The SFRC Newsletter has a new format that retains the sections on friends, alumni, colleagues, faculty, students and staff, and adds sections on Instruction, Research and Extension. These new elements are the three missions of all land grant universities in the USA and each newsletter will present recent highlights of the SFRC activities in these areas. We hope you find these to be of interest. Please let us know what you think and send us your ideas to include in future issues.

It is a time of rapid change in forest resources with shifting land ownership patterns, changing land owner objectives, urbanization, globalization and more all creating new opportunities and challenges. A recent study (see next page under Research) shows that forestry is the highest value crop in Florida eclipsing citrus and horticulture. In fact, demand for forest products is increasing globally and forested land area to meet this demand is decreasing. At the same time, there is growing awareness of the importance of the social and ecological services that forests provide (clean water, habitat for wildlife, recreation, biodiversity, carbon sequestration, etc.).

Without the support of alumni and friends we could not maintain our level of academic excellence.

Consider supporting your School.

There are many ways to contribute.

Time, OR
A Charitable Gift Annuity that may increase your retirement income and earn an income tax deduction (Must be 55 or older), OR
Send gifts directly to School of Forest Resources and Conservation PO Box 110410 Gainesville, FL 32611-0410 Makes checks payable to the University of Florida Foundation, Inc.-SHARE and designate the SFRC.

Comments or Suggestions:
Mail to: Mae Funk SFRC Academic Services Coordinator PO Box 110410 Gainesville, FL 32611-0410 Fax: (352) 846-0990

Groceries from the SFRC
The SFRC Newsletter is published to inform alumni and friends. Comments and information to share should be directed to the Main Office: phone - (352) 846-0850, fax - (352) 392-1707, email - sfrc@ifas.ufl.edu. Visit our website at www.sfrc.ufl.edu.

Now, more than ever, we need well-educated resource managers, scientists, land owners, conservationists, policy makers and citizens to address the issues confronting forest resources on local, state, regional, national and international scales. The SFRC makes contributions to these issues through: (1) Undergraduate programs that educate well-rounded, society-ready resource managers, conservationists, surveyors and mappers; (2) Graduate programs that produce tomorrow's scientists, policy makers and managers; (3) Research programs that create new knowledge and information to address issues of production, conservation and sustainability; and (4) Extension and outreach programs targeted at land owners, citizens, policy makers and youth to allow them to make informed decisions about forest resources.

To help keep the School's programs modern, targeted and effective, we conducted a strategic planning process involving faculty, staff, students, alumni, stakeholders, collaborators and administrators. The result is the SFRC's Strategic Plan that can be viewed at our website, www.sfrc.ufl.edu. We hope that this plan will help chart a course for the SFRC over the next several years. Further, we look forward to working with all of you to ensure that the School best serves the needs of our students, stakeholders and citizens.

We look forward to working with you at any time with suggestions and guidance, and please stop by when you're in Gainesville!

Tim White, Director

New Program in the SFRC

Last year the undergraduate Geomatics program was welcomed into the SFRC as the third accredited major. Geomatics has been accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology since 1986 and has been at the University for over 30 years. The Geomatics program brought four new faculty and approximately 45 undergraduate and 20 graduate students into the SFRC. Geomatics is the integrated approach to measurement, analysis and management of the descriptions and locations of earth-based data. Data are gathered using many tools, such as satellites, air and sea-borne sensors, and ground-based instruments. Data are then manipulated and analyzed using advanced computer systems. The key link between geomatics and forestry is our connection to the land. Both programs deal with a variety of the same land-related issues including land management, environmental assessment, US Public Land Survey System and wetland delineation. Another connection is that both programs use the same tools, GIS for example.

Geomatics is involved in many forest resource related issues through research and professional work. Geomatics faculty are doing research both locally and internationally. Scott Smith, one of the geomatics faculty group, worked on environmental impact assessments in Egypt, Hungary and other countries. Other research projects include monitoring a wide range of forest-related data; for example, high water line in Florida lakes for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Most of the geomatics graduates will join the surveying and mapping profession. Graduates are heavily recruited by industry as it is the only geomatics program in the state. This program is also essential because a four year degree is required to obtain a Professional Surveyor and Mapper license. SFRC looks forward to working with the geomatics program alumni and the Florida Surveying and Mapping Society.

The School of Forest Resources & Conservation Newsletter is published to inform alumni and friends. Comments and information to share should be directed to the Main Office: phone - (352) 846-0850, fax - (352) 392-1707, email - sfrc@ifas.ufl.edu. Visit our website at www.sfrc.ufl.edu.
Fulfilling Our Mission

The SFRC has approximately 25 undergraduate students, who are mostly junior and senior students majoring in three majors: Forest Resources and Conservation, Agroforestry, and Natural Resources Conservation. The SFRC has approximately 90 graduate students pursuing master’s and doctoral degrees. In fall 2004, the Forest Resources and Conservation specialization earned continuing accreditation by the Society of American Foresters and the Urban Forestry specialization earned initial accreditation. Both programs received the maximum 10-year accreditation.

Instruction Highlight: Forest Cover, 1995

Spring 2005 Forests for the Future Class

The SFRC has 25 research faculty that generate nearly $3 million annually to conduct research in five focus areas: (1) Forest systems biology; (2) Human dimensions broadly defined to include social issues, economic, recreation, and policy related to forest resources; (3) Agroforestry and tropical forests; (4) Urban forestry and the wildland-urban interface; and (5) Geomatics.

Research Highlight: Biomass Utilization

In April 2005, the UF-ESRF Cooperative Extension, the Southern Center for Wildland Urban Interface Research and Information (SCURWI) of the USDA Forest Service, and the Southern States Energy Board (SSEB) awarded a one million dollar grant from the US Department of Energy and Agriculture to develop a biomass training program. The program will focus on wildland-urban interface community in each of the 13 southern states and one in Puerto Rico. An economic analysis and needs assessment will be conducted and training materials will be developed to help selected communities decide whether utilizing woody biomass for energy is a viable option. Delays from thinking for wildfire mitigation, land clearing and yard waste is prevalent at the wildland-urban interface and provides an untapped source of energy, woody biomass and sugarcane waste.

Mike Branch was awarded the Outstanding Alumnus of the Year at the SFRC Student Council’s 2004-2005 Annual Awards Banquet. He is currently the Governmental Affairs Manager for Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation. Mike is the immediate past president of the Florida Forestry Association and is a past member of the St. Johns River Water Management District Governing Board.

James M. DeCosmo was recently named Group Vice President - Forest for Temple-Inland Inc. Prior to this, Jim was Director of Forest Management for the Company’s eastern region and served as Vice President, Forest and was responsible for the company’s 2 million acres of timberland.

The following awards were presented at the SFRC/SFRC Symposium on April 13, 2005:

- Robert G. Holland-South Carolina Section SAF Rising Senior Forest Student Award. Tyron Crenshaw - Florida Division SAF Rising Senior Forest Student Award. Mae Fung (07) - Florida Division SAF Outstanding Graduating Senior in Forestry Award. Scott A. Sager (06) - Florida Division SAF Young Forest Leader of the Year Award. Janaki Malavakalap - Florida Division SAF Stephen Spurr Award. Wayne H. Smith - Recognition Award for his outstanding leadership as Chair of the Florida SAF Division is 2004. Porter Aune Brown Jr. (55) and Don M. Post (52) were recognized for 50 years of membership in SAF.

- Alexandra Robin Collins received the Outstanding Student Award for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at the Eleventh Annual International Student National Academic Student Award Ceremony hosted by the University’s International Center.

- Sherry Tucker received the SFRC Outstanding Staff Member award at the SFRC Student Council’s 2004-2005 Annual Awards Banquet.

- George Groves, Vichai, and Don Rockwood received the SFRC Teacher of the Year for the 2005 senior and junior class, respectively.

- Laura Paterson received the Outstanding Forest Resources and Conservation Student award.

- Sandra Harlin received the Outstanding Natural Resource Conservation Student award.

- Without the support of friends we could not maintain our level of academic excellence. Many thanks to the International Paper Company Foundation for their contribution to Project Learning Tree, to William McKnight (’06) and family for the pictures of Cummer and Sons Cypress Company; to the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at the University of Florida, to the Jim and Joh Lybass Scholarships.

- Sandra Harlin received the Outstanding Natural Resource Conservation Student award.