The first endowed chair in the College of Forest Resources and one of the largest at Mississippi State University was established in fall 2008 through a most generous gift from Mr. James C. Kennedy of Atlanta, Ga. based-Cox Enterprises Inc. Accordingly, it was named The James C. Kennedy Endowed Chair in Waterfowl and Wetlands Conservation.

The chair will ensure—in perpetuity—education, research, outreach, and service directly related to waterfowl and wetlands ecology and conservation through MSU’s department of wildlife, fisheries and aquaculture and the college. Throughout North America, university programs in waterfowl and wetlands are declining in number. This decline and the internationally recognized program in waterfowl and wetlands at Mississippi State were Mr. Kennedy’s primary reasons for creating the chair.

Three faculty members are currently associated with the waterfowl-wetlands program. They are Drs. Rick Kaminski, current Kennedy Chair, associate dean, and professor of wildlife; J. Brian Davis, assistant professor of wildlife; and Mike Schummer, post-doctoral research and teaching associate. Dr. Davis now occupies Kaminski’s former position on the wildlife faculty. Davis is teaching Waterfowl Ecology & Management, Principles in Wildlife Conservation Management, and will assist Kaminski in instructing Wetlands Ecology & Management. Dr. Davis is busy establishing his own research program with graduate students but will collaborate with Kaminski in research, service, and development. Dr. Schummer has taught Waterfowl and Wetlands Ecology and Management and Wildlife Techniques. Additionally, since 2007, he has conducted research on forecasting duck migrations and management of weekly waterfowl hunting frequency on Mississippi Wildlife Management Areas. Dr. Schummer will be moving to Michigan in February 2010 with his wife, Sarah Fleming, after she completes her master’s degree requirements in the department of wildlife, fisheries and aquaculture. We will miss Mike and Sarah, as integral partners of “Team Duck,” but we know they will be successful in Michigan and nearer their natal grounds of New York and Ontario, respectively.

An active research program continues involving 12 university students. They include three doctoral students (Heath Hagy, Amy Spencer, and Jake Straub), eight master’s students (James Callicutt, Josh Cheshier [Plant & Soil Sciences], Sarah Fleming, Justyn Foth, Alan Leach, Elizabeth St. James, Alicia Wiseman, and Christina Zimmerman [Geosciences/Climatology]), and an undergraduate student, Mitch Weegman, who holds the Scenic Homes ‘Richard M. Kaminski’ Endowed Scholarship in Waterfowl & Wetlands Conservation. The students have received numerous awards as listed in this report. For example, five graduate students received travel or presentation awards at state, national, and international conferences. Mitch Weegman was awarded the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship, one of only 11 MSU students to have received this prestigious scholarship. Additionally, he was a finalist for a Rhodes Scholarship to pursue a Ph.D. at Oxford University in England. Indeed, these energy-rich, intellectual, and dedicated youthful professionals will lead waterfowl and wetlands science and conservation during this century. You may evidence this leadership by inspecting their production of scientific and popular publications and presentations listed in this report.

Clearly, I am blessed to be the Kennedy Chair and work daily with Team Duck colleagues. Mr. Kennedy, thank you from the depths of our hearts for your belief in us and for ensuring the future of the waterfowl and wetlands program at MSU. We are indebted!

For more information about the Kennedy Chair and the individuals involved, please visit our web site at www.cfr.msstate.edu/kennedychair.

Gratefully,

Rick Kaminski
FACULTY

Dr. Richard (Rick) M. Kaminski
James C. Kennedy Endowed Chair
Associate Dean, College of Forest Resources
Professor, Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture

Dr. J. Brian Davis
Assistant Professor
Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture

Dr. Mike Schummer
Post-doctoral research and teaching Associate
Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture

STUDENTS

Heath Hagy
Ph.D. candidate
Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture

Amy B. Spencer
Ph.D. student
Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture

Jacob N. Straub
Ph.D. student
Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture

James Callicutt
M.S. student
Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture

Josh Cheshier
M.S. student
Department of Plant and Soil Sciences

(Kathryn) Sarah Fleming
M.S. student
Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture
STUDENTS

Justyn Foth
M.S. student
Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture

Alan Leach
M.S. student
Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture

Elizabeth St. James
M.S. student
Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture

Mitch Weegman
Undergraduate student and Goldwater Scholar
Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture

Alicia Wiseman
M.S. student
Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture

James C. Kennedy
Chairman, Cox Enterprises Inc.
Chairman, Cox Radio, Inc.


PRESENTATIONS


"...Doctoral candidates Heath Hagy and Jacob Straub garnered second place at the 5th North American Duck Symposium for their poster presentation entitled, “A reliable correction factor for recovery of moist-soil seeds from core samples...”"


**PRESENTATIONS**


**Straub, J.N.** 2009. Ecology of bottomland hardwood forests. Presented in the Department of Biological Sciences, Mississippi State University.

Presentations


Sarah Felming
Ernest A. Gluesing Outstanding Graduate Student Award, Masters level, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Mississippi State University.

Heath Hagy
2nd place, doctoral student poster presentation, North American Duck Symposium, 2009, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

David Nabi Memorial Award, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Mississippi State University
Travel Award, North American Duck Symposium, 2009, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Richard M. Kaminski
Mississippi Hero of Conservation, Mississippi Ducks Unlimited

The Wildlife Society’s 2009 Caesar Kleberg Award for Excellence in Applied Wildlife Research

Amy Spencer
Travel Award, American Fisheries Society

Elizabeth St. James
2nd place, master’s student poster presentation, North American Duck Symposium, 2009, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Jacob Straub
Travel Award, North American Duck Symposium, 2009, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

2nd place, doctoral student poster presentation, North American Duck Symposium, 2009, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Mitchell D. Weegman
Barry M. Goldwater Scholar
Interviewed candidate for a Rhodes Scholarship at Oxford University in England

“...Master’s student Elizabeth St. James placed second at the 5th North American Duck Symposium for research on the effects of hunting frequency on waterfowl use, harvest, and hunt quality on Mississippi Wildlife Management Areas...”
Managing WRP for waterfowl

‘I Love Ducks’: Students follow migration on cross-country field trip

Using your time wisely, at least, if you’re a duck…

MSU professor and alumni attend wetlands conference

Ducks Unlimited honors Mississippi Heroes Of Conservation

MSU students and alumni, winners at 5th North American Duck Symposium

MSU professor again honored for practical waterfowl research

Climate change or not, ducks aren’t here

Future waterfowl professionals visit Ducks Unlimited National Headquarters

Current and former “Team Duck” MSU students at the 5th North American Duck Symposium in Toronto, Ontario, August 2009