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INSIDE ESF

*The magazine of the SUNY
College of Environmental Science and Forestry*





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IN THIS ISSUE

3 CAMPUS UPDATE

Forestry Changes Faculty Name
Makkonen Named TAPPI Fellow
SUNY-ESF Hosts Onondaga Nation Students
Community Foundation Grant Helps ESF Help City School Children
Jump Into Onondaga Lake
Green Fields Bloom with ESF
Alum's \$100,000 Gift Names New Laboratory for June Wang
2002 Feinstone Awards Honor New York Teachers

6 SPANNING THE GLOBE

Students learn the rigors — and wonders — of international environmental research in the field around the world.

10 HOW MUCH WATER ON MARS?

Undergraduate engineering majors at ESF explored the question of how much water existed on Mars — with some surprising results.

12 SEA GRANT EXPANDS WITH NEW ESF OFFICE

Long-time partnership between Sea Grant and the college will be enhanced with new arrangement.

13 CAMPUS PROFILE: SHE CARRIES A TORCH

Kristin Sciortino took the short road to Olympic glory.

ON THE COVER

Our cover photograph, taken by Dr. Allan P. Drew, shows ESF students traveling up the Indian River near Portsmouth, Dominica. Says Drew, who has taken students to Dominica for more than 10 years, "The boat trip allows us to see the gallery forest of Pterocarpus trees which form pure stands along the streambanks." This freshwater swamp forest is one of many ecosystems students visit during the field class.

The State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry offers a diverse range of accredited programs and degree options in chemistry, construction management and wood products engineering, environmental and forest biology, environmental resources and forest engineering, environmental studies, forest resources management, forest technology, landscape architecture, and paper science and engineering.

The College's mission is to be a world leader in instruction, research, and public service related to: understanding the structure and function of the world's ecosystems; developing, managing,

and using renewable natural resources; improving outdoor environments ranging from wilderness, to managed forests, to urban landscapes; and maintaining and enhancing biological diversity, environmental quality, and resource options. As such, ESF has maintained its unique status within SUNY's 64-campus system as one of only five specialized colleges and one of only eight doctoral-granting institutions.

ESF takes affirmative action to provide equal opportunity for all people and to build a campus community that reflects a wealth of diversity.

Printed on recycled paper.

Forestry Changes Faculty Name

Members of ESF's Faculty of Forestry voted to change the unit's name to the Faculty of Forest and Natural Resources Management. The change was announced by ESF Provost William P. Tully in January.

Faculty Chair William R. Bentley said the impetus for the name change grew out of the college's strategic planning initiative, as unit members explored both the history and future focus of the program.

"We are part of an increasingly sophisticated college," said Bentley. "Forest and Natural Resources Management captures our breadth, our focus on things professional, and our strong knowledge of forests."

Makkonen Named TAPPI Fellow

Dr. Hannu P. Makkonen, director of the Empire State Paper Research Institute (ESPRI), was named a Fellow of the Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry (TAPPI) at the organization's annual business meeting and awards ceremony March 5, 2002.

Makkonen came to ESF as senior research associate in 1993. He was appointed director of ESPRI in 1996.

Before joining ESF, Makkonen worked at the Finnish Pulp and Paper Research Institute. In 1976, he moved to Kajaani Oy as research director. He was a founding member and president of Kajaani Inc. Automation, Sensodec Oy, and Tapio Technologies Oy.

Makkonen has been a member of TAPPI for 17 years. Makkonen received his bachelor and master of science degrees from Helsinki University and earned his doctorate at the University of Washington in 1974.



Hannu P. Makkonen

Fellows comprise less than one percent of TAPPI's membership. The designation is given to individuals who have made extraordinary technical or service contributions to the industry and/or the association.

SUNY-ESF Hosts Onondaga Nation Students

Twenty-five students from the Onondaga Nation School participated in a career day at ESF on March 25.

The youngsters participated in activities designed by ESF students and staff members in landscape architecture, fisheries biology, and plant ecology. The program focused on exposing the children to the wide range of careers in scientific fields.

The students toured the greenhouses and the Roosevelt Wild Life Station museum.

The Onondaga Nation students, ranging in age from 9 to 12, were chaperoned throughout the day by minority ESF students involved in mentoring programs sponsored by the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Community Foundation Grant Helps ESF Help City School Children

A \$32,000 grant from the Central New York Community Foundation will allow ESF educators to implement new science curriculum materials for sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students in the Syracuse city schools.

"The idea is to make science education exciting to children, not to treat it as rote memorization of facts," said D. Andrew Saunders, a faculty member in Environmental and Forest Biology and associate director of education for SUNY-ESF's Roosevelt Wild Life Station.

Dr. William F. Porter, who directs the station, said the effort will produce learning modules on the environment that can be incorporated into the district's science curriculum. The units will debut in September.

The grant to the ESF College Foundation, Inc., provides the resources for ESF educators to develop modules on conservation education, including topics such as the ecology of Onondaga Lake; sustainability, habitat fragmentation and urban sprawl; preservation of biodiversity; and urban wildlife. In the modules, students will have the opportunity for hands-on activities and science research.

Saunders said the link to local natural history will make the lessons exciting for children because the subject matter is relevant to them.

"Syracuse will be a decade ahead of a lot of school districts in the United State that are still practicing stodgy science," he said.

Jump Into Onondaga Lake

SUNY-ESF educators have created an exciting new interactive exhibit, "Jump Into Onondaga Lake," for Central New York's Museum of Science and Technology (MOST). The exhibit debuted Saturday, February 2.

Museum visitors will learn about the lake's diverse history as well as the impact civilization and industrialization had on the lake over time through a rich combination of photographs, original artifacts and text. An interactive computer allows visitors to access current water quality conditions being transmitted directly to the kiosk from a sampling buoy in Onondaga Lake.

Other aspects of the exhibit present the lake's biological diversity, explain how shallow sediments react when lake water is disrupted, and display a 500-year timeline examining the dynamic influences of industrial and social use on lake quality.

The exhibit was created by Paul B. Hai, senior education specialist with ESF's Roosevelt Wild Life Station, under the direction of D. Andrew Saunders, a member of the Faculty of Environmental and Forest Biology, and exhibit designer Robert McNamara '73.

The exhibit will be displayed through the end of the year.

CAMPUS UPDATE



ESF students and staff distributed seed packets to spectators along the Syracuse St. Patrick's Parade route.

Green Fields Bloom with ESF

ESF students and staff marched in the annual Syracuse St. Patrick's Parade March 16, distributing 1,000 free seed packets to spectators along the route.

The seed packets reflected the name of ESF's parade entry, "Green Fields Will Bloom."

The students used ESF's newly painted emerald-green bus for a base as they constructed a flower garden bursting with brilliantly colored blossoms. The entry's name was adapted from the broader parade theme, "Four Green Fields Will Bloom Once Again," taken from folk-singer

Tommy Makem's popular ballad. "Green Fields Will Bloom" served as a reference to ESF's rehabilitation of "brownfields" industrial sites and efforts to create a sustainable future.

The seed packets, which included several types of flowers and vegetables, were donated by Chase-Pitkin, Taft Road, Liverpool.

This is the second year in a row that ESF students have participated in the Syracuse St. Patrick's Parade, which marked its 20th anniversary this year. The three-hour parade is a major civic event that has been dubbed "the largest parade per capita in the United States."

Alum's \$100,000 Gift Names New Laboratory for June Wang

A \$100,000 gift to the ESF College Foundation, Inc., by a 1984 ESF graduate kicked off the Appeal for the Hugh P. Baker Laboratory.

Dr. Chin S. Yang, who earned his doctorate in mycology, and his wife, Li Hua Yang, made the donation to help equip the laboratory of Dr. Susan E. Anagnost, an assistant professor in the Faculty of Construction Management and Wood Products Engineering.

Yang is founder and president of P&K Microbiology Services, Inc., of Cherry Hill, N.J. The company conducts specialized testing and bioassays of environmental samples especially regarding wood decay, mold infestation and air and water quality vectors.

The newly equipped laboratory will be renamed the C.J.K. Wang Wood Products Biodegradation Laboratory at Yang's request. Yang wanted his gift to honor his professor.

Dr. C.J.K. (June) Wang is a professor emeritus and pioneering researcher in ESF's Faculty of Environmental and Forest Biology. She has worked extensively with wood-decaying fungi.

Baker Laboratory is in the second of a three-phase, multi-year renovation effort. The first phase, completed last fall, rehabilitated Baker's first-floor one-story (west) wing to house laboratory, lecture and office

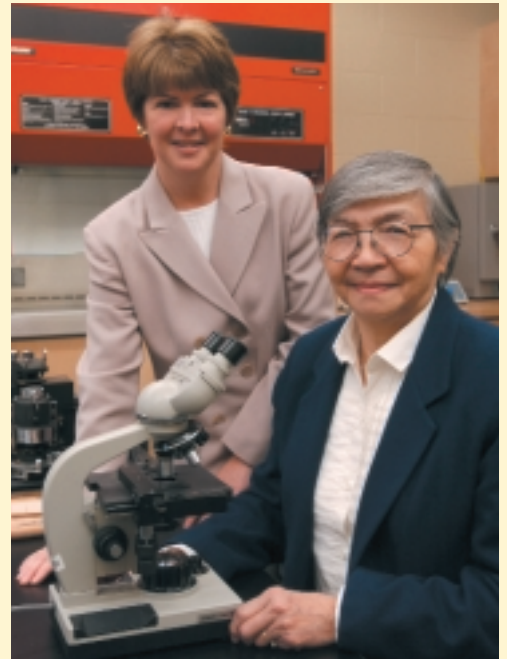
space for the Faculty of Construction Management and Wood Products Engineering. Phases II and III will focus on renewing Baker's four-story tower, eventually creating a state-of-the-art center for engineering and technology.

"ESF has been very fortunate to secure the support of such a generous private contribution to complement State University administration's commitment and funds from the SUNY Construction Fund for these critical capital improvements to campus," said College President Cornelius B. Murphy, Jr. "However generous, construction funding typically does not include sufficient funding for high-end equipment needs.

"We will be looking at several avenues to develop the money we need to create a facility we can be proud of that will prepare our graduates for 21st century careers."

The ESF College Foundation and the college's Office of Development seek funds to equip eight laboratories; 16 offices for faculty, graduate students, and staff; three classrooms; and three student computer laboratories. All laboratories, classrooms and offices may be named to honor donors who completely equip a specific space.

"Our alumni and friends were incredibly generous when ESF needed funding to equip our new chemistry building," said



Dr. C.J.K. Wang, right, ESF professor emeritus with Susan E. Anagnost, whose new laboratory will bear Wang's name through a generous donation by Chin S. and Li Hua Yang.

Brenda Greenfield, executive director of the ESF College Foundation. "A solid engineering education and research for the competitive wood products industry — for which ESF is known — requires a similar investment in facility equipment. We hope our friends will again respond to the college's need."

For further information on the Appeal for the Hugh P. Baker Laboratory, contact Greenfield at 315-470-6683.

2002 Feinstone Awards Honor New York Teachers

About 90 friends of ESF gathered March 22 at the stylish Wellington House in Fayetteville to celebrate the presentation of the 2002 Feinstone Environmental Awards to five New York middle and high school teachers.

Also honored was New York State Senator Carl L. Marcellino (R-Oyster Bay) who received an Honorary Feinstone Award for his environmental contributions to the state.

Since its creation at ESF in 1976 by alumnus Sol Feinstone, the awards program has honored more than 100 individuals from across the United States.

The 2002 honorees were chosen from among the state's dedicated corps of middle and high school teachers who daily work to instill in their students a solid knowledge of science and the environment and who inspire them to work to make a positive impact on their local environment.

The five recipients were Scott A. Jordan of Cuba, N.Y.; Nancy E. Driscoll of Ontario Center, N.Y.; Cathy J. Ellis of Schuyler Falls, N.Y.; Allison C. Godshall of New York City; and Michael J. Mallon of Highland Falls, N.Y.

Jordan, science teacher at Cuba-Rushford Middle School, received a \$1,000 prize for his innovative and award-winning teaching. Jordan excels at forming partnerships, pursuing external funding and exploring every opportunity to bring science to life for his eighth-grade students. In addition, he conducts research and is active in a variety of conservation organizations.

His students use satellite telemetry to track animals in Alaska's Denali National Park via the Internet, and raise brook trout in the one-acre aquatic habitat, hatchery house and Wildlife Research Center he helped construct on the Cuba-Rushford campus. They preserved a portion of the school grounds for historical and archeological study. They capture, tag and track schoolyard and neighborhood deer and regularly visit the NASA space center in West Virginia.

Driscoll, Ellis, Godshall and Mallon each received \$500 awards.

Driscoll designed an ecosystem unit for her sixth-grade classes that utilizes the school grounds and nature area trails, allowing the students to learn from experience. The group designed and planted new gardens at the school entrance and in the courtyards. They developed a compost area, butterfly and hummingbird gardens, and bluebird nesting boxes. In addition, her students work to maintain the school's nature trails and conducted a tree inventory.

As an education specialist with the Adirondack Wilderness Challenge, Ellis works with inner-city youth to complete the court-ordered Wilderness Ethics/Leave No Trace programs.

Since many of her students have special needs, she created a science textbook and accompanying workbook to make her subject matter more easily understood. Many of her lessons incorporate hands-on activities.

Her students have assisted in trail maintenance and campsite reclamation efforts. They also helped to build a boardwalk through a sensitive wetland area along Silver Lake for The Nature Conservancy.

Godshall engages students as scientists and participants. She supervised the creation of a student-designed and -maintained roof garden at the School of the Future as part of her ninth-grade integrated science class. The rooftop garden project eventually incorporated the school's drama department, art classes, math program, and humanities students. Currently, her students are working to create a biological survey of the streams, ponds and wetlands on the 221-acre Hall Farm Center for Arts & Education.

More than 11 years ago, Mallon created advanced life science/biology courses in the Highland Falls-Fort Montgomery School District which have since become an integral offering of the science department at O'Neill High School. Originally an "issues-based" course, the class has evolved to



ESF President Cornelius B. Murphy, Jr. congratulates Honorary Feinstone recipient NYS Senator Carl L. Marcellino.

incorporate a vast array of field exercises, journal studies, literature, current events, writing and advanced technology.

A former high school biology teacher, Marcellino, the 2002 Honorary Feinstone Award recipient, has drawn on his scientific background during his public service career.

Marcellino sponsored the state legislation establishing the 1996 Clean Air/Clean Water Bond Act and laws providing for increased wetland protection and enhanced shellfish transplant programs. He sponsored legislation which created the state's Bird Conservation Area Program and the Emissions Testing Law for Heavy Duty Diesel Vehicles. He also sponsored the bill for the Net Electric Metering Law to encourage solar power usage.

He has chaired the New York State Senate Environmental Conservation Committee since 1995.

Author Bill McKibben, author of the best selling book *The End of Nature*, delivered the dinner address.

University professor and former ESF President Ross S. Whaley and Brenda Greenfield, executive director of the ESF College Foundation, chaired this year's Feinstone Environmental Awards Committee.

International field biology courses broaden and focus students' experience

Spanning the Globe

by Claire B. Dunn



Amy Louise Seidewand spent nine hours a night for five nights straight last January on a beach off the coast of Australia, waiting for sea turtles to pull themselves out of the ocean and bury their eggs in the damp sand.

With four other students — “the turtle crew,” she calls them — Seidewand made observations, took measurements and jotted down notes.

Now she knows what she wants to do with her life.

“I want to go to graduate school and get my master’s in sea turtle biology,” she said. “Sea turtles are incredible.



They’re 110 to 120 centimeters long and they’re just beautiful. They’re ancient creatures. Just the fact that they’re still out there doing their thing is amazing.”

Seidewand’s passion for her subject was sparked during a four-week trip to Australia, the culmination of a semester-long course called “Behavior and Ecology in the Rainforests and Reefs of Australia.” Taught for the last three years by Dr. William Shields, the course introduces students to a variety of ecosystems in Australia and gives them an opportunity to do original field research. It also affords them a chance for immense personal growth.

“For the students, it’s totally eye-opening,” Shields said. “It changes their passions and their life plans. For most of them, it’s the first time they’ve done real, independent research. They learn the tedium and joys of that part of science.”

They also learn a lot about how to co-exist in close quarters, with constant togetherness. Said Shields: “Whenever you go off and do field work together for 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for three weeks, you either bond or explode.”

He teaches the course in partnership with his wife, Dr. Barbara J. Hager, an ESF alumna who now teaches

The “turtle crew” relaxes near the beach. Along the rail are, from left, Sean Guinan, Keren Murphy and Rick Chiavelli. In front are Pat Scanlon, Amy Louise Seidewand and Mark Anderson, an Australian biologist.

ESF students in Australia sat on the beach five nights in a row, waiting for a rare glimpse of sea turtles, like these at right and below, emerging from the water and laying their eggs in the sand.

at Cazenovia College. Hager earned her bachelor's degree in environmental and forest biology in 1982 and her master's degree in 1984. There is one of several international field courses offered periodically at ESF.

The chance to study internationally helped draw Seidewand to ESF after two years at Monroe Community College. "I heard before I got here that ESF offers overseas courses in Australia and Africa. I always wanted to go to the tropics in Australia. It was a factor in my decision," she said.

Seidewand, an environmental and forest biology major who expects to graduate in December, said she was so determined to go on the Australia trip that she spent 60 hours a week making cappuccino in a Rochester café last summer to earn the extra money to fund the trip.

About the same time that the "turtle crew" was spending nights on the beach, ESF's Dr. Scott Turner and a colleague, Dr. Barry Lovegrove of the University of Natal in South Africa, were leading students on a four-week field trip in the deserts of Southern Africa.

"We should be focusing on the environment outside of what ESF's traditional focus has been — the eastern deciduous forest," Turner said. "The South Africa course has been very successful. The first year the course was offered, I had to race the students to the business office to close enrollment when it reached 17."

Turner said his trip puts the issues of conservation and adaptation into "stark relief" for the students, who trade the moist northeast in the middle of winter for a tour of several different desert environments in South Africa and Namibia. While they are traveling, the students compare conservation strategies between industrialized, westernized and cash-rich South Africa and relatively cash-poor Namibia, where the economy is based heavily on fisheries, mining and tourism. Two students who have been on the trip later decided to study



environmental law because they were intrigued with the mix of conservation, economy and law, Turner said.

Junior Dan Russell, who went to Africa during the 2000-2001 winter break, said his favorite experience was visiting the arid sand dunes in Namibia.

"It's so different from anything you have seen here," he said. "Any animal that can survive in those conditions is really amazing. It has to be superiorly adapted."

"The scenery was beautiful and the people were interesting," Russell said. "But the thing I liked best about it was our professors were so passionate about what we were doing. There's a real advantage to getting out there with someone who knows what's going on and wants to pass it on to students."

ESF field trips have also taken students to the island of Dominica with Dr. Allan Drew and to the Yucatan Peninsula with Dr. Guy Baldassarre. Two faculty members who joined the ESF staff this academic year —



ESF students in South Africa, at left, take in a brief lesson during a lunch break outside the town of Worcester, in the Cape Province. They were traveling through the Cape Fold mountain belt. Below, the students visit Chewbacca, an orphaned cheetah, at the Cheetah Conservation Fund grounds in northern Namibia.



Dr. Kirsten Silvius and Dr. Jose Fragoso — plan a course that will take students to the Amazon next winter. And Dr. John D. Castello and Dr. Alexander Weir plan a trip to New Zealand, where their students will study the island's native flora and fauna, and the impact of introducing non-native species.

Drew, coordinator of international programs for the Faculty of Forest and Natural Resources Management, designed his first international field course with Professor Emeritus Robert Werner more than 10 years ago. Through its long association with Syracuse University, ESF is a charter member of the Archbold Tropical Research and Education Center on the island of Dominica, a commonwealth in the eastern Caribbean. The property was donated to Clemson University by John Archbold, the same benefactor whose name is on a theater at Syracuse Stage and a gymnasium at SU. The former football stadium at SU was also named for him.

Drew and Werner took their first trip during spring break in 1991 and the course has become an

annual event, although Werner has since retired and Drew now teams up with other faculty members.

"It's been a good experience. Students have enjoyed it," Drew said. "They get a very broadening experience by visiting a tropical country. They see the human and cultural aspects as well as the natural resources and the variety of ecosystems. A lot of our students have never been out of the U.S. before."

Drew's students learn about rain forests, dry forests, and the Carib Indian reserve. They experience marine ecosystems by snorkeling along reefs, and they see high-elevation crater lakes.

"Most of them feel like they've had a vacation. It's warm and it's sunny. They're out hiking a lot and they're snorkeling. They're doing a lot of things most ESF students would like to be doing, and they're getting an education at the same time."

Drew's interest in tropical forestry extends to the faculty's awarding of a \$1,000 Tropical Social Forestry Fund grant to a master's student who is studying the subject. This year's award was presented to Liliana Gutierrez-Mariscal in April.

Alison Millar was a student in Baldassarre's course in the Yucatan Peninsula last year.

"It's a great experience for students to go out and apply what they're learning. It's important to see the other systems outside New York. I loved it," she said.

Millar conducted a research project that involved estimating the shore bird populations in the Rio Lagartos bioserve. "I wasn't particularly interested in shore birds originally," she said. "I feel like during this trip, I found a new interest."



She also learned some professional skills. This was the first time she had taken a class that required her to prepare a poster in the style of the ones routinely presented at scientific conferences.

Seidewand and her Australia classmates displayed posters detailing their research projects on campus in April.

Shields and his former student offered different assessments on the variety of subject areas students can focus on.

Said Shields: "It's the broadest range of research topics that you find in a single course."

Seidewand's explanation is a bit more colorful: "It's so different there! There are vines hanging all over, trees are huge, the spiders are this big (stretching her thumbs and forefingers into the largest possible circle) and they can kill you. And the professor says, 'Go ahead and study anything you want.' And you're like, 'Anything? Study anything? How can I possibly decide?' But eventually the right thing just jumps right out at you and you know what to study. I think it chooses you more than anything."

Dunn is assistant director in the Office of News and Publications.

Amid the greenery, at top, is a building called "streamhouse," where ESF students stay during field trips to Dominica. It is on the grounds of the Archbold Tropical Research and Education Center. In the center photo, student Ruth Stahl collects an insect for use in her study of insect diversity differences between open fields and coffee plantations. At the bottom are the flower and leaves of a species of the genus Pachira. The tree is on the grounds of the Botanical Gardens in Roseau, the capital of Dominica.



How much WATER on Mars?

An age-old question might have a new answer, thanks to the work of some SUNY-ESF students.



A handful of Faculty of Environmental Resources and Forest Engineering majors took an up-close, high-tech look at the ancient surface of Mars last semester and came up with some brand-new ideas.

“The basic question here is related to the origins of life,” said Dr. James M. Hassett, the faculty chair and professor who supervised the students’ work. “Some people believe life might have begun on Mars and was transported to Earth through a series of catastrophic events. For example, meteor impacts on Mars caused debris to be transported to Earth, and fragments of Mars have been found in Antarctica. The question of how much water there was, and when it existed, is certainly a pertinent issue.”

Planetary scientists have, for years, tried to estimate the amount of water that once flowed on Mars. Hassett said his students tried to answer the same question, but went about it in a different manner.

“They applied sound hydraulic principles,” he said. And they concluded that the flood flows, whenever they occurred, were probably much smaller than previously believed.

“They arrived at a lower estimate than the planetary science community had used,” Hassett said.

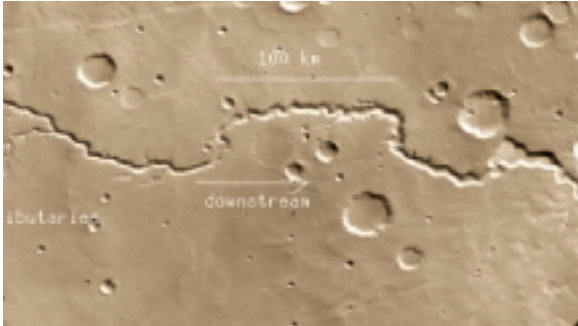
The significance of their finding is not yet clear. But it could be part of the puzzle that holds intriguing secrets about the history of the universe and the origins of life on Earth.

Scientists have long been puzzling over the possible presence of water on Mars. One theory estimates that floods on Mars 3 billion to 4 billion

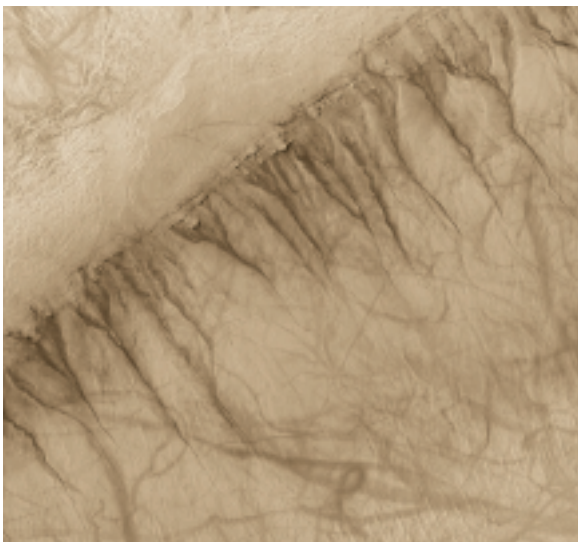
Above: The Mosaic Dome, shot by the Mars Pathfinder Lander.

Left: Did water flow on Mars? This image shows the meandering canyons of the Nanedi Valles system, one of several valleys that cut through the smooth and cratered plains of the Xanthe Terra region of Mars.

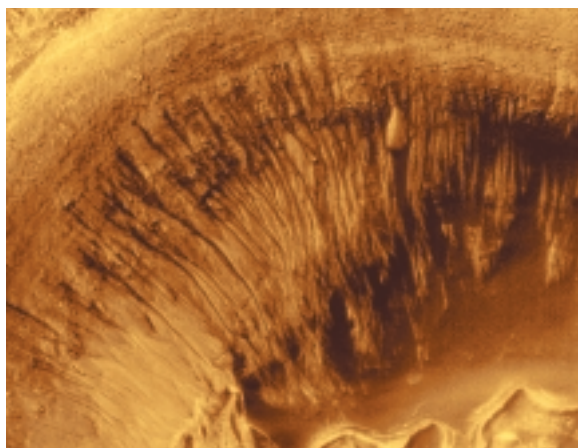
"Some people believe life might have begun on Mars and was transported to Earth through a series of catastrophic events. The question of how much water there was, and when it existed, is certainly a pertinent issue."



Superficially, small valley networks like Mars' Nirgal Vallis, seen above, resemble river-cut valleys on Earth.



This Mars orbiter camera image shows gullies emerging from a layer of an ancient crater wall. Scientists speculate such gullies were likely eroded by a fluid, perhaps water.



years ago caused the development of immense canyons. Newer evidence suggests the floods were much more recent, perhaps within the last 10 million years.

One of the scientists involved in the recent study was Devon Burr of the University of Arizona's Lunar and Planetary Laboratory. Burr and Hassett have become acquainted through their association with the American Geophysical Union. Because her work is in a similar area, Hassett asked Burr to provide the students with some information. Burr later described the project as "thorough and ... very helpful" to the scientists who study Mars.

Burr encouraged the students to display a poster about their work during the annual meeting of the American Geophysical Union in Washington D.C. this spring. Burr told Hassett that such a presentation "would be an important contribution to Mars hydrological science, a significant piece of work."

"When we started this whole thing, it was kind of a crazy idea," said Steven McCague of Monticello, N.Y. "We might not be exactly right, but we're on the right track. This whole thing was cool."

The students involved in the project are all seniors majoring in environmental resources and forest engineering. They got involved in the Mars project through their senior design elective course in "Open Channel Hydraulics." Their project was dubbed "Refined Calculation of Flood Flow on Mars."

They looked at a map developed by Italian astronomer Giovanni Schiaparelli in 1880 and pored over images of the planet's surface that were transmitted to Earth in 1988 by the Mars Pathfinder vehicle. They also used images supplied by the Mars Orbital Camera and topography data from the Mars Orbiting Laser Altimeter.

Earlier calculations had been based on Manning's Equation, an empirical method developed in the late 19th century for determining water flow on Earth. Hassett's students said they worked in more variables when they did their calculations: topography, the size and surface texture of rock formations, and evidence in the sediment left behind by the flowing water. And, of course, they considered the difference in gravity between Earth and Mars.

"Their estimates for flow velocities are consistently lower, by a factor of five or six, than those done earlier," Hassett said.

In addition to McCague, students involved in the project were Jonathan Beckhorn of Valois, N.Y., Darin DeKoskie of Port Ewen, N.Y., Scott Fonte of Fairport, N.Y., and Benjamin Tillotson of Richford, N.Y.

Dunn is assistant director in the Office of News and Publications.

Scientists think liquid water burst out from underground, eroded gullies and pooled at the bottom of the Newton Crater as it froze and evaporated. If so, ice and water might exist today below the Martian surface.

Sea Grant Expands with New ESF Office

by Kara Lynn Dunn

New York Sea Grant's new office at ESF is generating excitement about research opportunities and benefits for ESF students and the broader Great Lakes region.

"This new office location enhances the existing partnership between New York Sea Grant and ESF researchers," said New York Sea Grant Extension Program Leader Dale Baker. "The outcomes generated through linking student academic interests, the college's many fine scientific researchers, for example in the fisheries and biotoxicology fields, and Sea Grant's public outreach programming will positively impact the Great Lakes region that Sea Grant serves."

New York Sea Grant Coastal Tourism Specialist Diane Kuehn staffs the office in Marshall Hall, offering Sea Grant's coastal tourism outreach programming, and instructing ESF students on tourism planning and recreation.

New York Sea Grant focuses the talents of university scientists and extension specialists on research and the transfer of science-based information to a variety of coastal user groups, including business and industry; federal, state and local government decision-makers and managers; educators; the media; and the public.

William R. Bentley, chair of the Faculty of Forest and Natural Resources Management, said Sea Grant's presence will be felt off campus as well.

"By putting Sea Grant and the college's programmatic interests together, we can deliver the services needed by those who operate businesses and attractions, particularly those tied to the state's water resources," he said. "For example, by adding a tourism component to our academic program for recreational resource management, we strengthen our students' career development opportunities."

Professor Chad Dawson, who teaches recreation resources management, agrees that the experience gained from working on Sea Grant-related projects for local communities and organizations will be a valuable learning experience for students.



Kuehn's classes are working on a lakeshore ecology trail in part of Wayne County.

"Through the ESF-Sea Grant connection, the students work on real-life examples in the classroom and in the public and private sectors and see the needs of a variety of employers as they consider future employment," Dawson said. "And the college gains a broader awareness of what's needed for future education and research efforts."

One of Kuehn's first class projects relates to coastal community interests in the development of a lakeshore ecology trail. Such a trail was suggested in the Seaway Trail Tourism Development Zone Plan for Wayne and Cayuga counties. Kuehn is working with students interested in pursuing careers in recreation management, environmental policy, landscape architecture, forestry and other fields.

A Sea Grant-funded project completed in 2000 by Dawson and Sea Grant Scholar and ESF student Cheng-Ping Wang looked at the recreational conflicts and compatibility issues for owners of motorboats, personal watercraft and coastal properties along New York's Great Lakes coastline. Their findings had implications for municipal and waterfront representatives and coastal property owners considering regulatory changes regarding noise levels, use restrictions, and impacts on the natural and residential environments.

The Sea Grant office is in 205 Marshall Hall. The phone number is 315-470-6561.

The new office expands the statewide network of New York Sea Grant Extension offices that were established in 1971 under the umbrella of the National Sea Grant Program. It is a cooperative effort among the State University of New York and Cornell University. New York Sea Grant has offices in Oswego, Brockport, Buffalo, Ithaca, Plattsburgh, Kingston, New York City, Stony Brook and Riverhead.

Several New York Sea Grant staff members are ESF graduates, including Great Lakes Program Coordinator David G. White '86, and fisheries specialist David B. MacNeill '89, who is currently working on a doctorate at ESF.

Kara Lynn Dunn is a publicist for NY Sea Grant-Oswego.

The Oswego Canal seen from Phoenix, N.Y.



She Carries a Torch

by Karen B. Moore

The road to the Olympics is paved with years of sacrifice and endless hours of training. For ESF's Kristin Sciortino, the road to Olympic glory was a little shorter, not so arduous and came from doing what comes naturally — helping others.

Nominated to carry the Olympic torch because she made a difference in someone else's life, Sciortino, ESF's coordinator of student programs, was one of 11,500 people who carried the torch on its 13,500-mile, 46-state journey to Salt Lake City, Utah.

Last year, corporate sponsors Coca-Cola and Chevy put out a call asking for nominations of people who had been an inspiration to others. From these nominations, the torchbearers were chosen. When James Campano of New York City saw a Coke commercial asking for nominations, he immediately thought of Sciortino. "I thought it would be great for her," he said.

"To say she just deserved it is too simple," said Campano. Having known her for three years, he said he has seen Sciortino time and again do things to help others without receiving recognition.

Campano met Sciortino while he was a graduate student at Syracuse University,

where Sciortino served as the assistant director of graduate records and advisor to graduate students. When Campano arrived in Syracuse he experienced the pangs of loneliness. By bringing him into a volleyball group Sciortino helped him academically and socially by "adopting him."

Her gesture may seem small, but it left a lasting impression on Campano.

"She always seems to bring a smile to the faces of people around her," Campano said. "That's a valuable trait to have. People are always in a better mood after being around her."

Campano made no mention to his friend of what he had done. For Sciortino, the news that she would carry the torch came via the U.S. Postal Service. "I found out when I read the packet that came in the mail. The letter read, 'Congratulations, you're a torchbearer,'" Sciortino said. "So yeah, that was a surprise."

Although Campano thought no one was more deserving of the honor than Sciortino, he was almost as surprised as she was when the letter arrived. "I forgot I nominated her," he said.

Continued on next page

As coincidence would have it, Campano was in Syracuse the day after Sciortino received her letter. “She didn’t believe I was the one who nominated her. I don’t think she thought I’d sit down and write an essay.” There was something else she didn’t know, Campano admitted. “She didn’t know how short an essay it had to be.”

Campano was back in Syracuse to see Sciortino carry the torch. What he felt that day, he said, was akin to pride. “I was definitely happy. Exuberant. As much of a smile as she had on her face, I had on mine,” he said. “For as much as she’s done for me over the past few years it was nice to be able to do something for her that she’ll remember the rest of her life.”

Sciortino said the day of the torch run came complete with a mix of emotions. Happiness, of course, but also, she said, “I felt I really didn’t deserve the honor. Other runners had survived surgeries or hardships or volunteered extensively in the community.”

The magnitude of the occasion didn’t hit Sciortino until it was showtime. “I didn’t realize it was such a big deal until I was on the shuttle bus and saw people lining the streets in the cold wearing blankets. They were shouting ‘USA! USA!’ I connected it to 9-11 and actually cried,” she said.

And there was another emotion at play that day - stage fright. “I was convinced I’d be the first person to ever extinguish the flame.”

Far from extinguishing the flame, she continues to brighten lives on the ESF campus.

A call to Sciortino’s office will often be answered with, “She’s with a student right now. Can she call you back?” Through her responsibilities of overseeing student government, clubs, coordinating campus-wide student events and overseeing orientation, Sciortino is again available to help students as she once did Campano.

“I love that woman! She’s a wonderful, wonderful person,” said junior Sarah Spooner. As the former treasurer and current president of the Undergraduate Student Association (USA) and one of the head orientation leaders for the fall semester, Spooner works closely with Sciortino.



Kristin Sciortino, ESF's coordinator of student programs, carries the Olympic Torch through Syracuse.

“Sometimes I forget that she’s the club’s advisor and feel like she’s just one of my friends. I go into her office and vent.”

Caroline Romano, also a head orientation leader, echoes that sentiment. “I feel very comfortable talking to her about anything. She’s a great listener and provides support.” Romano noted that Sciortino will often extend herself to others.

“She doesn’t like to hug people,” Romano said, a senior Forest Engineering major. “One day I went to hug her and stopped, saying ‘Oops, OK you don’t like that,’ but she gave me a hug anyway. It was a really big thing for her. She was really putting herself out there.”

“I was so excited when I heard she would carry the torch,” Spooner said. The environmental studies major describes Sciortino as a “quiet person” so she was excited when her mentor and friend was chosen. “You would think she would be overlooked for people

who are louder.”

Not that Sciortino doesn’t have a “loud” side that she shares with the students. “She has this crazy obsession with Def Leppard,” Spooner said. Because Spooner and her fellow students enjoy spending time with Sciortino they requested extra music by Def Leppard, a rock and roll band, be played at the spring banquet so Sciortino would join them on the dance floor.

The accolades don’t come just from students, but from peers as well. Dr. Julie R. White, associate dean of student life and experiential learning, said Sciortino is dedicated to the students. “She enjoys them very much,” White said, “Her forte is the one-on-one relationship.”

The honor of carrying the torch made an impact on the woman who has made such a difference for others. “It’s made me more patriotic,” said Sciortino, “Nine-eleven started a change in me. I feel such a connection to others.”

Moore is public relations associate in the Office of News and Publications.

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ON CAMPUS

Books and Monographs

Floyd, Donald W., *Forest Sustainability: The History, the Challenge, the Promise*. The Forest History Society, Durham, N.C. 2002.

Fuiman, Lee A. and **Robert G. Werner**, *Fishery Science: The Unique Contribution of Early Life Stages*. Blackwell Science Ltd., Oxford, UK. 314 pages. June 2002.

Awards and Honors

Bentley, William R., elected 2002 chair of the Forestry Research Advisory Council to the Secretary of Agriculture.

Black, Peter E., named organizing chair for the International Congress of Watershed Management for Water Supply Systems (New York City, 2003).

Gigliotti, Trevis J., 2002 Young Technologist of the Year in Academia, Technology Club of Syracuse. March 2002.

SUNY-ESF, 2002 Technical Project of the Year for "Imagery and GIS Tools for Residential Real Estate Applications," Technology Club of Syracuse. March 2002.

Yeo '01, Hwanmyeong, first place, 2001 Wood Award Competition for "Evaluation of Mass Transfer of Wood Utilizing Colorimetric Technique and Numerical Analysis." Forest Products Society.

CAMPUS CALENDAR

June 3-7, 2002

Society of Wetland Scientists Annual Conference, Lake Placid, N.Y. Additional information: Office of Continuing Education and Public Service, 315-470-6891 or www.sws.org.

June 20, 2002

Forest Sampling Workshop, Heiberg Forest, Tully, N.Y. Additional information: Office of Continuing Education and Public Service, 315-470-6891 or www.esf.edu/ce.

June 27-29, 2002

Conference on Remote Sensing Education, Auburn, N.Y. Additional information: Office of Continuing Education and Public Service, 315-470-6891 or www.racne.org/corse/default.htm.

July 11

Summer 2002 Huntington Lecture Series, Visitors' Interpretive Center, Newcomb Campus. Thursdays, July 11-August 22, 8 p.m. Additional information: Adirondack Ecological Center 518-582-4551 or www.esf.edu/aec/instruction/lectures.htm.

August 2-3

Alumni Reunion, Ranger School, Wanakena Campus. Additional information: Ranger School, 315-848-2566.

August 18-20

Registration and Orientation, Ranger School. First day of classes: August 21.

August 23-25

Cranberry Lake Weekend, Cranberry Lake Biological Station. A learning weekend for alumni and others. Additional information: H. Shaw, Office of Continuing Education and Public Service, 315-470-6891.

August 24-25

Registration for New Students, Syracuse Campus. First day of classes: August 26.

September 8-13

2002 Progress in Paper Physics Seminar, Skaneateles, N.Y. Additional information: D.S. Keller, conference chair, 315-470-6907 or www.esf.edu/pse/events/index.htm.

September 12

ESF Golf Tournament, Pompey Club, Pompey, N.Y. Additional information: J. Culkowski, 315-470-6632 or J. View, 315-470-6670.