December 2008

Director’s Letter

It is our pleasure to announce that the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences has merged with the School of Forest Resources and Conservation (SFRC) and will now be one of three broad programmatic areas within the SFRC along with Geomatics and Forest Resources and Conservation. The faculty and staff of the Program for Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences (PFAS) will continue to deliver the same premier teaching, research and extension programs that have earned them national acclaim.

This issue of the SFRC Newsletter introduces you to the 17 tenured and tenure-accruing faculty in PFAS to give you a flavor of the breadth and depth of their programs. In addition to these faculty, other key research faculty include: Patrick Baker (Research Assistant Professor), Roger Bachmann (Research Professor), Don Behringer (Research Assistant Professor), Denise Petty (Research Assistant Professor), Daryl Parkyn (Research Assistant Professor), Leslie Sturmer (Multi-county Aquaculture Extension Faculty), Carl Walters (Emeritus Scholar) and Craig Watson (Director, Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory).

Collectively, these faculty and associated staff have excellent programs spanning four programmatic areas: (1) Aquatic animal health focusing on natural and anthropogenic pathogens and toxins that affect wild and cultured organisms; (2) Aquaculture aimed at enhancing productivity of finfish and shellfish as well as ornamental fish for the aquarium industry; (3) Conservation and management of aquatic environments including lakes, rivers, estuaries and coastal marine environments; and (4) Sustainable fisheries with foci on population biology and modeling, behavioral ecology, life histories, and factors influencing fish community structure. Fisheries and aquatic sciences are of paramount importance to Florida, the region, the nation and the world. In Florida alone, there are more than 7,500 lakes and 8,400 miles of tidal coastline that support one of the largest recreational fisheries in the world with more than one million boaters each year and a total economic impact to Florida of over $8 billion annually. In addition the aquaculture industry generates a farmgate value of nearly $100 million mainly from the production of hard clams and ornamental fish and plants for the aquarium industry. The sustainability of these activities and the ecosystem health of our aquatic resources are the primary foci of PFAS.

This is an exciting time for the SFRC since we now have an enhanced capacity to address aquatic and terrestrial natural resource problems at a whole-watershed level beginning at the headwaters and culminating in estuaries and coastal marine environments. We will continue to develop programs in teaching, research and extension that stress sustainability, production, management and conservation of the resources. As we move forward, we will work with the faculty and staff and with all of you, our colleagues, stakeholders, students and friends, to find programmatic synergies and new collaborations that enhance all of our programs and address the pressing issues and opportunities in natural resources.

We welcome your feedback and wish you a joyous Holiday Season.

Tim White

A gift of time, cash or a charitable gift annuity may increase your retirement income and earn an income tax deduction.
Send gifts directly to:
School of Forest Resources & Conservation
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Makes checks payable to the University of Florida Foundation, Inc.-SHARE and designate the SFRC.

Appreciation For Our Supporters
Without the support of friends we could not maintain our level of academic excellence. Thank you to the following for their contributions to the School’s Unrestricted Fund: Michael & Julia (08) Klaproth, Nicholas DiGruttolo (08), Helen Probst (08), Carol Wild (93), Bill (78) & Mary Cleckley, & Roger (61) & Janie Bollinger. Thank you to Phillip Rucks Citrus Nursery, Inc. for their contribution to Don Rockwood’s eucalyptus research. Thank you to Bill Lindberg for his contribution to the SFRC Fisheries & Aquatic Sciences Unrestricted Fund. Thank you to Dr. & Mrs. Loukas Arvanitis for their contribution to the John Gray Endowment for Excellence in Forest Resources & Conservation. Thank you to the following for their contribution to the University of Florida Forest Stewardship program: International Forest Company, Environmental Services, Inc., Florida Farm Bureau Federation, Forestland Management, Inc., Green Circle Bio Energy Inc., F&W Forestry Services, Inc., Southern Forestry Consultants, Inc. & Blanton’s Longleaf Container Nursery. Thank you to Dr. & Mrs. Josh Dickinson for their contribution to the Joshua C. Dickinson IV Memorial Fund for Tropical Forestry. Thank you to Mrs. Glenn Rankin for her contribution to the William Shawley, Sr. Memorial Fund in Forestry. Thank you to the following for their contribution to the Surveying Support Fund: Florida Surveying & Mapping Society, Inc., Collier-Lee Chapter of the Florida Surveying & Mapping Society, Inc. and Terry McKay. Thank you to the following for their support of Project Learning Tree: Rayonier, St. Johns River Water Management District, Coastal Plymouth Company, Southeast Tennessee Wood Producers Association, Inc. & Leon County Extension. Thank you to Richard Hinson (80) for his contribution to the Surveying/Mapping Scholarship Fund. Thank you to the following for their contribution to the Terry D. Willaford Memorial Scholarship in remembrance of Terry Willaford: John Shannon, Patrick & Patricia Tomford & Nancy Lashee-Darragh.
Frank Chapman  
- Associate Professor  
Ph.D. - University of California - Davis  
Courses Taught: Aquaculture, Sustainability in Aquatic Systems  
Research Areas: Aquatic ecosystems, Conservation of aquatic organisms  
Extension Areas: Food and ornamental fish aquaculture

Karl Havens  
- Professor  
Ph.D. - West Virginia University  
Courses Taught: Zooplankton Ecology, Seminar in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences  
Research Areas: Plankton ecology, Limnology  
Extension Areas: Lake management

Courtney L. Ohls  
- Assistant Professor  
Ph.D. - Mississippi State University  
Courses Taught: Aquaculture, Food and Aquatic Organisms  
Research Areas: Marine baitfish production, Fish and Aquaculture  
Extension Areas: Production of food shrimp, fish, and bivalve; development and implementation of an aquaculture curriculum in middle and high schools

Roy Yanong  
- Associate Professor  
VMD - University of Pennsylvania  
Courses Taught: Introduction to Fish and Aquatic Invertebrate Histological Interpretation  
Research Areas: Aquatic animal health and aquaculture  
Extension Areas: Aquatic animal health and aquaculture

Chuck Cichra  
- Professor  
- Extension Fisheries Specialist  
Ph.D. - Texas A&M University  
Courses Taught: Introduction to Fishery Science, Fisheries Management, Fish and Limnology, Applied Fisheries Statistics  
Research Areas: Fish ecology and management, aquatic ecology, stream ecology  
Extension Areas: Pond and lake management, aquaculture youth education (Fishing For Success)

Jeffrey E. Hill  
- Assistant Professor  
Ph.D. - University of Florida  
Courses Taught: Invasion Ecology of Aquatic Animals, Introduction to Aquaculture, Practical Aquaculture Short Course  
Research and Extension Areas: Non-native (invasive) aquatic species biology, ecology, and management; ornamental aquaculture

Edward J. Philips  
- Professor  
Ph.D. - University of Miami  
Courses Taught: Marine ecology, limnology, algal blooms, bioenergy  
Research Areas: Marine ecology and limnology, applied aquatic biology, ecology, and conservation of aquatic organisms  
Extension Areas: Marine fisheries ecology, essential fish habitat

Ruth Francis-Floyd  
- Professor  
DVM - University of Florida  
Courses Taught: Diseases of Warm water Fish, Advanced Fish Medicine  
Research Areas: Health management of ornamental fish, emphasis on marine species  
Extension Areas: Aquaculture, fish health management, marine mammal health and stranding events

Jeffrey E. Hill  
- Associate Professor  
Ph.D. - University of Florida  
Courses Taught: Scientific Thinking in Ecology  
Research Areas: Behavioral ecology, marine fisheries ecology, essential fish habitat  
Extension Areas: Fisheries habitat, particularly artificial reef applications

Bill Lindberg  
- Associate Professor  
Ph.D. - Florida State University  
Courses Taught: Scientific Thinking in Ecology  
Research Areas: Behavioral ecology, marine fisheries ecology, essential fish habitat  
Extension Areas: Fisheries habitat, particularly artificial reef applications

Bill Pine  
- Assistant Professor  
Ph.D. - NC State University  
Courses Taught: Stream Fish Ecology, Ecological Statistics and Design  
Research Areas: Large river and coastal fish ecology  
Extension Areas: Aquatic animal health and aquaculture

Thomas K. Frazer  
- Associate Director - SFRC  
Ph.D. - University of California at Santa Barbara  
Research Areas: Ecology of coastal marine, estuarine and riverine systems; springs

Debra Murie  
- Associate Professor  
Ph.D. - University of Victoria  
Courses Taught: Global & Regional Perspectives in Fisheries, Biology of Fishes, Seminar  
Research Areas: Coastal fisheries ecology and management  
Extension Areas: Fisheries stock assessment workshops and panels

Robert A. Swett  
- Assistant Professor  
Ph.D. - University of Florida  
Courses Taught: Invasion Ecology  
Research & Extension Areas: Planning for and managing surface water uses; spatial and temporal patterns of waterway activities; behaviors and characteristics of waterway users; geospatial information technologies training

Eric Jokela  
Ph.D. - University of Florida  
Courses Taught: Aquaculture, Fish and Aquatic Sciences  
Research Areas: Aquaculture, Fish and Aquatic Sciences  
Extension Areas: Fish and Aquatic Sciences

Martha Monroe  
- Associate Professor  
VMD - University of Pennsylvania  
Courses Taught: Introduction to Fish and Aquatic Invertebrate Histological Interpretation  
Research Areas: Aquatic animal health and aquaculture  
Extension Areas: Aquatic animal health and aquaculture

Alumni

Congratulations to Rich (’99) & Stephanie Alexander on the birth of their second son, Cody Michael, on August 18, 2008.

Andi VanLoan (’06) and Lindsay McConnell completed the Appalachian Trail this summer and ended up at the top of Katahdin at the same time.

Students

Congratulations to Patrick O’Rourke who was awarded the Costa Del Mar graduate scholarship. Patrick is studying largemouth bass in the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes in Central Florida.

Miriam Wyman (PhD student in forestry) and Matt Catalano (PhD student in fisheries and aquatic sciences) were married November of 2007.

Faculty

Congratulations to Stephanie Alexander who was awarded the SFRC Teacher of the Year for 2008 for the senior class. Doug Carter was awarded the SFRC Teacher of the Year for 2008 for the junior class.

Martha Monroe was promoted to Full Professor.

Wendell Cropper (left) and Karen Kainer (right) were promoted to Associate Professor.

Bill Pine was recently recognized by the USGS for his involvement in the Glen Canyon Adaptive Management Program and native fish recovery in the Grand Canyon.

Martha Monroe (right, middle) was awarded the Jesse Award from the North American Association for Environmental Education.