coastal forests of Oregon. Now in its second year, "WSE 465: Renewable Materials Manufacturing Experience," has evolved into a five-day road trip for students looking to expand their knowledge of the manufacturing process in its many permutations. The course allows students to visit and learn about a number of renewable

materials industrial and commercial operations representing all parts of the renewable materials value chain.

"It came about as a result of our revision of the undergraduate program," says Kamke. "Two years ago, we began creating a new curriculum in renewable materials and had to change every single course we offered at the undergraduate level."

Among other things, these changes meant reducing the number of credit and contact hours in the program, which limited the length of time students had for labs, and consequently, how many manufacturing facilities students could visit, since lab hours are often used for tours. To circumvent this issue, the department now offers a one-week course before the start of fall classes. The course comprises "wherever we can drive within that span of time," says Kamke. "If we can go there, we will."

In its first iteration in 2011, students led by Professor John Simonsen (WSE) traveled north, touring facilities in and around Portland before heading east along I-84. This year, Kamke and his students went south. After spending the first day in the Corvallis area touring Starker Forests,





the Thompson Sort Yard, and the ShelterWorks plant, which manufactures semi-renewable, highly insulating wood and concrete building blocks, they hit the road in earnest. Although they traveled over 750 miles, Kamke's group never spent longer than two hours between stops. Heading to Eugene and then to North Bend, Grants Pass, and Medford, among other cities, they saw the myriad of processes used to create everything from glued laminated beams to hand-crafted acoustic guitars. The class even visited the largest manufacturer of wooden arrows in the world, Rose City Archery, in Myrtle Creek.

After visiting facilities, the group would stay in a motel for the evening and complete write-ups of the day's events. Some students got a little more writing practice than they bargained for, jokes Aureo Aparecido Abreu, Jr., one of four forestry students visiting from Brazil. "It was really awesome because we traveled around for a whole week," he says. "But when we were inside facilities, it was hard for us to understand all of the technical words, especially when we were

wearing ear protection. When we were writing our reports at the end of the day, we'd look up terms and discover that they didn't exist in Portuguese!"

Lorena Nascimento and Samira Santos, also from Brazil, were excited to take the course and see much of Oregon, as well as learn more about renewable materials. Nascimento most enjoyed the tour of Natural Element Homes. "They make log houses," she explains. "It can take up to 5 years to construct one—it was fascinating!"

Graduate students were also welcome in the class. For Greeley Beck, master's student in wood science/materials science, it was the first course to take at OSU: "Coming from a non-wood science background, this class was a perfect introduction to the forest products industry," he explains. Although the course is aimed at upper-level students, it would be tremendously useful even for freshmen, adds Jesse Paris (doctoral candidate in wood science): "I cannot begin to describe the value this trip represents," he says. "It is a fantastic opportunity to show those interested in the WSE program the diversity of products and technologies they would learn here, as well as the importance of those products in the global economy."

Kamke appreciates that the class is educational for him as well as his students. "It's good to meet a lot of folks in the industry and observe processes I'd never seen before," he says. It was a good opportunity for those in industry to meet OSU students as well, Kamke is pleased to note. "I knew that our students would ask good questions and be interested and engaged, and they were absolutely all of those things."



Photos by Aureo Aparecido Abreu, Jr., and Fred Kamke.



## Cutting a Trail

### How Claire Montgomery's vision is shaping the FERM Department

By Bryan Bernart

Professor Claire Montgomery's appointment as the interim head of the Forest Engineering, Resources & Management (FERM) Department in August 2012 was a significant milestone in the 107-year history of the College of Forestry. Montgomery, a professor of forest resources and economics, is the first woman to oversee the traditionally male professional forestry degree programs housed in FERM: Forest Engineering, Forest Management, Forest Operations Management, and the dual-degree Forest Engineering/Civil Engineering.

Montgomery began her academic career at Portland State University, receiving a degree in fine art, before obtaining a BS in forest management and an MF in forest economics at OSU and University of Washington, respectively. After receiving her PhD in 1990, she went on to teach at the University of Montana's School of Forestry before returning to OSU in 1995. "When I came back here, it was kind of an odd feeling to see so many of the same faces," she says, "I was no longer a student, though many of my colleagues were people who had actually taught my courses."

At OSU, Montgomery joined the Forest Resources Department and later FERM, which was created in 2008. During her tenure, she has published many articles and received numerous research grants for her work, most recently in wildfire and economics. When Thomas Maness

was named the Cheryl Ramberg and Allyn C. Ford Dean of the College of Forestry in August 2012, Montgomery became interim head of the FERM Department. Although her appointment is only a two-year commitment, Montgomery's designs for improving FERM, only some of which are mentioned here, are extensive. "My top priority is to get changes in the professional degree programs, put forth during Thomas Maness's time as Department Head, evaluated and implemented," she explains.

There are many steps in this process. Montgomery is working to streamline the undergraduate system by, for example, combining the Bachelor's in Forest Management and Bachelor's in Forest Operations degree programs into a single Forestry degree program with three options: Forest Operations Management, Forest Management, and Forest Conservation Management. "We're looking at ways to improve, despite shrinking resources," she says. "This also includes redesigning capstone classes to create an integrative experience for students in different programs."

Montgomery is also keen on implementing a professional school model for both the new Forestry degree program and the Forest Engineering/Civil Engineering double degree. "Students will complete a set of courses in their first two years before applying for admission into

professional school, which starts in the third year,” she explains. “This will allow us to impose quality restraints for these programs while also improving the rigor of our upper-division courses with the knowledge that they will contain highly competent students.”

Some community colleges are already aligning their pre-forestry programs with the new professional school model; this is also part of Montgomery’s plan to develop alternative pathways into the program. “With these changes, we hope to increase our enrollment and serve more students,” says Montgomery.

She is also hoping to develop a cooperative education program: “Students would commit to work for industry and agency employers for two six-month blocks during the summer and fall. Cumulatively, this would make up a year of employment over the course of their studies,” Montgomery says, noting that Dean Maness, who was already successful in implementing a similar program at UBC, would also provide guidance for the program at OSU.

Montgomery’s appointment, and those of other leaders such as Professor Becky Johnson (formerly CoF Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, now Vice President for OSU-Cascades Campus)

and Professor Brenda McComb (formerly FES Department Head, now Dean of the OSU Graduate School), may be indicative of the progress made by women in the College. However, Montgomery still recalls a story she was told by a forest ecologist at the University of Montana, who studied at OSU as a graduate student some years ago. “This was when students still had to stand in line at Gill Coliseum to register for classes,” Montgomery explains.

“She attempted to enroll in forest ecology, and this was at a time when women did not take forestry courses. When she got to the front of the line, the dean himself was standing there, and he told her, ‘This is not a class for girls.’” The student then went to William Ferrell, now Professor Emeritus in Forest Ecosystems & Society, for help. “Her name was Nelly, and Bill told her that if she went back in and registered as ‘Neil,’ no one would object. And that’s exactly what she did.”

Montgomery notes that while she cannot personally speak for the validity of the story, she is thankful for those who lit the path ahead of her. “I’m glad that I don’t have to be constantly aware of gender every place I go, as were Nelly and other trailblazing women like her,” says Montgomery. “I’m very grateful. Now I’m just trying to make it worth their while.”

## Forestry Student Receives National Award from USDA

By Nick Houtman

When Lee Buckingham’s dad brought home a broken HP computer, Lee took it apart and fixed it. He was 15 years old.

Through high school and college, the Oregon State graduate student in Forest Engineering, Resources and Management fed his appetite for technology (“I like to build them from parts”) and taught himself to write programs.

Now, Buckingham will receive a prestigious award from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for using his computer skills to assist the U.S. greenhouse industry. He will travel to Washington, D.C., in June to receive the USDA’s Excellence in Technology Transfer Award for 2012.

Buckingham created Virtual Grower, a program available online that enables greenhouse managers to estimate the costs of raising a crop by a specific date. “It’s kind of a SimCity for greenhouses,” said Buckingham, a native of Milan, Michigan. “Most of the cost of raising a greenhouse crop is for heat. By specifying materials, dimensions, fuels, location, and type of plant, growers can get an estimate of what it will cost them to produce a crop.”

From 2004 to 2005, he worked for the USDA in Toledo, Ohio. He received a master’s in plant ecology from UC-Riverside in 2009. At Oregon State, Buckingham works with Professor Claire Montgomery to model optimal forest fire fuels management.



# CHANGES IN LATITUDE, POSITIVE ATTITUDE



Brazilian Science Without Borders students (left to right) Lorena Nascimento, Aureo Aparecido Abreu, Jr., Daniel Lins de Albuquerque, and Samira Santos.

## Brazilian students seek challenges inside the classroom and beyond, while finding fun and friends in forestry

By Bryan Bernart

Among the international students in the College of Forestry this year are four undergraduates from Brazil: Lorena Nascimento, Aureo Aparecido Abreu, Jr., Samira Santos, and Daniel Lins de Albuquerque. The Brazilians are doing something that relatively few American college students do, which is to take advantage of the opportunity to study abroad. Along with taking a variety of classes (see related article on pp. 4-5), they are also enjoying new experiences and traveling in the United States.

The students have come to Corvallis as part of Brazilian Science Without Borders (BSWB), a government-sponsored scholarship program for fields including biomedicine, geosciences, and aerospace technology, which seeks to increase Brazilian competitiveness and awareness via international education. Thousands of BSWB undergraduates and graduate students currently study at institutions worldwide.

*On an unseasonably dry winter afternoon in Corvallis, I sit down in Richardson Hall's*

*second-floor break room with Lorena, Daniel, and Aureo to talk about life at Oregon State, snowboarding, and the next World Cup.*

**What class did you just come from?**

Daniel: Lorena and I are in a snowboarding class together. There's no snowboarding in Brazil. Only sand-boarding in the dunes [laughs].

Lorena: In Brazil right now, it's 100 degrees!

Daniel: When I came here, the first time I snowboarded, I thought the snow would be fluffy, but I fell and it was like concrete. I thought at first that I didn't need classes, because I surf and skateboard, so I took off from the highest slope and realized I didn't know how to brake. I fell and rolled like a snowball! I should have made a video.

**What do you think of the weather here?**

Aureo [looking out the window]: This is good here right now because it's not raining. I like it,

because it's gray, but it's all right. It's fine when it's just cold.

**Tell me a little bit about your background. How old are you? What brought you to OSU?**

Lorena: I'm 24. I'm registered in Forestry, but my background is in engineering. At our university [*gestures to Daniel*], Universidade Federal Rural do Rio de Janeiro, all of the fields are studied together, so while I'm here, I'm taking classes from each separate department. It's good for me—the programs here really opened up my mind.

Aureo: I'm 22 years old, and I came to OSU from Universidade Federal de Lavras, in the state of Minas Gerais. I'm interested in soil science and GIS. Like Lorena, I finished my fourth year in Brazil and then came up here to study. I'm currently taking a graduate-level class and it's a real challenge for me, but I'm enjoying it a lot. I'm learning to study more and study harder by myself.

Daniel: I'm interested in forest management—timber companies and natural resources—and I'd like to do that in Brazil. I'm 23. Today is actually my birthday.

**January 17th? Happy birthday! Where will you go?**

Daniel: We like to go to Bombs Away [*a local restaurant on Monroe, across from campus*].

**My friends and I used to hang out there when I was an OSU student. Speaking of OSU, have you made many friends on campus?**

Lorena: Some, especially students from forestry. When I arrived, I was taking English classes, and I met other international students there. My last roommate was from China.

Aureo: It seems a bit easier to make international friends.

Daniel: Sometimes we just do things together, but we've made friends all over campus. I live in Cauthorn Hall, and I'm the only one of this group that's there, so I've made friends in my dorm, too.

**What do you do in your free time?**

Lorena: I like to travel.

Daniel: She's been to Vegas three times!

Lorena [*laughs*]: I've been there three times since July, and when my mother visited, we saw New York City. It's funny, because I like to go places, but in my home city, I've never even been to the *Cristo Redentor*. I travel a lot here because I'm only staying until August.

Aureo: One thing I've started doing here is riding my bike. In Brazil I had a car, and I wasn't as physically active. It's nice to take my bike and go around the city.

**What do you think of Brazil's chances in the 2014 World Cup? They're hosting, right?**

Aureo: We're hosting, yes.

Daniel: I'm not so confident about it. The last cup was a disaster. We lost to the Netherlands in the quarterfinals.

Lorena: All our players come from different countries, and they don't learn to play together. They don't train enough.

Daniel: Maybe because it's in Brazil this time, they'll train harder. And they'll need to, especially if we go up against Spain!

**Boa sorte!**

**THINK GLOBALLY!**

The College of Forestry not only welcomes visiting international students, but also offers exchange opportunities for Americans abroad. Forestry students have participated in short-course programs of a few weeks in Scandinavia and Spain, as well as longer programs at Australian National University in Canberra and at Lincoln University, near Christchurch in New Zealand. There are more than 200 international exchange opportunities available to forestry students via OSU, notes CoF Head Advisor Clay Torset, and the International Degree and Education Abroad

(IDEA) office is conveniently located just across the street from Peavy-Richardson in the Reed-Heckert buildings.

"Our students are encouraged to investigate the study abroad opportunities by working with their academic advisor early in their educational career," Torset says. "Exchange is a life-changing experience that is well worth the preparation effort and expense. In today's global economy, having an international exchange on your resume can be the experience that opens doors in the professional world."



## STEPS TOWARD A BRIGHT TOMORROW

**First-generation college student  
ShyAnne Woods looks forward to  
helping others**

by *Bryan Bernart*

ShyAnne Woods, a junior studying natural resources, had a painful first day at Oregon State University. “I ended up with shin splints from walking so much and so quickly,” she jokes, discussing how she got acquainted with the campus. At the same time, she was pleased with her new environment. “I was surprised at how friendly and courteous people were, holding open doors, smiling, that sort of thing,” she says. “I felt as though I had entered the real world—coming from community college, things are so different here.”

Though many children grow up with the expectation that they will attend a university, there are still some who do not. “My grandmother always told me that I ‘could’ go, and that I was ‘smart enough,’ but by the time I reached high school, I definitely thought college was out of the question for me. It was a dream I never thought I’d realize,” says Woods.

Growing up in Porterville, California, she watched as her friends fell through the cracks. “Most of them thought it was cool to get bad grades and rebel. One even dropped out after the 8th grade.” Her only friend interested in college also had significant financial resources; Woods began associating higher education with having

family who could help one afford it. Her own situation could not have been more different: “When I was a sophomore in high school, my family was very poor, and we ended up homeless. After that year, I dropped out of school.”

It was then that her mother, Gayla Elaine Collier, moved her family to Eugene, Oregon, in order to be close to Woods’s uncle and grandmother. With their support, Woods re-enrolled in high school. She graduated from South Eugene with a Turnaround Achievement Award, given to honor students’ personal improvement, and a \$500 scholarship to Lane Community College. At Lane, Woods earned her Associate of Arts Transfer Degree before arriving at OSU.

She speaks very highly of her family. Though her mother passed away two years ago, Woods says that her grandmother has since taken on that role as well, and often tells Woods how proud her mother would have been of her daughter. “My grandmother was a huge part of my coming to Oregon, graduating from high school, and pursuing college,” says Woods. “She still lives in Eugene and encourages me constantly.”

At OSU, Woods is not only committed to academics, she is also actively involved on campus and in the community. She is the stand-in president of the OSU Bird Nerds club and serves on the fee board of the Student Sustainability Initiative and the board of the Audubon Society of Corvallis. Somehow, she also finds the time to work for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Corvallis.

Laurie Holst, one of Woods’s mentors and the Undergraduate Academic Advisor in the College of Forestry, was immediately impressed by her poise as well as her commitment toward her education. “ShyAnne came here interested in studying natural resources policy and asked thoughtful and penetrating questions from the start.”

Woods intends to bring her education to bear on problems facing future generations and has a keen interest in serving poor and underprivileged communities. She explains, “We all need food, water, and clean air. I decided to study in a field that would allow me to gain multidisciplinary perspectives on how our natural resources are managed and what we can do to conserve them.”

Asked about the best piece of advice she ever received, Woods says that it came from her mother. “She said, ‘Don’t limit yourself,’ when I was trying to decide which two-year college program to attend. That prompted me to ask my advisor about going for a bachelor’s degree. My mom’s advice meant, ‘Look beyond what lies in front of you.’ Now I’m aiming for the horizon.”

# Nice to meet you

## College of Forestry welcomes six new members of the faculty

By Bryan Bernart

### Jeff Hatten

#### Self-starter, Multi-disciplinarian, Soil Scientist

Originally from the Pacific Northwest, but most recently a resident of the Southeast, Jeff Hatten is afraid he may have acclimated to January sunny skies during his three years away. “I’m struck by how dark and rainy it is during the winter! However, given the quality of OSU and its associated researchers studying forest-related issues, being here is absolutely worthwhile.”

Although he already held a tenure-track position in forest soils and hydrology at Mississippi State University, Hatten joined the FERM Department as an assistant professor in soil science because the College of Forestry offered what he considers “excellent resources” to meet his personal goals as well as those of the institution. “The greatest benefit of being here is being part of the academic community,” he explains, “I have a broad range of professional experience (including work for Louisiana Pacific’s Research and Development lab in Sherwood, Oregon), so I can offer OSU, and the region, a different perspective on managing forests, forest soils, and forest nutrition than has existed in the past.”

Prior to his arrival at the College, Hatten completed a post-doc with Miguel A. Goni (associate professor in CEOAS) in which he studied particulate organic carbon in small mountainous rivers on the West Coast. “It really expanded my knowledge of geochemical techniques,” he explains. “I hope that everything in my background will allow me to help facilitate advances in sustainable forest management.” Hatten looks forward to taking on graduate students, creating a functional lab, and starting local research projects.



### Sara Robinson

#### Wood Scientist, Artist, Pioneer

A recent addition to the WSE faculty, having arrived in January, Assistant Professor Sara Robinson has not had much time to adapt to her new environment. Fortunately, she brings with her familiar trappings in the form of an art she can practice anywhere: “spalting.” Although this term refers to the natural process in which fungi color rotting wood, it also denotes the careful and artistic manipulation of those fungi to create wholly unique wooden works. In spalping, Robinson’s passions for both art and science coalesce. As she explains on her website, “I strive to not be ‘just’ an artist or ‘just’ a scientist, but to blur the line between the two disciplines. Neither science nor art can exist without the other.”

With an undergraduate degree in woodworking from Northern Michigan University and an MS and PhD in forest science from Michigan Technological University, Robinson looks forward to offering a different perspective on wood science and anatomy, wood aesthetics, and wood utilization in the classroom, while being supported by a diverse faculty and solid resources.

As a new member of the Corvallis community, she looks forward to riding the Campus Shuttle during the winter and roller skating outdoors during the summer—and playing roller derby with the Cherry City Derby Girls all year long.



## *Thomas Hilker* **Remote Sensing Scientist**

A forester by profession, Thomas Hilker began his undergraduate education at the University of Applied Sciences in Göttingen and received his MS at the HFT Stuttgart, both in Germany. In Göttingen, Hilker developed a strong interest in remote sensing, and he later worked in industry for three years as a GIS consultant. After earning his PhD at the University of British Columbia, where he studied the vegetation carbon cycle using satellite observations, Hilker spent 18 months at NASA performing research at the Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland.

Hilker joined the FERM department as an assistant professor, bringing a wide range of experience drawn from government and academic institutions as well as industry. His primary research interests involve remote sensing of carbon, water, and energy balances in terrestrial ecosystems. “I am interested in using those tools to solve problems and questions related to climate change, biodiversity, and ecosystem disturbance,” he says. “By definition, this requires interdisciplinary skills, which demand collaboration with scientists from other fields. I feel that I can bring a lot of new ideas and methods to the table which will help us to better understand ecosystems and ecosystem feedback across a range of scales, local and global.”

Hilker is excited to put his experience, interests, and talent to work in the College of Forestry: “I think the wide spectrum of related disciplines at OSU is an ideal playground for my research.”



## *Ben Leshchinsky* **Modeler, Explorer, Geotechnical Engineer**

On his first trip to Oregon several years ago, Ben Leshchinsky, assistant professor in soil mechanics (FERM), vacationed in Portland, the Columbia River Gorge, the northern Oregon coast, and Crater Lake with his wife. Loving his experiences here, it's little surprise that he ended up back in Oregon, this time in Corvallis.

Leshchinsky received his BS in civil engineering from the University of Delaware, and earned his MS and PhD from Columbia University in geotechnical engineering. “My work there involved the physical and numerical modeling of slope stability and granular subgrades using a variety of large-scale laboratory equipment coupled with computer simulations,” he explains.

His field of study also includes geosynthetic soil reinforcement, an area of expertise particularly useful for forestry applications. He looks forward to using facilities unique to OSU, such as McDonald-Dunn Forest. Leshchinsky intends to bring his knowledge to bear on common geotechnical problems, while also relying on his colleagues' experience. “My department has a diverse faculty from which I can learn much, and I believe my area of concentration, involving soil mechanics with the use of man-made reinforcements, can add a new, relevant perspective to the already robust academic program in the CoF,” Leshchinsky says.

His goals for the rest of the academic year are fairly simple: “I want to work hard and do my best to make a difference.”



## Michael P. Nelson

**Philosopher, Ethicist, Environmental Scholar**

The new Ruth H. Spaniol Chair and Lead Principal Investigator of the HJ Andrews LTER, Michael P. Nelson (FES), had worked with associates from OSU for over 15 years before his arrival in Corvallis. “I’ve always viewed OSU from afar, and somewhat idealistically, I’m sure, as a vibrant and friendly community with a bright future,” he says. “Due to my field of study, environmental ethics, I’ve always been aware of issues in Oregon and have always thought of it as an environmentally progressive state.”

As a professor of environmental ethics and philosophy, Michael brings a rich depth of experience—such as serving as the resident philosopher for the Isle Royale Wolf-Moose Project, the longest continuous predator-prey study in the world—that will benefit the students in his courses. Asked what OSU has to offer him as a scholar and instructor, he replies, “An opportunity to take my commitment to interdisciplinary work to the next level. OSU has demonstrated that it contains a truly amazing group of scholars to work with—I’m especially thinking of my colleagues involved with the Andrews LTER program and the Spring Creek Project, who have been ridiculously supportive and engaged and fun, but also the variety of dedicated scholars in and outside of the College of Forestry.”

While in Corvallis, Michael looks forward to living in an “actual city,” with “bike paths and farmers markets and restaurants, oh my,” something he has not done in a long time.



## Christopher Still

**Ecologist, Collaborator, Climatologist**

The opportunity to interact with a diverse and productive group of collaborators was a draw for Christopher Still, an assistant professor of ecosystem science in FES. Still joined the faculty with the intention of producing research partnerships and educational opportunities at the College of Forestry and across the university. He previously served on the faculty of the Department of Geography at UC Santa Barbara, after earning his PhD at Stanford University and conducting postdoctoral research at UC Berkeley and the National Center for Atmospheric Research.

As Still explains, his research interests at OSU include “the role of clouds in the ecological structure and function of coastal forests, including their impacts on forest hydrology and biogeochemistry and possible linkages to forest pathogens; on the global biogeography and biogeochemistry of tropical grassland and savanna ecosystems dominated by  $C_4$  grasses; and on the isotopic composition of atmospheric  $CO_2$  and linkages between the carbon and water cycles at a range of spatial and temporal scales.” He looks forward to developing and teaching his first CoF class this spring, entitled “Ecosystem Processes: Physiology, Biogeochemistry, and Biophysics.”

Still and his wife are settling into the local area and they are enjoying the family-friendly qualities of Corvallis. “We love it so far,” he says, “We really appreciate how beautiful the area is and how progressive the community is.”



# CELEBRATING OUR MOON TREE

In 1971, NASA astronaut Stuart Roosa, an Oregon smoke jumper early in his career, took Douglas-fir seeds with him when he orbited the moon on *Apollo 14*. The seeds were part of an experiment to see if space travel would affect germination. Seedlings were later grown and given to various agencies and officials around the world. The OSU “Moon Tree” seedling was planted near the east entrance to Peavy Hall in 1976. In October 2012, the College of Forestry and the Oregon NASA Space Grant Consortium held a celebration for the Moon Tree, during which a commemorative plaque was unveiled that detailed the tree’s history.

This spring, the new Peavy Native Plant Garden was planted around the plaque and near the moon tree.

The garden is a cooperative effort created by many people, including Ed Jensen (conception/project management), Hal Salwasser and the CoF Board of Visitors (funding), Al Shay and OSU Horticulture students (design, planting labor, plant labels), Chris Trine and OSU Landscaping (landscape groundwork, log placement, and irrigation), and Seven Oaks Nursery (advice on and access to native plants). The educational garden of native plants will be used by OSU classes and is open to the Corvallis community. With about 45 species of native ferns, wildflowers, and shrubs, the garden complements the much larger (135+) collection of native trees and shrubs already established around Peavy Hall.



Planting the “Moon Tree” seedling at Peavy Hall in 1976: (left to right) Jim Stone and Susan Sahnaw (Forestry Club), George Brown (Forest Engineering), TJ Starker (Starker Forests), Dick Dilworth (Forest Management), and Helmuth Resch (Forest Products).

## Congratulations to our Successful Graduate Students!

Adam Hadley, PhD in Forest Science

*Independent Effects of Habitat Loss and Fragmentation on Pollination: Tropical Forest Fragmentation Alters Hummingbird Movements and Pollination Dynamics*

Tara Hudiburg, PhD in Forest Science

*Regional Carbon Dioxide Implications of Forest Bioenergy Production*

Yohan Lee, PhD in Forest Resources

*Initial Attack Fire Suppression, Spatial Resource Allocation, and Fire Prevention Policy in California, the United States, and the Republic of Korea*

Fox Peterson, PhD in Forest Science

*Post-Harvest Establishment Influences ANPP, Soil C and DOC Export in Complex Mountainous Terrain*

Fernando Becerra, MS in Forest Engineering

*Evaluation of Six Tools for Estimating Woody Biomass Moisture Content*

Michael Burnard, MS in Wood Science

*Key Factors Influencing Checking in Maple Veneered Decorative Hardwood Plywood*

Donald Gagliasso, MS in Sustainable Forest Management

*Evaluating the Accuracy of Imputed Forest Biomass Estimates at the Project Level*

Heather Greaves, MS in Forest Science

*Potential Effects of Climate Change and Fire Management on Fire Behavior and Vegetation Patterns on an East Cascades Landscape*

Rebecca Hamner, MS in Wood Science

*Identifying the Relevance of “Family Forest” Wood Product Origin and Environmental Certification for Oregon Consumers, and Specifiers and Industrial Customers*

Lanea Murphy, MS in Forest Science

*Relative Competitive Abilities of Several Common Forest Species and Planted Douglas-Fir in Western Oregon*

Nadine Orozco, MS in Wood Science

*Oregon’s Forest Sector Innovation System: An Investigation towards Advanced Performance*

Kathryn Pfretzschner, MS in Wood Science/Civil Engineering

*Practical Modeling for Load Paths in a Realistic, Light-frame Wood House*

Tiberiu Polocoser, MS in Wood Science/Civil Engineering

*Evaluation of Remediation Techniques for Circular Holes in the Webs of Wood I-joists*

Xiaofeng Ren, PhD in Wood Science/Materials Science

*Development and Evaluation of Novel Coupling Agents for Kenaf-fiber-reinforced Unsaturated Polyester Composites*

Adam Scouse, MS in Wood Science

*Essential Oil Treatment of VTC Wood*

Kalin Semrick, MS in Wood Science

*Determining fracture toughness by orthogonal cutting of polyethylene and wood-polyethylene composites.*

Hai Yang, MS in Wood Science

*Modeling the Fixed Bed Drying Characteristics of Biomass Particles*