

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER 2015

FOREST RESOURCES



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COLLEGE OF FOREST RESOURCES ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

2015

The College of Forest Resources is a unit in the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine at Mississippi State University.

Mark E. Keenum
Gregory A. Bohach
George M. Hopper
Ian Munn

President, MSU
Vice President, DAFVM
Dean
Associate Dean

CONTRIBUTORS

David Ammon
Cory Bailey
Vanessa Beeson
Karen Brasher
Sarah Buckleitner
Amy Cagle
Ken Goss
Russ Houston
Kevin Hudson
Keri Collins Lewis
Allison Mathews

The mission of the College of Forest Resources is to promote, support and enable the management, conservation, and utilization of forest and other natural resources to benefit the stakeholders of Mississippi, the nation, and the world.



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COLLEGE OF
FOREST RESOURCES

FROM THE DEAN

WHAT A GREAT YEAR IT HAS BEEN IN THE COLLEGE of Forest Resources at Mississippi State University. Our students continue to receive national and international accolades for their leadership and scholarship. Our alumni continue to earn positions of regional, national and international importance. And our faculty continue to excel in all areas, including the leadership they provide to our students.

This fall, the College welcomed 394 undergraduate and 136 graduate students. Undergraduate enrollment has increased and graduate enrollment has remained stable.

We graduated over 100 students in 2013/2014 and then again in 2014/2015. Our graduates are finding jobs and I appreciate your support in helping them find summer jobs and gain professional experience.

We have added two undergraduate majors in the last two years and are actively recruiting for these new programs. In fall 2014, an undergraduate degree in Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation was added in the Department of Forestry. This degree offers three concentrations. An undergraduate degree in Sustainable Bioproducts became official fall 2015. We are excited to have these new opportunities to train leaders in environmental conservation and sustainable bioproducts.

We are in the third year of the Living Learning Community which houses freshmen in the same dorm and in a natural resources course. Numerous activities are offered throughout the year for the Living Learning Community which has grown from 25 students in 2013 to 35 in 2015. We also cluster our freshman in similar classes during pre-registration which helps with retention.

We have a new recruiter and launched a new recruiting campaign to attract the best and brightest into the College of Forest Resources.



I am pleased to report that last year we launched the Undergraduate Research Scholars Program. In this year-long experience, undergraduates work as a junior colleague with their professor's research program to discover new knowledge, enhance their discipline-specific expertise and gain critical thinking skills. Undergraduate Research Scholars prepare and present results of a research project or creative activities at a professional conference in their discipline. Several of our students won university honors during the campus-wide undergraduate research symposium last spring.

Thanks to our wonderful alumni and friends, this year we awarded \$308,412 in scholarships, a 69 percent increase over the previous year. This is an all time high in scholarship dollars awarded in the College of Forest Resources. The impact these scholarships have on our future leaders is significant. Thank you for your support and confidence in our students.

The first student graduated through the online Master of Science Degree in the Forestry Distance Program last year. The online degree has been in place for a few years and provides a great opportunity to earn an advanced degree for place-bound students.

This year we have welcomed numerous new faculty including our new department head in Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture. Dr. Andy Kouba, former director of conservation and research at the Memphis Zoo, began as the head of Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture in July. He replaces recently retired alumnus and close friend Bruce Leopold. We hired six new faculty in 2014 and seven in 2015. You can learn more about these new faculty on page 28 of the newsletter.

We have completed Phase II of the Johnson Courtyard. We are grateful to Mississippi's most decorated military veteran and our good friend, Colonel Kenneth D. Johnson, for his support of our college.

New signage for the college has been installed including a rather large sign on Highway 25 at the Winston-Oktibbeha county line. This is the first Mississippi State sign that individuals see traveling this corridor and welcomes all to the Mississippi State University John W. Starr Memorial Forest. We also installed signage at the Charles Burkhardt Pavilion Site, Franklin Center, and the R.T. Clapp Forest Products Laboratory.

The Bulldog Forest continues to grow with over 30,000 acres across 28 properties. These lands serve as research and teaching areas and provide scholarships and faculty support through revenue generated from timber harvesting.

Finally, we have changed the format and timing of our alumni newsletter. Instead of producing the newsletter in the Summer, we thought a recap of the year would be more informative. Because of the change in timing you will see activities from 2014 and 2015. We hope you like the new design and timing and hope to hear from you with your updates.

Thank you for helping the College of Forest Resources at Mississippi State University to be one of the best in the nation. I appreciate your support. Please stop by and visit when you are in Starkville.

George M. Hopper
Dean



2014 ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

Michael Clutter

DR. MICHAEL L. CLUTTER IS THE COLLEGE OF FOREST Resources Alumni of the Year. A 1981 forestry graduate, he is vice president and director of research and investment strategy for Forest Investment Associates. Before returning to the private sector, Clutter was the Dean and Hargreaves Distinguished Professor of Forest Finance at the University of Georgia's Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources. Previously, Clutter spent over 20 years in the forest products industry working with Union Camp Corporation, Georgia-Pacific, and The Timber Company where he was the Director of Decision Support and Information Resources. In addition to his MSU degree, Clutter earned master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Georgia.



2014 ALUMNI FELLOW

World L.-S. Nieh

WORLD L.-S. NIEH OF OAK HILL, VIRGINIA, A 1990 DOCTORAL graduate in forest products, is the College of Forest Resources 2014 Alumni Fellow. Now with the U.S. Forest Service in Washington, D.C., his most recent achievement includes representation as the agency's forest products program lead for a \$20 million national research program. Previously, he was director of amino resin development with Southeastern Adhesives Co. in Lenoir, North Carolina, and senior development chemist with Georgia-Pacific Resins Inc. in Decatur, Georgia. Before enrolling at MSU, he completed a bachelor's degree from National Chung Hsing University in Taiwan and a master's degree from Virginia Tech University.



2015 ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

Elton R. Coley

ELTON R. COLEY IS THE COLLEGE OF FOREST RESOURCES 2015 Alumnus of the Year. Coley received a 1974 bachelor's degree in forestry and a 1975 master's in business administration. He is president of Forest Managers and Consultants Inc. and the principal of TMA Wood Inc. Earlier in his career, Coley was forester with Champion International Corporation for over a decade. Coley is a registered forester in Alabama and Mississippi and a certified forester in the Society of American Foresters. He is a real estate broker and a real estate appraiser in Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee.



2015 ALUMNI FELLOW

Ruth J. Cook

RUTH J. COOK OF SEMINARY IS THE COLLEGE OF FOREST resources 2015 Alumni Fellow. A 1982 forestry graduate, Cook currently directs government affairs and forest certification for the Molpus Woodlands Group LLC. A registered forester in Mississippi, Alabama, and Arkansas, she has been included by the Mississippi Business Journal in its 50 Leading Business Women recognition program. She was Alumnus of the Year for the College of Forest Resources in 2005.



Forestry scholarship recipients with Colonel Johnson. Pictured from left to right: Zach Johnson, Jason Warner, Colonel Johnson, and Chandler Guy.

COLONEL KENNETH D. JOHNSON COURTYARD COMPLETION

THE THOMPSON HALL COURTYARD WAS DESTROYED BY a tornado spawned by Hurricane Rita in 2005. The College of Forest Resources administration asked Dr. Bob Brzuszek and his landscape design class to design conceptual plans for landscape around Thompson Hall. Phase I of the landscape plan included a water feature and native plants in the front and side entrances. Benches were installed around the water feature to create a place for students, faculty, and staff to gather and visit.

Phase II of the Thompson Hall landscape renovation was completed earlier this summer and includes a mini amphitheater and overlook deck with a bench which is ADA-compliant. Phase II also includes a variety of native plants.

Thompson Hall landscaping construction and plantings were made possible through a generous gift made by Colonel Kenneth D. Johnson. The Johnson courtyard showcases Mississippi native landscapes and has become a popular gathering place for students.

One of Mississippi's most decorated military men, the courtyard is one of many gifts the Colonel and his wife Catherine have bestowed upon the College of Forest Resources.

One of the founding members of the Bulldog Forest, Colonel Kenneth D. Johnson and his wife Catherine gave more than 120 acres of Scott County timberland to the CFR. This gift is part of 400 acres in Scott and Leake counties valued at more than \$1 million that the Johnsons have bequeathed to the college through the MSU Foundation. Funds generated from the timber will be added to the Col. Kenneth 'K.D.' Johnson Endowment for Excellence which he established in 1998. Over time, the endowment will be used to establish faculty chairs, professorships, fellowships, and other general enhancements for the Department of Forestry.

The Johnsons have also endowed a scholarship in both of their names to support students majoring in forestry, as well as made contributions to support the CFR's international studies program and the forestry summer field session. Johnson actually participated in the forestry summer field program under the direction of Dr. George Switzer.

Colonel Johnson attended Mississippi State as an engineering student before joining the Army Enlisted Reserve Corps in 1942.

He completed pilot training and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in February of 1944.

During WWII, Colonel Johnson was assigned in Europe as a transport pilot and was active in transporting supplies and evacuating wounded from France following D-Day. His last assignment on his 30-month European tour was pilot for the late Justice Robert Jackson, chief prosecutor at the Nuremberg War Trial.

In 1951, he was assigned to Korea and flew 59 missions as a B-26 pilot during the Korean Conflict and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters. He also served at bases from Japan to South Carolina and several stops in-between.

In 1967, he was promoted to full Colonel. During his retirement ceremonies, Colonel Johnson was awarded the Legion of Merit—one of the highest awards presented to United States military personnel.

Colonel Johnson, as a Command Pilot, had more than 15,000 hours of flying time. He was awarded the Military Airlift Command 15,000 hours of accident free safety pin and his third Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal for this achievement. This mark is extremely rare since only 1% of all USAF aircrew members have flown as many as 15,000 hours without an accident.

According to Dean George Hopper, "Colonel K.D. Johnson is one of the finest men I have ever known. He is a patriot, an advisor and wears his MSU maroon with pride."



Colonel Kenneth D. Johnson officially dedicates Phase II of the Johnson Courtyard with family members. Photo by Karen Brasher.

MSU FORESTRY STUDENT GROUP MAINTAINS HIGH NATIONAL RANKING



THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS AGAIN RECOGNIZED its Mississippi State student chapter as one of the nation's best.

The land-grant university group recently took second place in SAF's 2015 outstanding student chapter competition. This latest award represents the 17th consecutive year in which the MSU group has placed among the top three finalists.

Founded in 1909, the Bethesda, Maryland-based Society of American Foresters (SAF) is the U.S. accreditor for bachelor's and master's degree programs in professional forestry and natural resources. For more, see www.safnet.org.

SAF membership includes more than 77 student chapters nationwide. A demonstrated commitment to the forestry profession and community service activities are among criteria for top chapter recognitions.

"Two of the main elements that have contributed to this chapter's success are the students' dedication and sense of pride," said

Andrew W. Ezell. "The club is involved in a number of activities, oriented both toward the profession of forestry and service within the community."

Ezell, who heads the forestry department in MSU's College of Forest Resources, cited several examples of chapter activities that have helped maintain the leadership status. Among others, they include:

- Organization of the annual campus Arbor Day observance;
- Continuing work to help identify and catalog tree varieties at MSU, which holds Tree Campus USA designation;
- Providing special training for local troops of Cub and Boy scouts, and
- Participating in Project Learning Tree, a national initiative focused on environmental literacy among teachers and school groups.

Ezell said chapter members also are active at the professional level, including attendance at annual SAF national conferences.



The group also served as host earlier this year for the Association of Southern Forestry Conclave, an annual competition that tests the skills and knowledge of forestry majors, he added.

Associate professor Robert K. Grala, the chapter's faculty adviser, praised SAF for providing "an excellent platform for all students interested in forestry and natural resources."

By working closely with the college and department, as well as Mississippi State as a whole, he said the national organization helps "stir interest in forestry, recruit new students and promote SAF values."

Mississippi State President Mark E. Keenum (seated, center) with members of the multiple award-winning Society of American Foresters student chapter. The university group includes (front, l-r) Savannah Fenaes, Preston Bush, Collie Fox, Tanner Robinson, Chandler Guy, Tyler Thomas, (back, l-r) faculty adviser Robert Grala, Drew Ethridge, Zach Pardue, Jade McCarley, Davis Pigg, Kaleb Ross, Kevin Young, Jason Warner, Reed Kirkpatrick, Clayton Cooper, and Steven Gray. (Photo by David Ammon)

TWO DOCTORAL STUDENTS' JOURNEY TO MSU COLLEGE OF FOREST RESOURCES

WHEN FREDERICO FRANÇA AND TAMARA AMORIM went to Las Vegas for the International Conference on Timber Bridges in 2013, they came home with more than just professional development. The two graduate students also got married during the trip, and as Lady Luck would have it, they met a key contact from Mississippi State University who was attending the same conference.

Both natives of Brazil, França and Amorim met on their first day of graduate school at Federal University of Espírito Santo in Jeronimo Monteiro, Brazil, where they were enrolled in a master's degree program.

Their common interest in wood products developed into a friendship, and they began dating. They both applied for an internship in Madison, Wisconsin, at the internationally known USDA Forest Products Laboratory. The students naturally jumped at the opportunity to attend a conference in a new and exciting location. They worked to photograph the conference to help offset costs.

The meeting offered more than most conferences can boast—relevant seminars, a host of wedding chapel vendors and a chance meeting with Dr. Dan Seale, MSU Warren S. Thompson Professor of Wood Science and Technology.

The couple actually met Seale while they were all waiting for shuttle bus transportation. They didn't want to tell him they were on their way to get married, but they saw him again that evening

in a casino restaurant and invited him to their table. By that time, they were celebrating their new marriage and weren't so shy about recounting the day's accomplishments. Seale laughed and congratulated them, they said, but upon learning of their work in forest products, he began recruiting the newlyweds to their next step—MSU's doctoral program in forest resources with a focus on sustainable bioproducts. Now, Seale is their major professor, and they have completed their first year in the program.

"It was our lucky day when we found Dr. Seale," França said.

Amorim said they both love being in Mississippi. "We have a great department, and we are working on a very good project for the USDA to evaluate southern pine lumber," she said.

França explained that their work involves adding value to the lumber produced for structural purposes in the southern U.S. While França is more focused on wood industry engineering, Amorim's interests are focused on economic analysis and marketing for the industry.

Both agreed that the friendliness at MSU has made them feel at home. They've also enjoyed meeting people from all around the world. "As Brazilians, we talk a lot. It's part of our culture to talk, and so I think we make friends easily," Amorim said.



Frederico França and Tamara Amorim are doctoral students in Sustainable Bioproducts. Photo by Russ Houston.



Dr. Dan Seale, Warren S. Thompson Professor of Sustainable Bioproducts. Photo by Kevin Hudson.

ADDING VALUE TO SOUTHERN FORESTS

DR. DAN SEALE, PROFESSOR IN THE COLLEGE OF FOREST Resources and the Forest and Wildlife Research Center, specializes in forest products and is passionate about Mississippians making the most of this abundant natural resource. With a background in agricultural economics, he is also fascinated by data, and how it can be used in support of sustainable forest products.

In 2015, Seale, along with co-principal investigators Dr. Rubin Shmulsky, head of the Department of Sustainable Bioproducts and associate director of the Sustainable Energy Research Center, and Dr. David Jones, former associate professor with the Forest and Wildlife Research Center and MSU Extension Service, began a project designed to add value to Southern forests.

Quick growth, coupled with early thinning of stands to generate income, results in forest products with different characteristics than those created from older timber harvested generations ago.

Seale, Shmulsky and a team of graduate students are gathering lumber processed at mills from across the Southeast and conducting a series of tests related to the lumber grade, stiffness, and strength. They will characterize the physical attributes of each board, use non-destructive techniques including stress wave analysis to predict strength and stiffness. They will break the boards and analyze the accuracy of the tools used to predict lumber values. Once broken, industry methods will be used to characterize the break or failure of each board. Each board will have more than 50

measurements and resultant calculations.

Finally, they will synthesize the data and create statistical models that can be used to develop new forest products valuation techniques and standards, investigate new products and markets, and address any challenges they encounter.

To conduct this testing, an elaborate system has been set up at the Department of Sustainable Bioproducts. It includes a video system that will record each board as it is broken, as well as a variety of instruments that test different strength factors, such as stress waves and vibration; all with the aim of improving lumber performance and valuation.

“No other university has a set up like this,” Seale said. “We’re the only one in the wood industry using this type of instrumentation. We are serious about finding ways to enhance the value of Southern forests.”

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is funding the project.

MSU EVALUATES MIGRATORY BIRD HABITAT INITIATIVE



RESearchers in the MSU College of Forest Resources and Forest and Wildlife Research Center released a study evaluating the Migratory Bird Habitat Initiative, or MBHI. The program was created by the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, or NRCS, in response to the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

While certain phases of the study remain ongoing, preliminary results show MBHI—which provided alternate wetlands for migratory and resident waterbirds inland away from the oil spill area—delivered ecological, environmental, and economic benefits throughout the southeastern U.S. bordering the Gulf Coast.

“When the oil spill occurred, no one knew what was going to happen to marshes along the coast,” said Charles Rewa, a biologist with the NRCS Resource Assessment Division. “An ad hoc interagency working group of waterbird experts had been previously focusing on longstanding habitat issues emerging in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley, or MAV, and along the coasts of Louisiana and Texas.”

The group included personnel from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Lower Mississippi Valley and Gulf Coast Joint Ventures of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, Ducks Unlimited, Inc., the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the NRCS, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), and state

wildlife and natural resources agencies.

“The oil spill served as a catalyst to respond to some of these long-term habitat issues that had been occurring slowly over several decades while providing alternative habitats inland for millions of migrating and resident birds soon after the spill,” Rewa said.

The NRCS allocated \$40 million to landowners in eight states to manage 470,000 acres of habitat for one to three years. The NRCS commissioned the MSU Forest and Wildlife Research Center to lead an independent evaluation of MBHI. Richard Kaminski, retired professor and former holder of the James C. Kennedy Endowed Chair in Waterfowl and Wetlands Conservation, served as the project's principal investigator, together with J. Brian Davis, Francisco Vilella, Guiming Wang, and Lisa Webb as co-investigators and seven graduate students from MSU, Arkansas Tech University, and the University of Missouri.

“Catastrophes like the oil spill can have lasting impacts on waterfowl and waterbird populations,” Kaminski said. “The NRCS acted swiftly to implement MBHI to provide alternative habitats for waterbirds in hopes of reducing that impact.”

The scientists studied waterbird species, populations, available food, and cost-effectiveness on MBHI land that included production and idled rice fields, idled catfish ponds and natural wetlands enrolled in the Wetlands Reserve Program, or WRP.

Researchers estimated how many and which species of



Joe Lancaster, a graduate student in the College of Forest Resources releases a female mallard that has been fitted with a radio-transmitter as part of the Migratory Bird Habitat Initiative evaluation. Photo by Ken Goss.

waterbirds were utilizing the habitats, how much food was available for the birds and cost-effectiveness of the program in terms of potential food energy available for maintaining birds during migration and wintering periods.

MBHI lands proved a haven for migrating and wintering waterfowl and birds; providing an abundance of potential food in a cost-effective manner. The FWRC study indicated:

- Louisiana and Texas-based MBHI-flooded rice fields averaged 15 waterbirds per acre compared to two birds per acre on non-flooded fields and provided one-fourth of the region's estimated duck energy needs on less than two percent of the land; MBHI management cost approximately \$30 per acre in Louisiana rice fields, which translated to less than 2 cents per duck energy day (the daily energy requirements for one duck during winter);
- Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas Mississippi Alluvial Valley (MAV) MBHI lands had almost three times more ducks and twice as many waterbirds compared to non-MBHI sites; seven times more shorebirds per acre were observed on MBHI sites compared to state and federal managed or conserved coastal wetlands in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi during fall migration;
- Biodiversity existed on MBHI idled catfish ponds with more than 40 waterbird species; Mississippi MBHI catfish ponds

satisfied nearly all of the wetland habitat required for shorebirds migrating through the MAV and Western Gulf Coastal Plain in the fall;

- Louisiana and Mississippi MBHI wetlands had 1.3 to 1.5 times more native seeds while Arkansas and Missouri MBHI wetlands had 21 percent more native seeds than non-managed wetlands in winter; MBHI wetlands had 200 percent more aquatic invertebrates compared to non-MBHI and WRP easements in fall;
- Arkansas and Missouri MBHI wetlands had 40 percent more aquatic invertebrates compared to public land wetlands in winter;
- MBHI lands satisfied 28% of the duck energy needs designated by the Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture in the MAV on only one percent of the land

To learn more about MBHI, visit <http://www.cfr.msstate.edu/kennedychair>.

In Memoriam



SAM RIFFELL (1970-2014)

THE COLLEGE OF FOREST RESOURCES HONORS THE LIFE of Dr. Samuel Keith Riffell, born on June 30, 1970 in Springfield, Ohio. Riffell passed away on August 11, 2014 in Starkville, Mississippi. He is survived by his wife Angie and their two daughters, Abigail and Hannah. Riffell contributed greatly to the discipline of landscape ecology through his work as a scientist and university professor. Riffell was hired as an assistant professor in the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture at Mississippi State University in 2004. His job was to complement the department's existing teaching and research program in Agro-Wildlife Ecology and to shore up the landscape ecology curriculum. Sam was promoted to associate professor with tenure at MSU in 2010 and was about to be promoted to full professor at the time of his passing. Riffell contributed importantly to the field of landscape ecology as a professor at MSU. He taught Ornithology, and Principles and Practices of Conservation in Agricultural Landscapes, and he developed a Wildlife concentration for the department as well as a new course in Landscape Ecology. During 2009–2014, he served as undergraduate coordinator, and the wisdom and foresight he shared in this role proved critical to the success of the department's undergraduate program. Here is what a few of his students had to say:

“He was always so proud of my accomplishments that it makes me sad that I never got the chance to tell him that I finally got my dream job as an assistant professor of wildlife habitat management. I'm confident, though, that he's looking down giving me the wink and nod of approval.”

Dr. Heidi Adams
*Assistant Professor of Wildlife
Habitat Management
Louisiana Tech University*

“Sam's strength as a mentor and a teacher was his knack for quickly assessing the ability and learning style of a student when working with them in a one-on-one situation. He engaged a student's understanding by filtering the material through their own interests.”

Dr. Zachary Loman
*MSU alumnus
Post-doctoral fellow
University of Maine-Orono*

“The days I spent with him in the field and in the lab were the brightest of my graduate school days. One I will never forget was during a field outing with Sam and his daughters. He excitedly retrieved several butterfly nets from the trunk of his car and started to run around with his two girls trying to net butterflies and dragonflies. With a big smile he turned to me and said 'It is always wise to keep a butterfly net in the trunk of one's car.'”

Dr. Jolie Goldenetz Dollar
*Agroforestry Consultant
Xerces Society*

DOUGLAS RICHARDS

(1934-2015)

FORMER FORESTRY DEPARTMENT HEAD AND FWRC Administrator Dr. Douglas Perry Richards died February 17, 2015. Richards was a resident of Johnson City, Tennessee and passed at the age of 80 after a remarkable two year battle with lung cancer.

He was born on May 13, 1934 in Nelson, British Columbia, Canada to the late C. Perry & Helen Hornby Richards. He was preceded in death by his sister, Audrey and brother-in-law Everett Henderson of Nanaimo, BC, Canada and his sister-in-law, Virginia Patton, and brother-in-law, Houston Campbell, of Jonesborough, TN.

Dr. Richards is survived by his loving wife, Shirley Patton Richards, formerly of Telford, TN, of nearly 47 years, along with two caring nieces: Jill Henderson (Robert Goodlad) of Vernon, BC, Canada and Janet Bowers (Gavin and children Celine and Katelyn) of Victoria, BC.

He was educated in the public school system and graduated in 1952 from the Kamloops High School, BC, Canada. In 1957 he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Forestry from the University of British Columbia. After working several years with the BC Forest Service, Prince Rupert, BC, he entered as a graduate research assistant at Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon. At this institution, he received both a Master of Forestry (1963) and a PhD of Forestry-agriculture economics and statistics (1971) from Oregon State University. He was a member of the Canadian Institute of Forestry and the Society of American Foresters, which he joined in 1960.

Douglas served in progressively more challenging positions after graduating from the Oregon State University until his retirement in 2005. These included: Northwestern Pulp and Paper in Hinton, Alberta, Canada; Crown Zellerbach Corp. in Portland, Oregon; Forest Economics Government Institute in Ottawa, Canada; Instructor of Forestry Economics at Virginia Tech; Canadian Forestry Service in Ottawa, Canada; Head of the Forestry Department at the Mississippi State University and also Associate Director of the Forest and Wildlife Research Center at MSU. He retired in July 2005 and in September of that year moved to Jonesborough, TN.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations can be made in Dr. Douglas P. Richards' name to the Mississippi State University College of Forest Resources advancement fund for scholarships in forestry. Send donations to: MSU. Foundation, Attn. Jeff Little, P.O. Box 9680, MS State, MS 39762 (please indicate this contribution is for the Dr. D.P.R. memorial fund).



“He was a wonderful man and an excellent leader. I feel so privileged to have worked for him. He fought hard for the Forestry Department and the CFR.”

Debbie Gunter
Retired Extension
Professor

“He was always kind and generous to me, and always supportive of all those under him.”

Linda Wright Garnett
Extension Associate II

DEVELOPMENT

THOMAS A. PLEIN SCHOLARSHIP HELPS MSU GRADUATE STUDENTS



Justyn Foth prepares to band and measure a western sandpiper in Grand Isle, Louisiana.

THE THOMAS A. PLEIN ENDOWED Graduate Student Scholarship was established in 2011 and is one of the largest graduate student scholarships in the MSU College of Forest Resources. Over the last three years, the Thomas A. Plein Foundation has increased the funding for this scholarship to more than \$75,000.

The scholarship helps further the mission of the MSU waterfowl and wetlands conservation program endowed by James C. Kennedy, a long-time conservationist and philanthropist.

Dr. Richard Kaminski, retired professor and former holder of the James C. Kennedy Endowed Chair in Waterfowl and Wetlands Conservation, said the scholarship tremendously benefits the program.

“MSU has been a leader in waterfowl and wetlands research and conservation

for the past 30 years. In 2008, that program was sustained in perpetuity through the generosity of James C. Kennedy,” Kaminski said. “In late 2011, the Thomas A. Plein Foundation, an organization that shares our passion for waterfowl and wetlands conservation, approached MSU to offer a generous gift to help augment the program.”

Eligible graduate students research waterfowl and wetlands ecology and conservation, have strong academic backgrounds and have served in some capacity with Ducks Unlimited Inc.

Student recipients for the 2014-2015 academic year were Joe Lancaster and Joe Marty. Lancaster is a doctoral student who studies habitat use and survival of mallard ducks wintering in the Mississippi Delta. Marty is a doctoral student evaluating the use of waste rice and moist-soil seeds in

harvested rice and fallow fields as a food source for waterfowl wintering in the coastal prairies in Louisiana and Texas.

The first scholarship recipient was Justyn Foth, a doctoral student evaluating the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service’s Migratory Bird Habitat Initiative, which was founded in response to the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

“All recipients are outstanding students dedicated to furthering waterfowl and wetland science and conservation,” Kaminski said. “These individuals are deserving scholars, and the Plein scholarship contribution has a major impact on each of them and the program as a whole.”

The Plein Foundation was established in the 1980s by Thomas A. Plein of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, whose family owned 7-Up bottling plants in Oshkosh and other



Joe Lancaster prepares to release a female mallard with a backpack radio transmitter.



Joe Marty prepares to collect one of thousands of soil core samples to estimate abundance of rice and natural seeds as food for waterfowl in Louisiana-Texas rice prairies.

Midwestern cities. Plein established the foundation as a way of bringing the families of his siblings closer together.

“My uncle set up the foundation as a way to allow family members to leave a family legacy through their own family grant giving,” said Steve Plein, who serves on the foundation’s board and is the nephew of Thomas Plein. “I grew up duck hunting with my grandfather and have a steadfast passion for waterfowl and wetland conservation. As an avid supporter of Ducks Unlimited, I sought to establish a scholarship aligned with that organization.”

Because of the Plein Foundation’s giving criteria, Ducks Unlimited recommended that Steve Plein set up a scholarship at MSU, a university known for its waterfowl and wetland conservation program and close work with Ducks Unlimited.

“In fact, many MSU alumni are Ducks

Unlimited employees across the United States and Canada,” Kaminski added.

“Our foundation has four categories of giving criteria: the Catholic Church, health and financial need, education, and other interests,” Steve Plein said. “By choosing both education and Ducks Unlimited, which falls under the category of other interests, we were able to make a larger contribution. My wife and I also understand what it’s like to pursue degrees on a limited income, so it is very meaningful for us to give back in this manner.”

Jeff Little, the director of development for the College of Forest Resources, said endeavors such as the Plein Endowed Graduate Student Scholarship and the Kennedy Endowed Chair in Waterfowl and Wetlands Conservation are paramount to the overall mission of individual programs and the university as a whole.

“As a land-grant institution, natural resources conservation has always been a top priority at MSU,” Little said. “MSU was already home to one of the top waterfowl and wetlands programs in North America, and with the Thomas A. Plein Foundation’s gifts, we are making sure that MSU’s stature grows permanently.”

The Plein Foundation’s philanthropic endeavors help dozens of nonprofit entities, including several educational institutions, on a national and global scale.



SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTS FUTURE WOOD PROTECTION EXPERTS

FOR AS LONG AS PEOPLE HAVE USED wood as a building material, they have also sought ways to protect it from deterioration. A new scholarship in the MSU College of Forest Resources will make it possible for new scientists to build on that tradition.

The Southern Pressure Treaters' Association established a graduate student scholarship in the college's Department of Sustainable Bioproducts in fall 2014. The association includes engineers, academics, inspectors, producers of untreated wood products, and producers, suppliers, manufacturers, and distributors of industrial treated wood products.

One of the most prestigious scholarships in the college, it awards \$5,000 each year specifically for a graduate student with a strong interest in wood protection research.

John Derrick, a member of the Southern Pressure Treaters' Association Board of

Directors, originated and championed the idea of funding a graduate scholarship at MSU. Derrick, vice president of sales for Texas-based Lufkin Creosoting Company, understands how important a scholarship can be for young people who want to continue their education.

"We need more young people involved in wood preservation, and it is our hope that this scholarship will help encourage talented individuals to pursue this career," Derrick said.

MSU's extensive research in wood protection and preservation made it a good fit for the graduate student scholarship.

"Mississippi State University has been working on wood preservation for over 50 years," Derrick said. "Their strong research program has helped the industry extend the service life of products like railroad ties and telephone and electric poles, just to name a few."

To fund the scholarship, Derrick set up

an auction among members of his association. Board members donated items, including hunting weekends and Southeastern Conference and National Football League game tickets, which were sold at the auction to grow the scholarship fund.

"We have a lot of fun as a group, and an auction seemed like a natural way for us to raise money," Derrick said.

The scholarship is especially important because it supports graduate students, often an underserved group when it comes to scholarship funding.

The scholarship gift from the Southern Pressure Treaters' Association is part of a campus-wide capital campaign known as Infinite Impact, which seeks private gifts to further Mississippi State University's long-range strategic plans. More information on specific campaign goals for the College of Forest Resources can be found at <http://www.infiniteimpactmsu.com>.



MSU HISTORICAL EQUIPMENT RESTORED BY LOCAL COMPANY

A 66-YEAR-OLD PIECE OF FORESTRY equipment on display at Mississippi State University is being restored by the company that built it.

The Logger's Dream is a 1948 log loader manufactured by Louisville, Mississippi-based Taylor Machine Works. The equipment has been on display at the biennial Mid-South Forestry Equipment Show at the university's John W. Starr Memorial Forest since 2005.

J. D. Massey of Starkville was the loader's original owner and operator. His son Paul donated the loader to the equipment show.

"I suggested they put that old loader next to the modern equipment so that people would know how it was done back in the early days," Paul Massey said.

Each year, event organizers park the loader, mounted on a 1955 model Chevrolet truck, at the entrance to the show site and use it to display a list of exhibitors.

Taylor Machine Works began as a small machine shop in 1927. When the company moved to its present location in north Louisville in 1946, the Logger's Dream was their major product.

"Restoring this Logger's Dream loader takes us back to our roots," said Robert Taylor, vice president of operations for Taylor Machine Works. "It demonstrates our dedication to and respect for the forest products industry, an industry that helped us grow into one of the largest manufacturers of heavy industrial lift trucks in the world."

The remodeled Logger's Dream was on display at the 2014 Mid-South Forestry Equipment Show in September 2014 and remains at the Charles E. Burkhardt Pavilion in Starkville.

"We are so appreciative of the talents and generosity of the team at Taylor Machine Works and the Massey family," said Misty Booth, show manager and MSU

forest supervisor. "The Logger's Dream is a historical treasure that represents our common heritage in the rich forest resources of our area."

Mark your calendars. The next Mid-South Forestry Equipment Show is scheduled for August 26-27, 2016.

COLLEGE NEWS



DIEHL NAMED SHARP PROFESSOR

SUSAN DIEHL, PROFESSOR OF SUSTAINABLE BIOPRODUCTS, is the newest CFR Sharp Professor. Diehl's 20+ career has focused on research in fungal biodeterioration of wood, mold, and microbial ecology of wood microorganisms. She has developed pioneering techniques and results related to gene mapping and regulation, fungal community identification, transcriptomics and proteomics, as well as other activities related to understanding and combating wood deterioration at the most basic of levels.

Diehl's passion is undergraduate and graduate education. She has successfully attracted high-performing students, particularly females and minorities, into this STEM field. She has advised six doctoral

students and 13 master's students, half of whom are female, as well as two postdoctoral associates. She has also introduced some 28 undergraduate students into her research program, allowing them to work on research in her laboratory.

Diehl was the faculty leader in the development of the new undergraduate curriculum in Sustainable Bioproducts. The curriculum was approved by the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning and began accepting students in the Fall 2015 semester.

The Sharp professorship honors an individual who has exemplified leadership in teaching, research, and service. It is funded through the Tishomingo County Sharp Forest, a 1,600 tract of timber given to Mississippi State in the 1970s.

2014 AWARDS

DORIS LEE SUPPORT STAFF AWARD

Sustainable bioproducts plant superintendent **John Black** and wildlife, fisheries and aquaculture research technician **Henry Derrel Taylor** were honored with the Doris Lee Memorial Staff Awards in the College of Forest Resources and the Forest and Wildlife Research Center.

CFR/FWRC EXTENSION/OUTREACH AWARD

Dr. Jason Gordon received the CFR/FWRC Extension/Outreach Award. Gordon is an assistant extension professor in forestry. Gordon also received the CFR/FWRC Early Career Award. He is praised for his work in forming the MSU Campus Tree Advisory Committee and the recent designation as Tree Campus USA, among other items.

CFR/FWRC RESEARCH AWARD

Dr. Donald Grebner received the CFR/FWRC Research Award. Grebner is a professor in forestry. Grebner has amassed over \$3 million in extramural grants covering topics such as carbon sequestration, invasive species, resource assessments, and the economics of biomass and bioenergy concerns.

CFR/FWRC SERVICE AWARD

Dr. Scott Roberts received the CFR/FWRC Service Award. Roberts is a professor in forestry. Roberts has served on numerous university, college, and departmental committees. He was also noted for his professional service which includes serving as one of three applied research editors for the journal, *Forest Science*.

CFR TEACHING AWARD

Dr. Scott Rush received the CFR Teaching Award. Rush is an assistant professor in wildlife, fisheries and aquaculture. He was noted for his enthusiasm for teaching and student learning. He was also praised for thoughtful preparation of course materials, using multiple methods to connect with different types of learners.

Pictured on the right: Steve Grado honored by Pennsylvania State University. Mike Barnes honored by Louisiana State University.

AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY RECOGNIZES TWO FACULTY

TWO MISSISSIPPI STATE ADJUNCT faculty members in Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture were recognized internationally by the American Fisheries Society for their Excellence in Fisheries Education and Management. Dr. Steve Miranda received the "Excellence in Fisheries Education Award." This award is administered by the Education Section of AFS and is presented to an individual to recognize excellence in organized teaching and advising of fisheries education. Dr. Hal Schramm received the honor of being included into the "Fisheries Management Section Hall of Excellence." This award serves as a public outlet to recognize fisheries management professionals who have made outstanding contributions in their field.



FACULTY NAMED OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS

THE LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries Alumni Association honored Dr. H. Michael "Mike" Barnes, sustainable bioproducts professor, as a distinguished alumnus at its recent annual meeting. Barnes is internationally recognized as a leading expert in the field of wood preservation and durability. He received a Bachelor of Science in Forestry (1965) and a Master of Science in Forest Products Technology (1968) from LSU. He has been on the faculty at Mississippi State University since 1971 and was awarded the title of W. S. Thompson Distinguished Professorship

in Wood Science & Technology in 2007.

Stephen C. Grado, forestry professor, was recognized as one of four recipients of the 2015 Outstanding Alumni Award from the Pennsylvania State University Forest Resources Alumni Group. Grado earned a Ph.D. in Forest Resources in 1992, an M.S. in Forest Resources and Operations Research in 1984, and a B.S. in Forest Science in 1979, all at Penn State. He also completed a B.A. in Political Science at Villanova University. A 20 year veteran at Mississippi State University, Grado is the George L. Switzer Professor of Forestry and undergraduate coordinator.

MSU FORESTRY SWEEPS EXTENSION CONFERENCE

MSU EXTENSION FORESTRY SWEEP the award ceremonies at the 2014 MSU Extension Service Annual Conference. James Henderson received the Mark Keenum Outstanding Extension Faculty Award. Dr. John Auel received the Outstanding Extension Professional Award. The entire Extension Forestry faculty and staff received the Customer Outreach Award. Extension forestry team members include: (back row) Dr. James Henderson, Dr. Steve Dicke, Dr. Glenn Hughes, Butch Bailey, Dr. John Kushla (front row) Linda Garnett, Dr. Jason Gordon, Dr. John Willis, Dr. Randy Rousseau, John Auel, and Dr. Andy Ezell.



ACCLAIMED WILDLIFE SCIENTIST TO LEAD MSU DEPARTMENT



DR. ANDREW J. KOUBA, DIRECTOR OF conservation and research at the Memphis Zoo, is the new head of the Mississippi State University Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture.

Kouba has served the Memphis Zoo as director of conservation since 2001. He has secured more than \$3 million in competitive grants for zoo projects including work with amphibians, large carnivores, giant pandas, forest ecology and reintroductions for endangered species. He has worked closely with Mississippi State faculty employing numerous graduate students and postdoctoral fellows for research work in conservation.

“We are fortunate to have Dr. Kouba join the Mississippi State University family and lead this active department,” said George Hopper, dean of the College of Forest Resources and director of the Forest and Wildlife Research Center. “He brings a wealth of knowledge and leadership to this position and will further advance the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture.”

During his tenure with the Memphis Zoo, Kouba also served as adjunct professor in the MSU’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, as well as with the University of Memphis, Rhodes College and Southwestern Forestry University in China. In this role, he served as a mentor and committee member for graduate research.

MSU’s Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture was established in

the late 1960s and conducts research to sustain and improve wildlife, fisheries, and aquatic resources throughout the state and region. As the research arm of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, the department takes an active role in providing research on game species including white-tailed deer, turkey, waterfowl, and fisheries, as well as numerous nongame species. In addition to research, the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture offers undergraduate and graduate education and provides service to Mississippi citizens through the MSU Extension Service.

Gary Jackson, director of the MSU Extension Service, noted Kouba's extensive record in research and outreach.

"Dr. Kouba understands the Extension mission and our role in informal education. His career reflects accomplishments in educational outreach and engagement, and demonstrates successful collaboration with numerous stakeholders," Jackson said. "Mississippians value our state's natural resources, and we look forward to working with Dr. Kouba to advance practical programs based on client needs and priorities."

Kouba earned a bachelor's degree from Northwest Missouri State University, a master's degree from Clemson University, and a doctoral degree from the University of Florida. He conducted post-doctoral training at the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden's Center for Research and Endangered Wildlife.



MSU EXTENSION FORESTRY WINS NATIONAL AWARD

MISSISSIPPI STATE FORESTRY WON the 2014 Family Forests Education Award presented by the National Woodland Owners Association and the National Association of University Forest Resources Programs. Dr. George Hopper, dean of the MSU College of Forest Resources, accepted the award October 8, 2014 at the Society of American Foresters national convention in Salt Lake City, Utah. The MSU Forestry Extension team includes 14 educators operating from six locations. Team members use traditional educational programs, publications, and media to reach and educate as many family forest owners as possible each year.



MSU FORESTRY FACULTY HONORED FOR LEARNING

MISSISSIPPI STATE FORESTRY PROFESSOR Dr. Donald L. Grebner of the College of Forest Resources and Forest and Wildlife Research Center received the Love of Learning recognition by Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines. Established in 2007, the award program annually recognizes members who seek to continue their educations. The funds may be applied to continuing education, career development, and travel related to teaching and studies.

BURGER HONORED FOR DIVERSITY



THE MISSISSIPPI STATE DIVISION OF Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine's diversity honoree is Dr. Leslie Burger. Burger is an assistant extension professor in the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture. Pictured in the photo are IHL Trustee Shane Hooper, Burger, MSU DAFVM vice-president Dr. Gregory Bohach, and IHL Trustee Aubrey Patterson, president of the Board of Trustees.

Left to right: Gary Jackson, Eric Dibble, Wes Burger, Mark Keenum, Lanette Crocker, Bronson Strickland, Ian Munn, Andy Ezell and Rubin Shmulsky



MSU COLLEGE OF FOREST RESOURCES RECEIVES CONSERVATION AWARD

THE COLLEGE OF FOREST RESOURCES at Mississippi State University has been designated the 2014 Conservationist of the Year by the Mississippi Wildlife Federation. The award was sponsored by Chevron.

MSU President Dr. Mark E. Keenum was on hand to accept the award at the 55th Mississippi Conservation Achievement Awards Luncheon hosted by the MWF on April 15, 2015 at the Hilton in Jackson.

"We are very proud that the College of Forest Resources, in partnership with the Mississippi Wildlife Federation and others around the state, has had and continues to have a profound impact in conserving and sustaining our natural resources," Keenum said. "The college is doing a superb job of preparing the next generation of conservation leaders."

MWF's Conservation Achievement Awards are among the most prestigious for conservation efforts. They are presented annually on behalf of MWF's members and supporters and its statewide network of affiliated organizations.

Serving as the only nationally accredited four-year natural resources degree program in the state, the College of Forest Resources has graduated more than 4,000 students in its 60 year history.

The college's mission is to promote the professional and intellectual development of its students; expand the fundamental knowledge upon which the natural resource disciplines are based and assist with development and utilization of the state's natural resources through education, research, and service.

Research has always been an integral component of the CFR mission and works hand in hand with the classroom component of a student's education. The college manages over 28,000 acres in the university's Bulldog Forest. These properties serve as research and teaching laboratories for scientists and students and demonstration areas for landowners.

Research within the college is through the university's Forest and Wildlife Research Center, or FWRC. The FWRC is the research arm for the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks

and the Mississippi Forestry Commission. FWRC research has led to groundbreaking advances in how natural resources are managed and sustained for future generations in Mississippi and throughout the world.

"This honor recognizes the excellence of the faculty, staff, students, and alumni who have been a part of the College of Forest Resources' over our 60 year history," said George Hopper, dean of the College of Forest Resources. "The college is proud to accept this award for all of the hard work these individuals do each day to promote conservation of our natural resources in the state, nation, and world."

In addition to the college's accolade, honors went to a College of Forest Resources faculty member and a student during the annual banquet.

Dr. Bronson Strickland, associate extension professor in wildlife ecology and management in the Forest and Wildlife Research Center and MSU Extension Service, received the Conservation Educator of the Year Award. Strickland, who also is an alumnus of the university, was honored for his work in wildlife management including over 42 workshops he has directed over the last two years.

Teresa Hill, a senior Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture major, received the Mississippi Wildlife Federation scholarship. A native of Flowood, Hill conducted research on bluebird productivity and nest box directionality relative to the sun. Hill constructed and placed 20 nest boxes throughout campus and recorded activity several times each week. Hill graduated in May 2015.

MSU PROFESSOR EMERITUS RECEIVES LIFETIME MERIT AWARD

A MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY professor emeritus recently received a national honor for his lifetime of service.

The Railway Tie Association, or RTA, executive committee gave Dr. Terry Amburgey, a Giles Distinguished Professor, the 2014 Award of Merit for his contribution to the industry. The award is given at the executive committee's discretion and has been awarded only two other times since the association was formed in 1919.

Amburgey's career in wood protection spans 50 years. His research has contributed to improvements within the railway tie industry and beyond.

Amburgey helped increase the lifespan of railway crossties from eight to 15 years to more than 25 years. At the onset of his

research in the early 1980s, he observed that crossties were vulnerable to fungi and insect damage even during the production phase. Amburgey discovered that treating crossties with borates during the air drying process protected the wood from pests.

Rubin Shmulsky, head of MSU's Department of Sustainable Bioproducts, said Amburgey is an innovator in the wood protection field.

"There is a crosstie every eighteen inches on a railway and hundreds of thousands of miles of railway across the U.S.," Shmulsky said. "While Dr. Amburgey's research had a tremendous impact on the railway tie industry as a whole, his diligent work vastly improved the lifespan of crossties in the Southeast, where crossties exposed to extreme heat and humidity tend to have a



shorter lifespan. This improved lifespan translates to improved forest and timberland sustainability."

Amburgey served as a professor in the MSU College of Forest Resources for more than 30 years. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees at State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry and his doctoral degree at North Carolina State University.

NEW BOOK HELPS LANDOWNERS MANAGE WILDLIFE, FISHERIES

A NEW BOOK SHOULD PROVIDE PRIVATE landowners with a comprehensive and easy-to-understand guide to current land management techniques for fisheries and wildlife.

Adam T. Rohnke, a certified wildlife biologist with the Mississippi State University Extension Service, served as managing editor for "Fish and Wildlife Management: A Handbook for Mississippi Landowners."

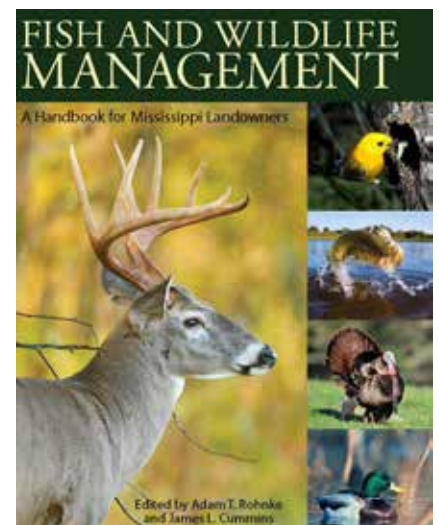
The handbook is a detailed collection of information related to wildlife and fisheries management written and submitted by several experts from MSU; Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks; U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service; Wildlife Mississippi; USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's

Wildlife Services; and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

James L. Cummings, a certified wildlife biologist, certified fisheries professional and executive director of Wildlife Mississippi, served as project director. He worked closely with the Dalrymple Family Foundation to secure the primary funding for the project, with additional financial support from the Natural Resource Enterprises Program at MSU.

Both Rohnke and Cummings also contributed to the book.

The book includes information on the state's natural resource history, conservation planning, habitat types, and fish and wildlife. Contributors detail management techniques for both rural and urban landowners. The book covers wildlife-food plantings, farm pond management,



backyard habitats, nuisance animal control, invasive species control, and management of specific wildlife species, such as white-tailed deer and eastern wild turkey.

For more information or to purchase a copy, visit the University Press of Mississippi website at <http://www.wildlifemiss.org/book>.

RETIREMENTS



**DR. LOU
D'ABRAMO**

Professor, Associate Vice President, Dean of the Graduate School, and aquaculture scientist are just a few of the titles held by Lou D'Abramo. A 30-year veteran of the university, D'Abramo's career has focused on the development of efficient and environmentally-friendly management strategies for alternative aquaculture species. During his tenure, D'Abramo received a meritorious award from the National Shellfisheries Association, exemplary service award from the World Aquaculture Society, and was named Fellow of the World Aquaculture Society, among numerous other honors.



**DR. MOON
KIM**

Sustainable Bioproducts Professor, Moon Kim, retired in 2014 with 26 years of service. Kim's expertise centered on composites and resins. During his tenure, he founded Mississippi Pacific Resins Inc. based on a patent Kim received for thermosetting carbamate-formaldehyde resin technology. The new resin can be used to replace the current urea-formaldehyde resin binders used in interior grade particleboard, medium density fiberboard, and hardwood plywood.



**DR.
DONALD
JACKSON**

Sharp Professor of Fisheries, Donald Jackson, retired in 2014, after 28 years of service to the university. Jackson is an internationally-recognized fisheries biologist and brought great enthusiasm and recognition to the College of Forest Resources, the Forest and Wildlife Research Center and Mississippi State. Jackson received numerous awards for his work including the 2007 Distinguished Service Award from the American Fisheries Society, C.A. Schultz Conservation Award from the Mississippi chapter of the American Fisheries Society, and the designation of Fellow by the American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists.



**DR. BRUCE
LEOPOLD**

Sharp Professor of Wildlife Ecology, Bruce Leopold, retired in 2015 with 28 years of service to the university. A renowned biologist, Leopold served as professor, department head, executive director of the Center for Resolving Human-Wildlife Conflicts, and co-director of the Berryman Institute during his tenure at Mississippi State. Leopold is the recipient of numerous awards including the Henry S. Mosby Award from the National Wild Turkey Federation and the Diversity Award from The Wildlife Society. Leopold is an alumnus of the College of Forest Resources and has funded numerous scholarships for students in forestry and wildlife, fisheries and aquaculture.



**DR.
RICHARD
KAMINSKI**

The James C. Kennedy Chair for Waterfowl and Wetland Conservation, Richard Kaminski, retired in 2015 after 32 years of service to the university. Kaminski, affectionately referred to as 'Papa Duck' led an extensive waterfowl and wetlands program, which garnered national respect for the university. Most recently, the waterfowl and wetlands program received the Blue-winged Teal Award, from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the group's decades of applied research and other contributions to waterfowl and wetlands in North America.



**DR. PHILIP
STEELE**

Warren S. Thompson Professor of Forest Products, Philip Steele, retired in 2014 after 27 years of service. At the time of his retirement, Steele's research centered on the conversion of woody feedstock to biofuels. An alumnus of Mississippi State, Steele's career included the development of five patents on non-destructive lumber testing and biofuels. He also developed numerous software programs for the furniture and lumber manufacturing industry.

NEW FACULTY



DR. HEATHER ALEXANDER

Heather Alexander is an assistant professor in forestry. Her research interest is fire ecology and forest ecosystem dynamics. Alexander earned her Ph.D. in biology from the University of Kentucky.



DR. MICHAEL COLVIN

An assistant professor in wildlife, fisheries and aquaculture and fisheries biologist, his research focus is on simulation, modeling, harvest management, and ecosystem ecology. He earned his Ph.D. in fisheries biology from Iowa State University.



DR. MARCUS LASHLEY

An assistant professor in wildlife, fisheries and aquaculture, he researches the responses of wildlife to changes in plants following disturbances. He earned a Ph.D. in fisheries, wildlife and conservation biology from North Carolina State University.



DR. MOJGAN NEJAD

An assistant professor in sustainable bioproducts, her research focus is on lignin-based bioproducts. She earned her Ph.D. in wood science from the University of Toronto.



DR. HEIDI RENNINGER

An assistant professor in forestry, her research focus is on productivity across tree species and determining how environmental stressors affect forest functioning. She earned her Ph.D. in geography from Boston University.



DR. CHARLES SABATIA

An assistant professor in forestry, his research includes modeling growth and yield of managed forests. He earned his Ph.D. in forest biometrics from Virginia Tech.



DR. GARRETT STREET

Garrett Street is an assistant professor in wildlife, fisheries and aquaculture. His research focuses on how animals use their home ranges and habitats, and how landscapes shape patterns of habitat use and populations. He earned a Ph.D. in integrative biology at the University of Guelph.



DR. JASON STREET

An assistant professor in sustainable bioproducts, his research focus is on renewable and alternate energy. He earned his Ph.D. in biological engineering from Mississippi State University.



DR. BETH STOKES

An assistant professor in sustainable bioproducts, her research focus is on application of bioremediation technologies. She earned her Ph.D. in forest resources from Mississippi State University.



DR. JOHN WILLIS

An assistant professor in forestry, his research focus is on functional ecology of managed forest systems. He earned his Ph.D. from Michigan State University in forest science and evolutionary ecology and biology.



DR. QIANG "JEREMY" YAN

An assistant research professor in sustainable bioproducts, his research focus is on carbon-based nanomaterial production from biomass feedstock. He earned his Ph.D. from the Chinese Academy of Sciences in physical chemistry.

STUDENT NEWS



MSU's Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society participated in the *2015 Southeastern Wildlife Conclave Team*. Out of the 21 colleges that were represented at conclave, the chapter's quiz bowl team took 3rd place this year, and several of the members took home individual awards. *Nick Lansdell* placed 2nd in the turkey calling competition, *Wesley Tucker* placed 2nd in the "other" calling competition, *Nathan Collier* placed 2nd in rifle, and *Tucker Davidson* placed 2nd in manipulated photography.

MSU HOSTS 58TH ANNUAL SOUTHERN FORESTRY CONCLAVE MARCH 12-14

A TIME-HONORED FRIENDLY COMPETITION among 15 southern forestry schools took place when Mississippi State University's Forestry Club hosted the 58th Annual Southern Forestry Conclave in March 2015. The March 12-14 event occurred at the university's John W. Starr Memorial Forest. Featuring different student competitions each day, the activities were held at the Charles E. Burkhardt Pavilion off of Highway 25.

Conclave brings together universities from across the south to compete in an assortment of forestry challenges, testing both physical and technical skills.

"It not only celebrates the history of the field of forestry, but also the camaraderie shared by professionals in the natural resources industry," said MSU Forestry Club President Zach Senneff, a senior forestry major.

Physical events included archery, axe throwing, log rolling and birling, pole climbing, pole felling, and cross-cut sawing. Technical events included dendrology, wood identification, compass and pacing, and wildlife identification, among others.

In addition to the competitions, the Stihl Timbersports Series was held Friday night at the Covered K Arena in Mabon.



Left to right: Bronson Strickland, Caleb Hinton, Eric Michel, and Stephen Demarais

MSU GRADUATE STUDENTS HONORED FOR DEER RESEARCH

TWO GRADUATE STUDENTS IN Mississippi State University's College of Forest Resources received recent honors for deer research. Eric Michel and Caleb Hinton placed first and second, respectively, in the Student Oral Presentation competition at the 38th Annual Meeting of the Southeast Deer Study Group in Little Rock, Arkansas. They competed against 19 students from nine universities. The meeting was hosted with the support of the directors of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Approximately 350 biologists attended the event.

"The meeting serves as a forum for sharing research results, management strategies, and discussions that facilitate the timely identification of and solutions to problems relative to management of white-tailed deer," said Dr. Steve Demarais, Dale H. Arner Professor of Wildlife Ecology and Management in the MSU College of Forest Resources.

Both graduate students are under the direction of Demarais and Dr. Bronson Strickland, associate extension professor

in wildlife ecology and management in the Forest and Wildlife Research Center.

"We select only the most qualified candidates for our graduate program, provide them with interesting research projects and mentor them to develop excellent communication skills," Demarais said. "Dr. Strickland and I love being part of the MSU Deer Lab and the ability to mentor fine graduate candidates like Eric and Caleb is a big part of our enjoyment."

Michel, a doctoral student in forest resources, presented research on causes of antler size and body mass variation of white-tailed deer in Mississippi. A native of Ithaca, Wisconsin, he earned his undergraduate degree in wildlife ecology from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and his master's degree in wildlife, fisheries and aquaculture from Mississippi State.

Hinton, a master's student in wildlife science at Mississippi State, presented on the estimation of deer damage to soybean production in Mississippi. A Beaumont, Mississippi, native, Hinton earned his bachelor's degree in psychology from William Carey University.

AWARDS & HONORS

Jacob Beard, graduate student in forestry from Elizabethtown, Kentucky, placed first in the MSU's Del Rendon Foundation "Legacy" Series art contest with his 40" x 60" portrait of Johnny Cash. The portrait hung in the art gallery of the Union for several weeks.

MSU forestry students swept the visual display competition at the Southern Hardwood Research Group meeting in 2015.

Jason Cromer placed first, **Sam Ogumlohu** placed second, and **Drew Dowdy** placed third.

A Mississippi State doctoral student in forest resources is being honored by the Alabama-Mississippi Section of the American Water Works Association. **Austin R. Omer** received a \$2,000 scholarship during the organization's recent annual conference in Point Clear, Alabama. A former Illinois resident, he is pursuing an academic concentration in wildlife and fisheries at the university.

MSU forestry students excelled in the International Society of Forest Resource Economics and Western Forest Economists joint conference student poster competition. First place, **Brock Davis** presented on the "Economic Tradeoffs of Managing Pine Plantation for Timber Production or Wildlife Habitat." Second place, **Raju Pokharel** presented on, "Procurement Potential of Logging Residues in the Southeastern U.S."

A Mississippi State University undergraduate student and research scholar has won the Harold Weaver Undergraduate Student Excellence Award for his research on the flammability of hardwood forests. Senior forestry major **Zach Senneff** of Caledonia, received the honor from the Association of Fire Ecology at the Large Wildland Fires Conference in Missoula, Montana. Senneff investigated the flammability of leaf litter from 10 hardwood species common to the eastern U.S. The objective of his research was to determine which leaves encourage fire and which hamper fire. In fire-prone ecosystems, flammable leaf litter kills competing trees.

ALUMNI NEWS

WFA ALUMNA NEW UPPER MISSISSIPPI WILDLIFE REFUGE LEADER

SABRINA CHANDLER (WILDLIFE AND fisheries, 2003, 2007) has returned to the rivers from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Washington, D.C., to start her new position as complex manager for the Upper Mississippi River National Fish and Wildlife Refuge. She'll help oversee the 16 wildlife and habitat conservation refuges in the Mississippi, Illinois, and Missouri rivers.

"Taking this position helps me get back to that resource and that conservation on the ground that I've been hoping to implement on the national level," Chandler said.

The move to Winona, Minnesota, will be a change for Chandler, who's mostly worked in the Southeast and at the other end of the Mississippi.

Chandler fell in love with big rivers while growing up in southern Mississippi along the Pascagoula River. In college, she visited the Mississippi River on a field trip.

She was a natural leader early on, said Bruce Leopold, retired professor at Mississippi State University who worked with Chandler.

"She certainly had an affinity toward aquatic resources but her skills and her drive did not just limit her to that," Leopold said.

Chandler kicked off her career in Savannah, Georgia, as a wildlife refuge specialist. She has worked to conserve sea turtles and red wolves in South Carolina and in hardwood forests in Arkansas; she also helped



with the cleanup in Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina.

Chandler said she'd sometimes find full bookshelves and clothing floating in the river after the hurricane. "The storm surge there pushed anything and everything into all the backwaters and up the river systems," she said.

For the past couple years, she worked in D.C. as the chief of staff to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe. She brings many skills to the new position, including an understanding of the situation in the rivers and exposure to national issues, said Tom Melius, regional director for the Midwest region of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

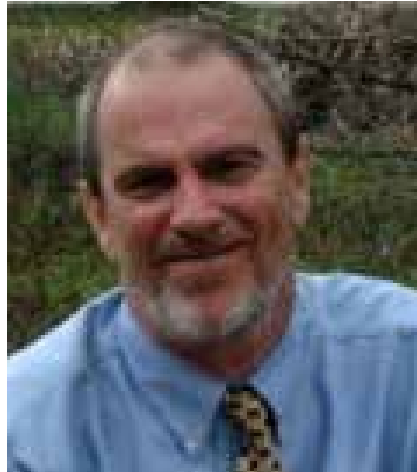
"This experience dealing with big river ecosystems and coordinating with flood and oil spill response is very important to have in this type of a position," Melius said.

Chandler has other aspirations beyond her career, including taking advantage of the outdoors to keep her 3-year-old son active.

"We dealt a lot with alligators on the Lower Mississippi," she said. "That's one thing that will be different on the upper end, not having to watch out for the alligators."

Portions of this article were derived from Star Tribune.

MSU ALUMNUS NAMED AT-LARGE TRUSTEE OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF WATER RESOURCES ENGINEERS (AAWRE) BOARD OF TRUSTEES



D. PHIL TURNIPSEED (FORESTRY, 1977) IS THE Science Advisor for Water Programs at U.S. Geological Survey, Southeast Region. Turnipseed served as the center director of the USGS National Wetlands Research Center in Lafayette, Louisiana for nearly four years prior to this new appointment. Turnipseed's duties as science advisor for Water Programs are researching problematic surface water hydrology and hydraulic issues in the Southeast Region, an area that includes water science centers in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia, North and South Carolina, Florida, and the Caribbean. Previously, Turnipseed served as the principal USGS liaison to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the International Joint

Commission, and the Environment Canada Ministry. He began his USGS career in 1987 as a civil engineer working in hydraulic bridge design in cooperation with the Mississippi Department of Transportation. In his more than 29 years of federal service, Turnipseed has worked at USGS science centers in Mississippi, Texas, Virginia, and Louisiana conducting a wide array of hydrologic and hydraulic research, hydrologic monitoring design and construction, ecosystem research, and geospatial analysis. He has authored or co-authored over 80 peer-reviewed reports, posters, and scientific papers. Turnipseed was awarded the Department of the Interior Superior Service Award (2006) and the USGS WRD Unit Award for Excellence for his service and contributions.

MISSISSIPPI BASED COMPANY BREAKS INTO OUTDOOR INDUSTRY

FOLLOWING THE PROUD TRADITION of Mississippi-based companies in the outdoor industry, Mississippi State alumnus Blake Hamilton (forestry, 2010) has founded Nature's Eye LLC, a professional forestry and wildlife management consulting firm. Nature's Eye has been in operation since June 2013 offering complete land, forest, and resource management for private landowners across the country. Hamilton, originally from Alabama, received a B.S. in Forestry with a Wildlife Management concentration from MSU's College of Forest Resources. He gained an entry-level position in the industry through the co-op program and acquired three years of experience by the time he graduated. Between his co-op experience and his post-grad work, Hamilton gathered over seven years of experience before stepping out to start his own company. The firm's Client Relations Manager, Emily Courtney (forestry, 2009, agribusiness management, 2011), is also a CFR alum.

Nature's Eye offers a wide range of services, from conducting site assessments and writing management plans, to implementing timber management and habitat improvements. The staff also assists landowners with clerical responsibilities, such as applying for government cost-share programs, property tax exemptions, special game management programs, and mitigation programs.

Nature's Eye is currently managing properties in eight states and will be expanding into more throughout 2015. The company has offices in Jackson, Mississippi; Lufkin, Texas; and Jackson, Tennessee.

STEPHEN MAY APPOINTED TO THE ALABAMA FORESTRY COMMISSION

STEPHEN WILLIAM MAY III (FORESTRY, 1977) of Sawyerville, Alabama, was recently appointed by Governor Robert Bentley to serve a five-year term on the Alabama Forestry Commission. This seven-member board of commissioners, appointed by the Governor and approved by the State Senate, is responsible for setting policy for the Forestry Commission, the state agency charged with protecting and sustaining Alabama's forest resources.

A 1963 graduate of Greensboro High School, May completed three campaigns in Vietnam while serving in the U.S. Army. In 1977 he received a Bachelor of Science

degree from Mississippi State University, School of Forest Resources. Further education included graduation from the Alabama Criminal Justice Training Center in 1979.

As a licensed registered forester in Alabama, May has worked in both the private sector and state government during his career. Currently, he is a private forestry consultant operating as May Forestry and Natural Resources Management. Previous corporate jobs included Macmillan Bloedel, Inc. at Pine Hill, and the Mobile-based forestry consulting firm Larson & McGowan, Inc., working at their

Demopolis branch with forest management responsibilities. In 1987 he was named Vice President and Chief Forester for Delaney Development, responsible for land purchase, forest management, and sales, as well as wildlife management.

May's employment with the Alabama Forestry Commission spanned from the southern tip of the state to the north, beginning in Mobile County in 1969, to later serving as county forester in Morgan County. Most recently, as fire division director with the agency from 2005-2012, his duties involved statewide fire control, rural community fire protection, and prescribed fire grant oversight.

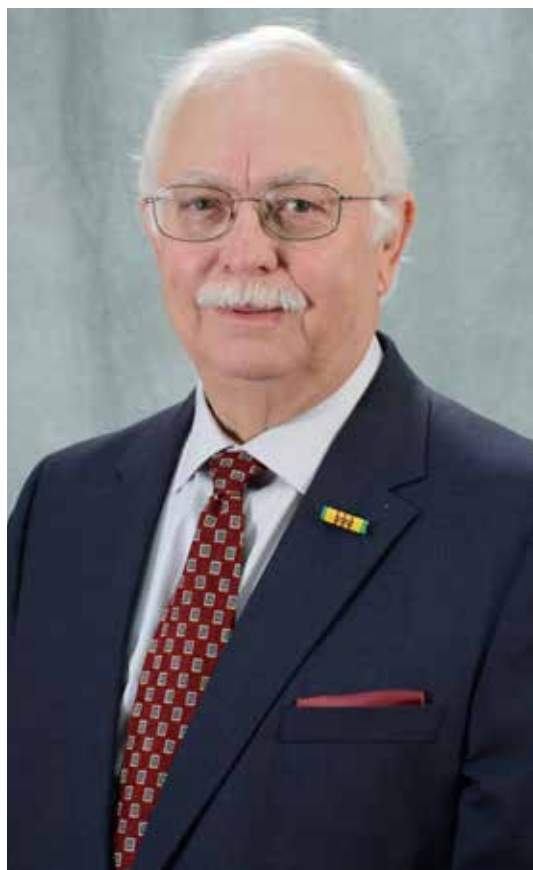
Also a landowner, May returned with his wife Terri in 2013 to the May Farm, where he grew up in Hale County. This recognized "Century Farm," located several miles

Mississippi State University alumnus **Brian Brashaw** (forest products, 2014) is the new program manager for the Forest Products Marketing Unit of the U.S. Forest Service's Forest Products Laboratory. Brian was previously employed for the University of Minnesota Duluth's Natural Resources Research Institute (NRRI), where he also served as program manager. The Forest Products Marketing Unit works to ensure healthy, sustainable forests that are more resilient to disturbances by creating high value, high volume markets from woody biomass. Brashaw has a B.S. in Forest Management from UW-Stevens Point; a M.S. in Materials Science from Washington State University; and, a Ph.D. in Forest Resources from Mississippi State University.

west of Sawyerville near the Black Warrior River, was owned and farmed by his father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. The Mays have three daughters. He is a member of Calvary Baptist Church in Tuscaloosa.

May has previously served on two other state boards including the Conservation Advisory Board of the Alabama Department of Conservation & Natural Resources for ten years, and the Alabama State Board of Registration for Foresters for five years.

The Alabama Forestry Commission protects and sustains Alabama's forest resources using professionally applied stewardship principals and education, ensuring that the state's forests contribute to abundant timber and wildlife, clean air and water, and a healthy economy.



MSU ALUMNUS NAMED SOUTHEASTERN SECTION REP FOR THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

CFR ALUMNI MIKE Conner (wildlife and fisheries, 1991, 1995) is the new Southeastern Section Representative for The Wildlife Society. Since becoming a TWS member in 1988, Mike Conner has served in countless positions within the organization. Beginning in October, the veteran member will be serving his first term as a section representative.



Conner says that he is honored to have been chosen by his peers to represent the Southeast Section. He is anxious to make a difference by reinforcing some of the positive changes he's seen in the last several years and giving a voice to the chapters of his section. In the past five years or so, Conner says he has been very impressed with the level of student involvement in TWS and wants to do everything he can to encourage that. However, he feels also that overall membership has dropped, and wants to put more of a focus on recruitment.

In addition to student participation and recruiting, Conner is interested in working to improve the visibility of the *Journal of Wildlife Management*.

Conner earned a master's degree in wildlife ecology and a doctorate in forest resources, both from Mississippi State University. He is currently a scientist for the Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center in Newton, Georgia.

MSU CEREMONY TO SPOTLIGHT NEW JOHN C. STENNIS BIOGRAPHY

THE FORMAL LAUNCH OF A BIOGRAPHY about a major 20th century Magnolia State public servant took place May 27 at Mississippi State.

The public program featured author Donald H. "Don" Thompson of Golden. He discussed "Stennis: Plowing a Straight Furrow, The Story of Statesman John C. Stennis," his 176-page book released May 20 by Oxford-based Nautilus Publishing.

The event took place at the university's John C. Stennis Institute of Government and Economic Development, among several campus memorials to its distinguished late alumnus and longtime United States senator.

Thompson, a professional forester, also is an MSU graduate, with bachelor, master's and doctoral degrees all awarded by what now is the College of Forest Resources.

Stennis (1901-95) graduated in 1923 from then-Mississippi A&M College. He went on to attend law school at the University of Virginia, where he was selected for Phi Beta Kappa and Alpha Chi Rho honor societies.

With his A&M and legal educations in hand, the Kemper County native returned home and won election to the Mississippi House of Representatives. He later served successively as a 16th Judicial District prosecutor and circuit judge before being elected in 1947 to the U.S. Senate.

After serving continuously in Congress until retirement in 1988, Stennis came back to MSU, where he helped teach and serve as an inspiration for future public servants.

WEYERHAEUSER VP GAVE 2015 CARLTON N. OWEN LECTURE

THE SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF wood products at Weyerhaeuser Company was this year's guest for Mississippi State's 2015 Carlton N. Owen Lecture Series.

Adrian M. Blocker led the April 21 public program.

Blocker joined Weyerhaeuser in 2013 as vice president of the lumber division. Prior to his employment for the Fortune 500 company, he served as CEO of the Wood Products Council. He also has held leadership positions at West Fraser, International Paper, and Champion International.

He holds an MBA and bachelor's degrees in business and forestry from Mississippi State University.

Weyerhaeuser is one of the world's largest private owners of timberlands, owning or controlling more than 6 million acres and managing another 14 million in the U.S. and Canada. Weyerhaeuser operates in 10 countries and employs nearly 15,000 people.

The Owen Lecture Series was established nearly two decades ago in MSU's College of Forest Resources by the Greenville, South Carolina, resident and 1974 MSU graduate for whom it is named. The program focuses on natural resource conservation issues.

ALUMNI UPDATES

DEBRA MILLER (wildlife and fisheries, 1987) was recently appointed director of the University of Tennessee Center for Wildlife Health.

MATT GRAY (wildlife and fisheries, 1995) was promoted in the Institute of Agriculture to professor, forestry, wildlife and fisheries department, University of Tennessee. Gray brings UT students to Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge each year as part of a fall camp. WFS 340: Wetlands Ecology and Management is part of the UT Wildlife and Fisheries Science (WFS) Fall Camp. The course is two weeks—one week in the classroom and one week in the field. In the classroom, students learn how to identify wetland types, waterbirds, amphibians, and reptiles as well as learn principles of wetland management. In the field, they take a one-day field trip to a new wetland management area near Knoxville then spend four days in Mississippi. They camp out at Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge and spend one day of activities there and one day of activities in Starkville on MSU's campus. The group usually spends a half-day focusing on wetland management and a half-day on non-game management. At MSU, the team meets with researchers who give presentations on wetland ecology and tour the Mississippi Entomological Museum. On the last evening there is a cookout and live music. Year after year, the students report that the WFS Fall Camp is a highlight of the academic experiences, and the trip to Mississippi is one of the best.



DANNY RAY BEESON (forest products, 2000) was recently hired as quality control manager for Weyerhaeuser in Philadelphia, Mississippi.



BRIAN COBBLE (forestry, 2000) attended the CFR tailgate in 2014. Brian works as a senior forester for the Florida Forest Service. It has been over 10 years since he has been back to campus and he said he and friend Victoria Bishop had a blast.

STEPHEN PEAIRS (forestry, 2001, 2003) is working on a Ph.D. in natural resources at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville.

LINDSAY MURPHY MALOAN (wildlife and fisheries, 2006), husband Drake, and big brother Bennett (3) welcomed twin girls Genevieve and Kellen Clair in February 2014. Lindsay is currently working as an environmental scientist for the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality in New Orleans and acting as a contributing writer for several blogs, including The New Orleans Moms Blog, Liberating Working Moms, and Postpartum Progress.

DR. STEPHEN AND KRISAN WEBB (wildlife and fisheries, 2009) announced the arrival of their first child, Shelby Ann Webb, on December 26, 2013. Stephen is the biostatistics and spatial analyst at The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation and Krisan is now a stay-at-home mom after working as a fisheries biologist (Wyoming Game and Fish Department) and research associate (The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation).

IN MEMORIAM

WILLIAM "BILL" JONATHAN TURNER, JR. (forest products, 1960), 80, of Collierville, TN, was born in Gulfport, Mississippi on November 11, 1933, and grew up in Greene County, Mississippi. He passed away in Memphis, Tennessee on August 16, 2014. Bill proudly served in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict and subsequently earned a Bachelor of Science in Forestry at Mississippi State University. Turner was a successful lumberman, manufacturing and selling hardwood and softwood lumber to an extensive clientele in Europe and the Pacific Rim. He was an active member of the Memphis Hardwood Lumberman's Club. He is survived by his wife, Priscilla Fondren Turner, whom he married on February 4, 1962, in Forrest City, Arkansas, and his son Jonathan Turner (wife Deanna) and four grandchildren, Tabitha, Sam, Daniel and David of Antigo, Wisconsin. He was preceded in death by his parents, William Jonathan Turner, Sr. and Louisa Parker Turner of Leakesville, Mississippi. Bill had a remarkable work ethic and a deep faith and love for God. He was a man of high integrity with a gentle and kind spirit. His loving family and friends are grateful for his thoughtfulness and leadership and the legacy he leaves for the generations to come.

HAROLD GREEN (forestry, 1957), of Lake Highlands, Texas, was a forestry expert whose work involved reviewing and approving multimillion-dollar civil engineering projects. Throughout Texas, Green played a major role in a quiet way in his career as a forester. Residents who drive by and use green spaces, lakes and parks benefit from his work. Green, 79, died unexpectedly August 14, 2014 at Doctors Hospital at White Rock Lake. Born Dec. 14, 1934, in the Bond community near Philadelphia, Mississippi, Green earned a degree in forestry from Mississippi State College (now Mississippi State University). He worked for the U.S. Forest Service before taking a job with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In 1972, he moved to the Corps' Southwestern division office in Dallas. Green was acting chief of the Southwestern division office for several years until he retired in 1995. He married Nell Green in 1961; they had two sons, Charles "Charlie" Green of Dallas and Steve Green of Allen.

RANDALL CHARLES WARREN (forestry, 1970; wildlife and fisheries, 1980), 66, of Bradley, Mississippi passed away at his residence on September 19, 2014. Warren was born in Petal, Mississippi and was the son of Charles Ralph Warren of Selma, Alabama; and Vera K. Davidson Hopkins of Meridian, Mississippi. He graduated from Mississippi State University with a Bachelor of Science in Forestry and a Master of Science in Wildlife and Fisheries. He completed course work and research for Ph.D. in botany. He performed environmental impact studies for the U.S. Forestry Service. He was an avid turkey, duck, and quail hunter. He followed the Bulldogs six times to Omaha for the College World Series, most recently in 2013. He was a beloved husband, father, brother, friend, and mentor to many graduate students. Warren was the first to identify several endangered plants in the area and to document the nest of the red crossbill at the Noxubee Refuge. He is survived by his wife Vicky Harrison Warren of Bradley, Mississippi; son, Harrison Randall Warren of Starkville, Mississippi; sisters, Delena Davidson Barrett of Meridian, Mississippi; Ginger Warren of Boulder, Colorado and a brother, Melvin David Warren of Marion, MS.

CHARLES WENDELL GRAHAM (forestry, 1993), 45, of Biloxi, died October 12, 2014. Graham was born on January 19, 1969 in Biloxi. He was a charter member of Parkway Baptist Church in Biloxi and a member of Polar Star Masonic Lodge #154 of Gulfport. He was a graduate of Mississippi State University where he earned his degree in forestry and went on to work in the forestry field. He was a member of the Society of American Foresters and the Mississippi Forestry Association. He served as a member on the Board of Directors for the Harrison County Farm Bureau. He is preceded in death by his grandparents, Shirley and Gladys Graham, and Bernard and Cordie Swanson; aunt, Carol Williams, and uncle, Ed Robinson. Survivors include his parents, William Wendell and Jenny Swanson Graham of Biloxi; his loving daughter, Dixie Madeline Graham who was his "Lil Bit" (his little bit of heaven); aunts and uncles, Glen and Virginia Graham, Linda Robinson, Carl D. Williams, Wallace and Gerald Swanson, and Jerry and Martha Cook; and a host of close cousins and friends.

CFR ALUMNI & FRIENDS TAILGATE

The College of Forest Resources and Friends Alumni Tailgate was held on October 24, 2015. About 800 alumni and friends gathered at the Johnson Courtyard for food and fellowship. After a great barbeque meal and MSU ice cream, alumni enjoyed a win by the Mississippi State Bulldogs against the Kentucky Wildcats. A special thanks to Plum Creek for partnering with the College of Forest Resources to host the tailgate. We can't wait for the 2016 tailgate. Hope to see you there!







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