Alumni

Joel Smith received the Distinguished Service Award at the SFRC Annual Awards Banquet held April 12th.

John Morris (‘67) (right) received the Outstanding Staff Member award at the SFRC Annual Awards Banquet held April 12th.

Eric Holzmuehlke (‘06) and Kris Bendet (‘04) were married December 29, 2007. Kristi is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Forestry at SIU.

Dan Schultz (‘77) received the SFRC Outstanding Student Member award for his work in hosting Conclave.

Faculty

Martha Monroe received the Crystal Vision Award from the League of Environmental Educators for her unique long-term contributions that further LEEF’s goal and mission. Martha was also awarded the University “Scholarship of Engagement” by the College of Education.

Alan Long was awarded the Herbert Stoddard Sr. Life-time Achievement Award from the Association of Fire Ecologists for his work in fire ecology and management.

P.K. Nair is the first IFAS researcher to become a fellow of three agricultural societies: American Society of Agronomy, Soil Science Society of America and the Crop Science Society of America. He also received a Doctor of Science honoris causa degree from the University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain.

Janaki Alvaalapati has taken the position of Professor and Head of the Department of Forestry at Virginia Tech. Congratulations!

Director’s Letter

This issue of the SFRC Newsletter focuses on our undergraduate programs. We are happy to report that enrollment is growing and graduating seniors are finding good jobs. Total undergraduate SFRC enrollment is approximately 160 students (76 in Geomatics, 46 in Natural Resource Conservation and 38 in Forest Resources and Conservation). This number is up from 138 the previous year.

Not only is enrollment up, but students from all three majors are finding jobs in their profession. In the last two years, 90% of graduating seniors in the Forest Resources and Conservation (FRC) major have found positions in the Division of Forestry, private consulting, industry, federal agencies, non-governmental organizations and graduate school. Also, 100% of the Geomatics graduates have taken positions with surveying or engineering firms or gone on to graduate school.

So, while sometimes we hear that jobs are scarce for FRC graduates or that the real estate slowdown has impacted the surveying industry, our graduates are finding good jobs. We believe that there are at least two reasons for this. First, the professional demand has always existed and will continue to exist in the future in both geomatics and forest resources. While both professions are dynamic, society will need good stewards of our natural resources more than ever in the future. Similarly, surveyors and mappers will always be in high demand.

Second, the SFRC faculty are committed to giving students the very best education possible with strong technical classes, personal attention, targeted internships in the profession, and special emphasis on problem solving, critical thinking, communication skills, lifelong learning and professional development. As examples of professional development and leadership opportunities are: 15 undergraduates attended the Southeastern Chapter of the Society of American Foresters (SAF); 11 attended the national SAF meeting in Portland, OR; 14 attended the annual meeting of the Florida Surveying and Mapping Society; and several students in all three majors became officers of clubs and helped to organize many events including Conclave (see below), annual award banquets, golf tournaments, club activities, fund raisers and more.

Perhaps we are biased, but we firmly believe that the combination of future demand for our graduates and the high quality of education that our students receive make the SFRC a great choice for high school and community college students. If you agree, please send us promising students who will become the leaders of their profession.

Tim White

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On March 6-8, the University of Florida Forestry Club hosted 250 students and advisors for the 51st Association of Southern Forestry Clubs’ Conclave.

This annual event pits competitors from 16 southeastern university for entry programs against each other in contests ranging from traditional lumberjacking events such as log chopping, pole climbing, and crosscut sawing to technical natural resource events like photogrammetry, timber estimation, and dendrology. Competing students gamely slogged through their events in four inches of downpouring rain on the first day, and were awarded with a sunny and windy Saturday for finishing off the physical events.

Perennial favorite Stephen F. Austin University took away this year’s physical events.

Go Gators!
Devon McFall
Sequoia National Forest, CA

As an intern Devon sampled understory and overstory vegetation following FIA standards in the area burned by the 2001 McNally Wildfire wildfire, which covered about 166,000 acres. He identified and measured the over and under-story vegetation, percent ground cover, and disease and pest occurrence. The main goal was to assess regeneration needs. Sampling unit boundaries were delineated using GIS and GPS.

Joanna Rehe
Volusia County, FL

Joanna interned for Volusia County Land Acquisition and Management. She assisted with vegetation monitoring and mapping, was responsible for the mapping and data management of trails and fire lines, identified exotic/invasive species and assisted in removal by various techniques (including spraying mechanical methods), and created and maintained the GPS/GIS data and helped with herbicide application of invasive hardwoods on a sandhill restoration project.

Aaron Trulock
Rayonier

Aaron interned with Rayonier in their West Florida District with UF alumni Mike Conlon and Jeremy Tankersley. Common tasks included conducting mid-rotation and pre-harvest inventories; monitoring harvest sites for BMP and SFI compliance; and creating inventory and harvest GIS maps. Other assignments included marking SMZ’s for harvest areas, conducting post-fire health checks, creating pre-harvest environmental plans and monitoring thinning operations for appropriate stocking. One of the unique opportunities Aaron had was to participate in a SFI internal audit of the district.