# InsideESF

The Magazine of the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry

Neil Murphy Leaves Indelible Mark on ESF

Page 16

Meet Quentin Wheeler, ESF's New President Page 2

























#### Runners Win USCAA National Championship

The Mighty Oaks men's cross-country team brought home its third United States Collegiate Athletic Association (USCAA) Cross Country National Championship Nov. 8 at Drumlins. The ESF women's team finished in second place.

Athletes represented more than 30 colleges from across the United States at the two-day event, which was hosted by ESF with assistance from the USCAA.

The ESF men's team won the championship in 2011 and 2012, while the women's team has finished in the top five for the past three years.

Photographs | Wendy P. Osborne





## Contents

- 2 Campus Update
- 7 News from the North

### 10 Productive Forests

Students look at College's forest properties with an eye on business

## 14 SALTS of the Earth

New lab tests for asbestos and other contaminants

### 16 "Big Neil"

The former president is no myth, just a legend

#### 22 Open Gateway

New building provides physical evidence of College's core values

### 24 Unseen Powerhouse

Filippo LaRosa manages Gateway Center's CHP system

## 25 Two Cultures, Parallel Paths

ESF community joins Haudenosaunee to celebrate Two Row Wampum

## 28 Sports Report

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We invite letters to the editor.\* You can email your comments to InsideESF@esf. edu or mail them to us at: Inside ESF, SUNY-ESF, 122 Bray Hall, 1 Forestry Drive, Syracuse, N.Y., 13210-2778

\*Inside ESF reserves the right to edit letters for content or length.



### Want to keep up with ESF?

Like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, connect with us on LinkedIn and find us on YouTube!

## InsideESF

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry

*President* Quentin Wheeler

Vice President for Enrollment Management and Marketing Robert C. French

*Office of Communications* 122 Bray Hall 315-470-6644 www.esf.edu/communications

*Editor* Claire B. Dunn

Art Director Wendy P. Osborne

*Staff Writer* Karen B. Moore

*Office Staff* Peggy Olrich

*Contributing Editors* Dee Klees Tom Boll

Contributing Writers Susan Fassler ESF '12 Mike Fish Renee Gadoua Shannon Hazlitt SU '14 Dee Klees

InsideESF is produced by the Office of Communications of the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry.



www.esf.edu



Dr. Quentin Wheeler has been named president of the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry by the SUNY Board of Trustees and SUNY Chancellor.

Wheeler is director of the International Institute for Species Exploration and most recently served as the Virginia M. Ullman Professor of Natural History and the Environment at Arizona State University.

"It is a great honor to welcome Dr. Wheeler to SUNY and to New York State, where his unique mix of experience and expertise is an ideal fit for the SUNY-ESF campus and Central New York community," said SUNY Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher.

Wheeler was pleased to join ESF as the next president. "I am honored and thrilled to have the opportunity to join the SUNY-ESF community and help lead this great institution into its second century. Environmental challenges of unprecedented kind, scale and complexity will characterize the 21st century, along with society's response to them. SUNY-ESF has established itself as a leading center of sustainability and environmental discovery and learning that is uniquely positioned to ensure that we and future generations have as many options as possible available to us to successfully adapt to a rapidly changing world," he said.

Vita DeMarchi, chair of the SUNY-ESF Board of Trustees and co-chair of the Presidential Search Committee, also applauded Wheeler's selection. "Dr. Wheeler is an internationally recognized scholar and environmental leader with a passion for the mission of SUNY-ESF, an expressed interest in diversity and external relationships, and a passion for the betterment of faculty, staff, students, our community and the world around us. His sense of inquisitive wonder for the world will resonate with the SUNY-ESF culture. Dr. Wheeler provides a combination of deep academic experiences with the essential need to continually question and search for ways to adapt and lead the way into the future."

Wheeler took office in January after Cornelius B. Murphy, Jr., stepped down after leading the College for more than 13 years.

"I cannot imagine an institution better prepared to lead society through this challenging and uncertain period," Wheeler said. "I am drawn to the academic excellence; the outstanding faculty, staff, students and alumni; and the palpable sense of community created by a shared vision of and commitment to a better world." Wheeler said he wants to ensure that "the fantastic work being done at ESF is recognized at the national and international stage and that the very best students interested in environmental and sustainability issues everywhere are considering ESF as a top choice."

Over the long term, he said, his vision for ESF involves:

- a campus without borders educating the public to understand and value the biodiversity around us and embracing sustainable alternatives for a better world
- a diverse faculty and student body drawn from the brightest and most dedicated candidates
- a reputation as a trusted and open source of objective information regarding the environment, both natural and built.

Wheeler joined Arizona State University in 2006 and served as the founding director of the International Institute for Species Exploration and Virginia M. Ullman Professor of Natural History and the Environment. He served as interim dean of the Division of Natural Sciences in 2006 and in 2007 was appointed to the position of vice president and dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, a position he held until 2011.

Wheeler served for 24 years at Cornell University, where he earned the rank of tenured full professor. He was also chair of entomology and director of the Liberty Hyde Bailey Hortorium. He served as the Keeper and Head of Entomology at The Natural History Museum in London from 2004-2006 and was director of the Division of Environmental Biology at the National Science Foundation from 2001-2004.

His research career has focused on the role of species exploration and natural history collections in the exploration and conservation of biodiversity; theory and practice of phylogenetic systematics and cybertaxonomy; the evolution and classification of insects, especially beetles; and public science education.

He is the author of approximately 150 scientific articles and six books.

He has named more than 100 new species and writes a weekly feature on new species for *The Observer* newspaper in London. Wheeler holds bachelor, master's and Ph.D. degrees in entomology from The Ohio State University.

## ESF Chosen to House NMR Spectrometer for Six Campuses

Biomedical and chemical research at ESF and five other upstate colleges and universities will get a boost thanks to the acquisition of a highly sophisticated instrument that will provide researchers with the ability to look at complex molecular biological structures.

SUNY Upstate Medical University, in partnership with ESF, Syracuse University, Cornell University, the University of Rochester and SUNY Buffalo, has received a \$2 million federal grant from the National Institutes of Health to acquire an 800 MHz nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectrometer.

The instrument, scheduled to be installed in the fall of 2014 and housed in the NMR facility in Jahn Laboratory on the ESF campus, will be shared by the six universities and is likely also to be available to other researchers.

The acquisition of the spectrometer will fill a void in the region's research landscape. This instrument will be the only one of its kind in Central and Western New York. While spectrometers of similar field strengths are available in the New York City area and in Troy, N.Y., access to these devices is difficult. Some local researchers have had to travel long distances with sensitive research to complete vital analysis of proteins or to carry out their research via remote operation from laboratories miles away.

The acquisition will expand the existing capabilities beyond the 600 MHz NMR spectrometer that is currently housed at ESF's NMR laboratory.

SUNY and campus leaders applauded the grant award.

"It speaks volumes about the power of a system when this grant was led by SUNY Upstate, the equipment will be housed at ESF, and its use will be open to scientists from across Central and Western New York," said SUNY Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher. "This will be a significant addition to the state's research infrastructure and will help propel Governor Cuomo's innovation agenda."

"Structural analysis of natural and synthetic compounds is very important in the research being conducted by our faculty at ESF and our partnering institutions," said then-President Cornelius B. Murphy, Jr. "We are excited at receiving this NIH grant and the promise that the 800 MHz NMR offers to increase research productivity in Upstate New York."

#### Environmental Lawyer Leads Advisory Council for Roosevelt Wild Life Station

ESF alumnus Richard "Rick" Capozza '88, a partner at Hiscock & Barclay, LLP, has been appointed chair of the revitalized Honorary Advisory Council of the Roosevelt Wild Life Station at ESF.

The appointment was made by then-President Cornelius B. Murphy, Jr.

The station was created in 1919 to honor Theodore



**Richard Capozza** 

Roosevelt and his conservation legacy. The station is the only memorial bearing Roosevelt's name that was personally approved by him during his lifetime. The original Honorary Advisory Council included members of the Roosevelt family and leaders of the 20th century North American conservation movement including Gifford Pinchot, George Bird Grinnell and George Shiras III. In 2013, the Honorary Advisory Council was re-established to help guide and support the station's research and training programs to meet the pressing issues of wildlife conservation and management today.

"I am honored for the opportunity to help revitalize a great institution to carry out its mission of developing and implementing science-based wildlife management programs supported by faculty and scientists recognized worldwide for field credibility," said Capozza.

Capozza, an avid outdoorsman/conservationist, leads Hiscock & Barclay's Energy Practice Area and is active in the firm's Environmental Practice Area. He is a member of a number of wildlife conservation and game organizations including American Wildlife Conservation Foundation, The Boone & Crockett Club, Dallas Safari Club, Ducks Unlimited, Grand Slam/OVIS Club, Safari Club International and the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation. **CampusUpdate** 



Rapid sharing of information among scientists has exciting potential for advances in research, but it also highlights a pressing need – establishing practices that protect the confidentiality of human subjects and the well-being of endangered species, according to a paper published this fall in the journal "PLoS Biology."

"A lot of granting agencies are expecting researchers to show transparency in data sharing," said Dr. Sadie Ryan of the Department of Environmental and Forest Biology, one of the two co-lead authors on the paper. "Open data sharing is becoming the norm. But if the data involves people – human subjects – how can you be sure their identities will remain confidential and that certain information, such as where they live, won't be accidentally mapped?"

Ryan's co-lead author is Dr. Joel Hartter of the University of New Hampshire. The

paper grew out of work they did together on a National Science Foundation grant in Uganda.

The paper, a perspective piece titled, "Spatially Explicit Data: Stewardship and Ethical Challenges in Science," was highlighted as one of the Weekly Editors' Picks in the magazine. "PLoS Biology" is a peerreviewed journal that features significant work in biological science.

Ryan, whose academic focus includes disease and landscape ecology, and public health, described the paper as a "call to arms" for scientists to share ecological and geographic survey data in responsible ways.

"There's no formal framework on how to protect people when the data is shared beyond the original research project," she said. "We need a way to maintain the original researcher's commitment to confidentiality."

#### U.S. News Ranks ESF High in Value Among Nation's Best Universities

ESF again has earned a place among the top universities in America as ranked by U.S. News & World Report.



ESF is ranked 36th among

the nation's top public universities in the magazine's 2014 edition of Best Colleges. When both public and private universities are included, ESF is listed as 86th.

The magazine says the national universities category consists of the 281 institutions (173 public, 101 private and seven for-profit) that offer a wide range of undergraduate majors as well as master's and doctoral degrees.

ESF also was recognized as one of the best college values in the nation, earning a ranking of 46th on the magazine's Best Value Colleges list. ESF is the only SUNY campus listed among 50 schools selected for this recognition. ESF also is listed at 51st on the U.S. News list of colleges where students graduate with the lowest student loan debt.

ESF also was recognized for its small classes, being ranked at 33rd on the magazine's list of national universities with the highest proportion of classes with fewer than 20 students—65 percent. ESF tops the SUNY campuses on that measure.

"This is another strong ranking for the College of Environmental Science and Forestry," said then-ESF President Cornelius B. Murphy, Jr. "We are pleased to see that we rank highly among the nation's finest universities. This ranking, when combined with the recognition of the value we provide our students, demonstrates that ESF continues to provide a remarkable education. We are, of course, pleased with this recognition from U.S. News & World Report, but we must give most of the credit to our faculty and students, who focus their research and studies on improving our world."

#### New Leaders: Landscape Architecture Chair, Alumni Relations Director

ESF welcomed new faculty and staff members to leadership positions this fall. Dr. Douglas Johnston was named professor and chair of the Department of Landscape Architecture. Johnston came to ESF from Iowa State University where he was professor and chair of the landscape architecture department. He is a 1979 alumnus of the ESF landscape architecture program. He holds a master's degree from the Harvard University School of Design and a Ph.D. in civil and environmental engineering from the University of Washington.

Debbie Caviness was appointed as ESF's new director of alumni relations. Caviness, who has worked in the Alumni Relations office since 1996, brings a wealth of experience and has established strong relationships with both ESF's alumni and the College community.

#### CampusUpdate

#### **Centennial Hall** Expansion makes room for 84 more residents

ESF has embarked on a project to expand its first residence hall, Centennial Hall, in a response to student interest that has kept the building at capacity for its first two years.

A five-story, 84-bed addition will be constructed on the west end of the residence hall, which opened in the fall of 2011. The addition will expand the building's capacity from 452 students to 536. It also will include expanded indoor bicycle storage space, meeting space and additional laundry facilities.

"Our students responded to the opening of Centennial Hall in a big way," said Brenda Greenfield, executive director of the ESF College Foundation, which owns the building. "Expanding the facility will give more students an opportunity to live in ESF housing and immerse themselves in ESF campus life, which they clearly want to do."

Before Centennial Hall opened in the fall of 2011, ESF students lived in residence halls at neighboring Syracuse University or rental units off campus.

The Onondaga Civic Development Corp. is providing tax-exempt bonds for the expansion, which is expected to cost \$7.3 million. The original building cost about \$31.4 million.

Site work began this past summer. Plans call for modular sections of the addition to be fabricated off campus during the fall and winter. Construction work at the site is expected to begin in March and the addition is set to be completed for the fall semester of 2014.

"The work is scheduled to minimize disruption to the students who are living in the building," Greenfield said.



Mary and Larry Leatherman

#### Feinstone Award Larry Leatherman Honored; Actor Ed Begley Speaks

More than 200 people gathered in the Gateway Center Oct. 17 to honor Feinstone Environmental Award winner Larry Leatherman, president of the Milton J. Rubenstein Museum of Science and Technology (MOST), and to get some tips about living green from actor and environmentalist Ed Begley Jr.

Leatherman was honored in recognition of his leadership at the MOST and in the advancement of science education in Central New York. The dinner's theme was the importance of STEM education – science, technology, engineering, math – and the need to promote an interest in those critical subjects early in students' academic careers.

Begley, an Emmy-nominated actor and director, is perhaps known best for his role as Dr. Victor Ehrlich on the long-running television series "St. Elsewhere."

During his keynote address, he said his interest in improving the environment began with the first Earth Day in 1970, when the smog in Los Angeles spurred him to take action. Now he is constructing a LEED Platinum home to get the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification and goes beyond carbon neutrality to the point where he is actually carbon negative, he said.

Leatherman is leading the MOST through a major revitalization project and an \$8.9 million capital campaign. Leatherman also has served on the boards of the Syracuse Chamber of Commerce, the Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse Stage, the ESF College Foundation, Inc., and the Syracuse International Film & Video Festival.



Student Jin Kim, foreground, volunteer alumnus Michael Amadori and student Ross Mazur work on the new campus composting facility.

#### GCI Upgrades ESF's Capacity for Composting

Members of Green Campus Initiative (GCI), ESF's student sustainability group, spent some chilly weekend mornings this fall installing cinderblock walls, digging holes and sawing plywood to construct a new campus composting facility.

The new facility will roughly double the campus' capacity for composting, said Ross Mazur, a junior environmental resource engineering major and GCI's treasurer.

"The new system must be able to handle the current rate that food waste is generated, with some capacity to spare," Mazur said.

He and GCI Compost Chair Jin Kim chose the new system because it relies on passive aeration, or exposure to air that aids with the decomposition process without the use of machines. The new design should help more waste decompose during the winter, Mazur said, because it will have internal walls insulated by wire mesh and wooden frames that will prevent cold air from slowing the breakdown process.

Costs are covered by funds allocated to GCI by the ESF Undergraduate Student Association, Mazur said.

GCI takes care of about 80 percent of ESF's food waste, most of which comes from the Trailhead Café and the rest from six compost bins placed around the campus, Kim said. The original compost system relied on electric blowers that operated for roughly six hours, seven days a week.

Michael Kelleher, executive director of Energy and Sustainability at ESF, helped Ross and Kim, as well as other GCI members, plan the logistics of the new compost system.

"I think it's great," Kelleher said. "It takes waste and converts it into something that can be used as an educational tool."

- By Shannon Hazlitt SU '14

Students in the International Environmental Policy Consultancy class spent the fall semester working on a project for the U.N. with students in the Netherlands.

#### Grad Students Learn Consulting As U.N. 'Externs'

Last fall, ESF graduate student Rakhshinda Bano had an opportunity to learn about solving environmental problems in her native Pakistan by collaborating not only with her international classmates on campus but also with students at a university in the Netherlands.

Bano was one of seven ESF graduate students in an experimental new course, International Environmental Policy Consultancy, that used collaborative distance-learning technologies, including videoconferencing, as tools to create policy briefs and scientific digests that were submitted to the United Nations Division of Sustainable Development's Policy Analysis Branch for possible use in the U.N.'s 2014 Global Sustainability Report. The report will focus on developing environmental issues and recently developed sustainability solutions.

The ESF students met twice a week in a Baker Laboratory smart classroom to video chat with students at Wageningen University, a Dutch public university and agricultural research institute with 10,000 students from more than 100 countries.

Bano, who in her environmental science master's research is studying how the Alpine wetlands in her homeland are threatened by insufficient environmental policies, said the course gave her invaluable practical consulting skills to work toward her goal of promoting policies that conserve resources from these wetlands.

She added that the international collaboration aspect of the course made it a realistic way to learn consultancy skills.

"It was a really great opportunity for me to build my career," Bano said.

Dr. David A. Sonnenfeld, a professor in ESF's Department of Environmental Studies who organized and taught the course with Dr. Bettina Bluemling of the Environmental Policy Group at Wageningen University, said he doesn't know of any other college course that has combined online international collaboration and students working as "externs" for a client such as the U.N.

"What we are doing may be unique as a whole by putting those two things together," he said. "We've been pushing all kinds of envelopes in terms of coordination and communication."

ESF initiated the aspect of the class that involved working with the United Nations based on connections through faculty and successful graduate interns. The official who leads the U.N. Policy Analysis Branch, who has known Sonnenfeld for many years, welcomed working with the class, Sonnenfeld said. - By Shannon Hazlitt SU '14



## **REGIONAL CAMPUS NEWS**

#### Alumnus Brian Houseal Named AEC Director

Brian L. Houseal, executive director of the Adirondack Council for the past 10 years, has been named director of the Adirondack Ecological Center at the Newcomb campus. Houseal is a professional landscape architect and regional planner with extensive environmental experience.

Houseal received his bachelor's degree from Colgate University and master's degrees in landscape architecture from ESF and regional planning from Syracuse University.

Houseal has worked on establishing national parks and biosphere reserves throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, from Chile's Patagonian region to Mexico's border with the United States. The Peace Corps, U.S. Agency for International Development, World Bank, UNESCO and the Nature Conservancy's International Program have supported his work.

"I have had unique opportunities to live and work in some of the most remote and beautiful places in our hemisphere," Houseal said. The Adirondack Park, with its mix of wild lands, local communities and working farms and forests, served as the model for that work. It is a privilege to work with ESF while also living in the Adirondacks."



A new building is under construction at the Thousand Islands Biological Station. The facility will provide the residential space needed to support the research program. The work is supported by a combination of College funds and assistance from the Thousand Islands community.

#### Historic Guide Boat Returns to Work in Newcomb

A gleaming wooden Adirondack guide boat, made from pine and cherry, and sporting original cane seats and graceful oars along with a history that dates to Theodore Roosevelt's presidency, is again gliding through the waters of the Central Adirondacks where it was crafted at the turn of the 20th century.

The boat, still bearing the original "Beaver" nameplate that marked it as part of the fleet at Arbutus Great Camp, is back at work at the Adirondack Interpretive Center, poised to serve as the flagship of a small fleet of guide boats that will be used for educational purposes. The program will give members of the public a rare opportunity to see, touch and ride in an authentic guide boat.

The Beaver returned to Newcomb this summer after an absence of more than 70 years.

"It has its original oars, its original seats; it even has all the original brass plating," said Paul Hai, program coordinator for ESF's Northern Forest Institute, which oversees the AIC. "So it's a boat that has its history remarkably well preserved. It was in great shape."

The Beaver was constructed in 1902 by Warren Cole, a highly regarded boat builder from nearby Long Lake. The boat was purchased by Anna and Archer Huntington, who owned Arbutus Great Camp in Newcomb. "These boats are unique to the Adirondacks. This is where they evolved," Hai said. "This boat winds up being the height of design for efficiency and effectiveness for moving around the Adirondack landscape with gear and guides."

Inventory records show that in 1911 the Huntingtons owned 11 guide boats. When the Huntingtons donated their 15,000-acre property to ESF in the 1930s, the family's fleet was transferred to their property in Connecticut.

Hai didn't know this boat existed until two years ago when he was contacted by a colleague at the Adirondack Museum in Blue Mountain Lake, who said a boat collector had the Beaver and was considering selling it. Hai's associate at the museum saw the owner's photos and knew the plates bearing the names "Beaver" and "Arbutus 8" marked the boat as part of the Huntingtons' original fleet.

The owner agreed to sell the boat to the College, in part, because he wanted the craft to be used for educational purposes.

Before the boat was launched last summer, restoration work was done on it by Mason Smith of Long Lake, who called the craft a "treasure."

The Beaver became part of a weekly educational program called Guide Boat Fridays held at the Adirondack Interpretive Center. Staff members used the boat to take visitors on guided tours of Rich Lake to learn about the human and environmental history of the area. The Beaver also was part of the center's second annual Guide Boat Day on Rich Lake Sept. 7.

"Part of our excitement is about creating a broad education program about the Adirondacks," Hai said. "We will be able to have 15 people on the water at once to experience a bygone way of engaging in the Adirondacks."



The Adirondack guide boat Beaver is back at work at the Adirondack Interpretive Center on the Newcomb Campus.

#### **REGIONAL CAMPUS NEWS**



Carissa Alza

#### How to Measure Biodiversity: Listen Closely

Graduate student Carissa Alza spent her summer studying the connection between beaver ponds and bird populations in the Adirondacks.

"My study is looking at birds and beaver ponds, and learning more about how the bird diversity is different from the diversity in forested upland or a forested riparian area that has never had any beaver occupying it," Alza said.

Alza, a master's student in conservation biology, spent her mornings listening for birds at a variety of sites near the Adirondack Ecological Center (AEC) at ESF's Newcomb Campus. She kept records of what she heard at 12 beaver ponds, 12 riparian sites and 12 forested sites, each visited three times through the summer.

"We bird by ear," she said. "I think I've heard 1,000 birds this summer, and I've seen about 20."

She also did vegetation surveys at the beaver ponds to look for correlations between the plant life and bird biodiversity. "Beavers change vegetation," she said. "They bring in edge species that some birds like to nest in. Their ponds provide dead trees for birds that like to perch on them."

The results of her study, she said, can be used in making decisions about managing beaver populations.

"We're looking to see how many birds these beavers are adding to the landscape," she said. "Are beavers creating habitat for some birds? Are they drastically altering it for other birds? We want to put another perspective in the pool of information for when we make decisions."

Alza's co-advisers are Dr. John Stella of the Department of Forest and Natural Resources Management and Stacy McNulty, a research ecologist at the AEC. Alza was assisted in her research by Rhiana Schwartzott EFB '13 and Sarah McIntire EFB '14.



## 'Working on the House'

#### Takes on New Meaning for Newcomb Interns

ESF undergraduate Mike Walczyk SCME '15 spent last summer living with four classmates in a caretaker's cabin and working 10 to 12 hours a day on a construction site deep in the Adirondacks, so far removed from commercial development that he had to stop and think about where he'd go if he wanted a night on the town.

"Probably Scoop's ice cream shop. That would be my first place to go," he said.

Working at ESF's Newcomb Campus, Walczyk and his peers didn't have much time to consider entertainment options. Instead, they ran construction equipment and pounded floorboards as they worked on the renovation of the Masten House, a one-time corporate retreat purchased by the ESF College Foundation last year.

"It's been a great experience," Walczyk said.

He and his fellow undergraduate interns, Pete LaCongo SCME '15, Logan Dirk SCME '15 and PJ Connell ERE '15, arrived at Masten House in May. They were joined by Syracuse University architecture graduate student Max Harden.

They had spent the previous semester planning the work they were about to plunge into.

"We created an experience for a set of undergraduate students," said Paul Hai, program coordinator for ESF's Northern Forest Institute, which is based at the Newcomb Campus. "They worked all semester designing the energy systems that are going to be in the building. They planned all of the work that was going to be going on. They did project budgets, timelines, material lists and all the equipment lists."

Upon its completion later this year, the Masten House will accommodate about 20 people.



Brenda Greenfield, executive director of the foundation, said the facility will be used as a conference/retreat center and offer hospitality accommodations for recreational users.

The ESF College Foundation purchased Masten House from Open Space Conservancy for \$442,000, half its appraised value. The foundation then received a \$1 million grant from the Empire State Development Corp. to renovate the building.

The value of the gift from the conservancy, combined with the grant, represented a \$1.4 million gain for the foundation's Centennial Campaign for ESF. The campaign's goal is to raise \$20 million by 2016. The Masten House acquisition helped push the total gifts over \$17 million by the end of 2013, more than 85 percent of the total campaign goal.

The 8,500-square-foot house, off Route 28 N. at the southern entrance to the Adirondack High Peaks, was constructed in 1906 and rebuilt after a fire in 1926. It was used as a corporate retreat by NL Industries, which operated a nearby mining site.

The renovation work began with painting the exterior, cleaning out the attic and repairing the roof. The team installed new insulation and new heating and electrical generation systems. They did landscaping and site improvements.

The student interns attended design meetings, researched sustainable opportunities, prepared project schedules, helped prepare bid documents and assisted in contract negotiations. During the eight weeks they lived at the site, they did painting, masonry and landscaping; assisted contractors; kept a project diary; monitored the schedule and documented daily safety meetings.

"We did anything that needed to be done around here," LaCongo said. "We got a real hands-on experience. It's good to know about the different trades. When you're trying to schedule all these people in here on a job, you've got to know what needs to be done first."

Lessons in planning were especially relevant in a small town in the Adirondacks, he said. "If you forget some tools or you forget to order something, you can't just run to the corner and get it. You've got to wait a few days and make do with what you've got. It's definitely an experience."

Terry Brown, who serves as ESF entrepreneur in residence and executive director of the Falcone Center for Entrepreneurship at SU, serves as project manager for the renovation. He said the students generated "a lot of great ideas" for reducing the mansion's carbon dioxide emissions and increasing its sustainability. One of the energy- and cost-saving features, he said, involves replacing the old oil heating system with solar panels that are backed up by propane generators. He expects it to reduce the house's annual heating costs from \$50,000 to less than \$10,000.

During planning sessions, Brown said, he encouraged the students to participate fully. "I told them, 'Don't be wallflowers,' and they weren't. They spoke right up with seasoned architects and engineers."

"I'm a big believer in project-based education," Brown said. "To work with those incredibly talented students, have their input and listen to their ideas, that was just inspirational."

#### **Centennial Campaign Update**

Funding for the Masten House project translated into \$1.4 million for the Centennial Campaign, the College's first comprehensive capital campaign. At the end of 2013, the campaign total was over \$17 million more than 85 percent of the \$20 million goal. At left, ESF student Mike Walczyk operates an excavator outside the Masten House while Max Harden, a graduate student in architecture at Syracuse University, checks the progress.

Above, ESF student Logan Dirk works installing flooring and consults with contractor Gordy Graves.

Student Scholarship \$4.3m Goal \$5m

> Innovation Fund \$8.4m Goal \$10m

Campus Facilities \$1.9m Goal \$2m

Financial

Strength \$2.4

Goal \$3m

## Forest Properties Feconomics

**Story and Photos by Dee Klees** 

Fresh look at numbers from ESF operations creates products and learning experiences Students in the managerial economics classes of Dr. John E. Wagner last semester nurtured a mutually beneficial, symbiotic approach to sustainable forest management with Robert Davis, director of forest properties, which is unique to ESF and an innovation recognized by environmental educators at conferences across the nation.

Growth

"Everyone's looking at what we're doing here and saying, 'Wow!" Davis said.

ESF has natural resources in Central New York and the Adirondacks that are the envy of other institutions, Davis said, and Wagner's classes are making use of them in ways never before explored.

"Our 25,000 acres and eight forest properties are our classrooms," Davis said.

The opportunity to work with Davis and his staff presented an option in forest economics education that is unheard of elsewhere in the Northeast, said Wagner, and that has helped shape his teaching. Wagner wrote the book "Forestry Economics: A Managerial Approach," published in 2012 by Routledge Press, London, and said he initially addressed his classes from the viewpoint of an economist educating economists. That changed as he recognized the plans, interests and career prospects of the students he works with at ESF are more likely to be down-to-earth than to involve academic research.

"I fundamentally changed the method I used to approach the class," he said. "My assumption now is that they're going to be in business."

Whether they work with a for-profit company or a nonprofit organization, Wagner said, they need to be able to develop a working and sustainable business plan for their projects. They do precisely that in his class. The semester's assignment called for students to draw up a 10-year business plan with cash flow spreadsheets estimating costs and revenue.

As Wagner was developing a revised syllabus for tangible cost-benefit analysis he met Davis and realized "he was trying to do something similar, but for an entirely different reason."

Davis was evaluating the forest properties operations at ESF's wooded reserves to figure out how to run them economically and sustain them for continued use by ESF students and faculty while facing the ever-present risk of limited support from Albany. In the process he was gathering information on the College's forest assets, timber production and operating costs.

Finding a ready source of raw numbers was a boon for Wagner's plan for his classes to make a practical application of the tenets drawn up in his book.

"I can use actual data rather than hypothetical data," Wagner said.

The single-semester class in Natural Resources Managerial Economics (FOR 333/ 533) is a required course for undergraduates majoring in forest resources management, natural resources management and sustain-

#### "This is an M.B.A (Master of Business Administration) course for all those people who thought they'd never need an M.B.A."

#### —John Wagner

able energy management and for graduate students seeking a master's degree in forestry. It's also a practical learning experience for all involved. Students choose which existing forest properties operation they want to model and brainstorm to gather ideas for potential new products. They make two trips into the field to study existing operations and get an idea of how the production systems operate, Wagner said. That helps them identify costs and potential operating efficiencies and revenue streams that could be developed. Then they take the real numbers, which are supplied by forest properties management, plug them into their formulas and spreadsheets and see how well they do if projected out over 10 years.

"This is an M.B.A (Master of Business Administration) course for all those people who thought they'd never need an M.B.A.," Wagner said.

The work of students in the class provides insight into the mechanics of ESF's forest properties that can be passed on to the staff running the operations and to the next class, innovating and improving efficiency along the way while helping to ensure sustainability.

"We take the data and put it into a regular business model," Wagner said.

"If they took this to a banker, they could look at it and understand it."

The first implementation of the restructured class in the spring of 2013 provided Davis with information that helped the forest properties division decide that bottling its maple water byproduct was an overly expensive plan that should be dropped, but it also confirmed that maple syrup production was so successful that it should be increased.

Using a process of reverse osmosis to separate water from sap before boiling to yield sugary syrup means the ESF maple syrup operation produces about 70,000 gallons of water each spring.

"We looked at bottling it and selling it, and based on the analysis, we determined it wasn't cost effective. Another buyer is going to take it in bulk instead." Davis said.

ESF's maple syrup operation at Heiberg Memorial Forest near Tully, 20 minutes south of the Syracuse campus, provided raw data for several economic studies by Wagner's students. It's also a working example used by the SUNY agriculture division at Cornell University, noted ESF forest manager Mark Appleby, who is an ESF alumnus, FOR '97, as is Davis, FOR '88.

Claudette Martin, an ESF senior, took part in the analysis that confirmed maple water wasn't a wise



Dr. John E. Wagner, left, and Robert Davis, director of forest properties, work in the maple syrup production facility at ESF's Heiberg Memorial Forest in Tully.





In photo at left, students Laurie Raskin, left, and Claudette Martin discuss the mechanics of the harvesting operation.

Above, Katelinn Carrier

investment. Her counterpart in the ESF study of maple syrup marketing, senior Laurie Raskin, however, found there was plenty of room to grow for syrup production.

Maple syrup is a highly sought-after product. Tidy rows of syrup bottles in a variety of sizes filled with the golden sweetener and bearing ESF Heiberg Forest labels are prominently displayed for sale in the College Bookstore. The store moved into its new home in the light-filled south concourse of the new Gateway Center as students returned to ESF in August.

Maple syrup has been such a hot seller for the ESF Alumni Association, which operates the bookstore, that demand has sometimes outstripped supply. This year the bookstore plans to sell the entire run of Heiberg's syrup production, said Debbie Caviness, ESF's new director of alumni relations.

"That's our main retail outlet," Davis said.

"I wanted to double our revenue from maple syrup production," Davis said. "We quintupled it, and we're probably going to double it again."

Some revenue from syrup sales goes back to forest properties, and some goes to the ESF Alumni Association to fund alumni memorial scholarships, legacy scholarships and student programming, Caviness said.

She looks forward to new products and ideas for marketing them in the bookstore. New labeling for the syrup and for a possible new essential oils product is in the works. "If it's made by ESF and it can be marketed, I'd love to sell it in the store," Caviness said.

Another operation benefitting from the students' economic analysis is firewood processing. ESF's field station at Heiberg Memorial Forest has a lot of Norway spruce softwood, Wagner said. Softwood is not typically used as firewood in the Northeast, where hardwood is fairly common, but it is in the West, where Wagner earned his doctorate at Colorado State University. The firewood processing operation produces 1,200 face cords of hardwood a year. Adding softwood to that and successfully marketing it would considerably grow that revenue stream, Wagner said.

As part of a public university, ESF's forest products operations have the advantage of working with innovative students and educators with public support, but within some unique constraints that a business does not have.

"We have to be careful with all of these businesses that we'd not be competing with the private sector. We try to work with business," Davis said.

"We've tried to narrow our market focus to the Hill," he explained, referring to Syracuse's University Hill neighborhood. "We haven't really gone off the Hill with the exception of the log operation, and there we use a competitive bid process."

Despite the constraints and non-profit nature of the university, ESF's forest

properties depend on a solid business plan for survival.

"The department is essentially selfsustaining," Davis said, surviving despite state budget cuts. Revenue from operations in ESF's southern forests, closest to campus, roughly cover operating expenses for all the forests, he said. Income from the northern forests goes back into ESF's reserves to offset potential revenue dips due to a poor maple production year, for example.

"The profit motive is real," noted Wagner.

"Which is why we've tried developing multiple revenue streams," Davis said. "We're trying not to be overly dependent on any one."

"Just like a business," said Wagner.

The trees harvested in demonstration plots at Heiberg Forest yield several other sources of revenue. The forest properties staff of eight includes four who maintain facilities and run operations on ESF's southern properties, Davis said. That includes maple syrup production and a sawmill producing green lumber for sale. The mill also produces boards for use in projects at ESF's campuses. Its byproducts – sawdust and wood chips – could be put to use as well, Davis said. He is considering a plan to market them, perhaps as animal bedding.

Lower-grade logs are used for firewood, which supplies heat for boiling maple syrup and this year for the first time to stoke a radiant in-floor warming system in the new equipment barn at Heiberg Forest. The radiant-heat system went through its first trial operation in September and turned the barn toasty warm on a chilly morning.

A Christmas tree plantation at Heiberg has been operating for decades but is growing in scale after it had tapered off to more of a demonstration operation for several years, Davis said. Evergreens are grown at the plantation in two different configurations depending on whether they are intended to be harvested and sold off-site or left in place for buyers to cut their own trees.

#### "I was entranced with the balsam fir, and I asked any and all of the faculty there if there was some way I could isolate that beautiful aroma." — Robert Seidel

In addition to these fairly conventional forest products, students are encouraged to work out business plans for new products such as the essential oils operation researched by Katelinn Carrier. Carrier, a junior from Syracuse, worked on product innovation as a paid intern in Forest Properties for the summer of 2013. Another paid intern, senior Dora Redner, took inventory at Heiberg Forest to help the forest properties division estimate the volume of logs available for harvest. Carrier and Redner are students in the Department of Forest and

Natural Resources Management. Carrier said she is evaluating formulas and has investigated the regulatory requirements for several products that make use of essential oils distilled from aromatic evergreen branches. They include aroma therapy products that could be used aromatically or for massage and would require medical-grade essential oils. She has also considered others for use in natural cleaning products or for insect repellent. A biofuel operation established at ESF could be a potential energy source for the production, she observed.

"I want to get as many of the departments involved as possible," she said.

Carrier's enthusiasm for the project was obvious as she explained that the opportunity to make a practical application of the principles of economics held keen appeal for her.

"It was a good business experience," she said.

She researched markets for products, worked up several formulas, devised a production process, found out the cost of bottling and even field-tested formulas. The natural insect repellent she tried on herself and her horse seemed effective, she said with a smile.

Carrier said that as she was learning about essential oil processes she contacted Robert Seidel, president of The Essential Oil Company in Oregon, who turned out to be an alumnus of ESF (forest resources management '73) and its Ranger School in Wanakena, ('70). He told her that his experience at ESF had inspired him to pursue a natural products business.

"I was entranced with the balsam fir, and I asked any and all of the faculty there if there was some way I could isolate that beautiful aroma," Seidel said. Disappointed in his quest, he decided to do some research on the topic himself, which led to his founding of the company in 1977. The company now imports and distributes essential oils and the equipment used to extract them from forest products.

Seidel said he was pleased to be contacted by an ESF student following his own path. He has noted growing interest in essential oils and has worked with the state of Oregon, Oregon State University and Native American groups, among others, interested in product development. Most recently he has been working with the Oregon Woodlands Cooperative, a group of forest managers considering alternative forest products as a means of keeping younger generations involved in forestry.

"It takes 50 years to grow your crop, so they're looking for ways to keep them on the farm between harvests," Seidel said.

Product development has additional benefits for ESF's forest properties and forest management students.

"We're hoping for the students to come up with innovations and efficiencies that we haven't even dreamed of," Wagner said.

The results of such efficiencies could become their own reward for students.

"If the business does well, we can hire more summer interns," Wagner and Davis each said.

Dee Klees is a freelance writer and editor based in Syracuse.

## Need Syrup?

Maple syrup produced at ESF's Heiberg Memorial Forest has a glowing presence in the ESF Alumni Association's bookstore in the new Gateway Center on campus.

"Last year, we did sell out of what we had," noted Debbie Caviness, the director of alumni relations at ESF. "It makes a great gift. We have it in both the plastic and the glass bottles."

Sales tend to peak before the holiday season when the glass bottles are most in demand, Caviness said. This year the syrup can be purchased from the ESF College Bookstore online and be shipped anywhere across the nation. Because of the added shipping costs, the Alumni Association follows up each order to ensure customers get the most economical shipping, Caviness said.

For information, contact the ESF College Bookstore at esfbookstore@esf.edu.

## Lab OPEN For Business

Microscopy experts speed fine-fiber detection with new venture on campus

**By Dee Klees** 

**AS** universities nationwide are under pressure to prove their economic viability and value to the community and prospective students, a team at ESF in the Salt City is accomplishing just that with a new testing lab called SALTS.

Syracuse Asbestos Laboratory Testing Service, founded by microscopy experts on the ESF campus in Syracuse, has earned New York State Department of Health certification (Lab #12002) as an official testing lab for airborne fibers as of November 2012. SALTS staffers examine filtered samples from air monitors at construction sites, schools or other structures for the kind of microscopic



fibers that could indicate the presence of asbestos or other contaminants that would require special handling or remediation at the site.

The lab has been busy in its first months of full operation and is processing multiple sets of samples weekly with eight to 12 samples per set, said Robert P. Smith B.S. '70, M.S. '77, lead technical director of SALTS and assistant director of the N.C. Brown Center for Ultrastructure Studies at ESF. The cost for the service is competitive with other labs and varies depending on the desired six- or 24-hour turnaround time, Smith said. Turnaround time can be essential, particularly if concern about suspect material has shut down a public building, stopped a renovation or forced residents from apartments, he noted.

In the start-up phase, the first six months of 2013, the lab generated nearly \$10,000 in revenue for the N.C. Brown Center with another \$2,000 outstanding, said Dr. Susan Anagnost, SALTS technical director and director of the N.C. Brown Center. Fees charged for the lab service help offset maintenance expenses for the costly equipment used in the center, said Anagnost, who also is chair of the Department of Sustainable Construction Management and Engineering at ESF.

Above, Jeremy Sullivan, left, and Tiffany Brookins–Little observe slides of filtered particles from air samples collected by industrial clients during asbestos remediation.

Left, Taylor Della Rocco works in the SALTS Lab preparing a slide from an air filter taken in the field.



The process of getting the lab certified and into full operation has taken almost two years. Anagnost and Smith earned their certifications in asbestos analysis in 2011 at the McCrone Institute in Chicago. Now Smith teaches students a course in fiber analysis (NIOSH 582) that leads to their state certification. The SALTS Lab g lab; Robert P. Sr services associat Barton, secretar and Engineering present is student

It's not often that a student can take one course and with that class alone become a valuable commodity in the employment market, but that's what happens at SALTS for those microscopy students who complete the certification process. The four students Smith has trained are employed by SALTS now, and the lab has a continuing need for more, he said.

Tiffany Brookins-Little is an undergraduate studying biotechnology and works as client services associate and analyst for the lab. She plans to use her microscopy skills in medical research. In her work at the lab, Brookins-Little notes she gains problem-solving and leadership skills along with specific knowledge about the six different types of asbestos. The other employees are Kaitlyn Smith, B.S. '12; Jeremy Sullivan, B.S. '07, a master of science candidate in biochemistry; Taylor Della Rocco, a sophomore majoring in environmental science; and senior Michael Norman, who works as an analyst.

SALTS staffers do not gather fibers in the field, but rather examine samples supplied by contractors. After slides are prepared from the samples, SALTS technicians search by light microscopy for the presence of fibers as small as 5 microns long with the distinctive shape and in the numbers that U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration or National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health rules say require more extensive testing and perhaps remediation.

Students in Smith's class gain essential expertise in the operation of various microscopes that make them highly valuable in research and in the commercial market, he said. Microscopy involves not only knowing how to operate each type of microscope, but also knowing which type suits a particular kind of research, how samples must be prepared for their reliable interpretation and proper record keeping and maintenance. The complexity of the field of microscopy and the need for skills in it for research, scholarship and industry has led ESF to create a new minor in microscopy that includes the use of both light and electron microscopes, Anagnost said.

The SALTS Lab group, from left: Dr. Susan Anagnost, technical director of the lab; Robert P. Smith, lead technical director; senior Tiffany Brookins-Little, client services associate; junior Taylor Della Rocco, technician/work-study student; Judy Barton, secretary in the Department of Sustainable Construction Management and Engineering; and Jeremy Sullivan, asbestos analyst and master's student. Not present is student Michael Norman, a senior who works as an analyst, and student employee Kaitlyn Smith.

The lab's work is not limited to asbestos although it created a fine acronym, she said. The microscope reveals details about many different materials. While the problem of asbestos contamination could be finite, it's not likely to go away soon nor is the prospect of fiber contamination. The lab was created in response to a demand from contractors experiencing considerable delays in getting results from labs backlogged with requests for testing, Smith said. Dr. Beth Arthur, a recent staff research scientist, was instrumental in recognizing how the lab could meet the needs of industry, and she gathered much of the documentation needed for certification of the lab, noted Anagnost.

Demand has been sufficient for SALTS to begin to seek backing for adding a new transmission electron microscope (TEM), which would be used in research and teaching as well as asbestos determination, said Anagnost. Certain types of samples require TEM for asbestos identification, and a locally operated machine such as this would shorten the turnaround time for local contractors.

The 30-year-old transmission electron microscope at ESF in its own pristine room is booked for use. A log shows recent users from Syracuse University, ESF and industry in Central New York have had need for the instrument even as much more modern equipment has come on the market. While scanning electron microscopes scan the surface of an object, transmission electron microscopes transmit an electron beam through a thin section of material allowing observations on a cellular level. There's much more to be revealed by the latest technology, however.

"The new ones easily see and identify atoms," Smith said.

Anyone wishing to contact the SALTS lab can email salts@esf.edu.

Dee Klees is a freelance writer and editor based in Syracuse.

## Neil Murphy

Outgoing ESF President Transforms College and Its Students

By Mike Fish



ack in his days as a graduate student at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Michael Amadori had an unprecedented experiment in mind: turn leftovers from Syracuse University dining halls into fish food and then use fish waste to help grow vegetables.

But space was tight, and he was nervous about pitching the idea to ESF President Neil Murphy in the fall of 2010.

Amadori's worries didn't last long.

"He said to me, 'Let me know what I can do to help you," Amadori recalled. "I was like, 'Wow!' I remember calling my parents – 'I just met the president of the university, and he's going to help me!"

With Murphy's backing, ESF provided, cleaned up and repaired greenhouse space on campus, paid for some equipment and fish, and ultimately helped the aspiring entrepreneur land national publicity on National Public Radio and MSNBC. Today, after constant encouragement from Murphy to think big, Amadori's experiment has morphed into Full Circle Feed (www.fullcirclefeed.com), a start-up company that transforms food leftovers into dog treats.

"He is so willing to meet with students and to support students that are passionate and want to make a difference," Amadori, who earned his master's degree in 2012, said of his mentor.

Dr. Cornelius B. Murphy, Jr., who stepped down at the end of 2013 as ESF president, for 13 years has been a master of motivation, sprinkling seeds of encouragement across a college that has evolved from a little-known, but highly regarded, academic and research institution into a major state, federal and international center providing leadership for natural and cultural environmental issues.

Murphy's apparent lack of interest in cellphones, email and having even a bit of cash in his pocket was widely known on campus. But when it came to what a student was up to – "Hey, how's that thesis on wheat grass going?" he'd ask, spur of the moment — or what a faculty member was working on, Murphy's memory is world class. And that personal interest inspired faculty and students who knew he cared.

"Neil was inspirational, broadly, from the maintenance department all the way through the faculty," said Dr. Thomas Amidon, a threetime ESF graduate (B.S. '68, M.S. '72 and Ph.D. '74), professor and former chair of what is now called the Department of Paper and Bioprocess Engineering.

## Big man on campus is man of the people

Murphy liked to keep his Bray Hall office door open for unscheduled visitors.

"The man never says no," said Ragan A. Squier, the president's secretary, in the waning days of Murphy's tenure. "He doesn't mind interruptions."

In his first year, Murphy extended that open door beyond Bray Hall, meeting periodically with

groups of students over breakfast or lunch to share viewpoints about what was happening on campus. They called it "Meals with Neil."

Murphy stands 5' 10 1/2" tall and will never be mistaken for a middle linebacker, but his nickname on campus reveals his true stature among students: **Big Neil.** 

"The students adore him," said Brenda Greenfield, executive director of the ESF College Foundation.

Even when he was not actually on campus, Big Neil was still there — sort of. One of the featured items at the Trailhead Cafe in the new Gateway Center is the Big Neil Burger, a house-made quarter-pound beef patty with grilled pineapple, sautéed peppers and onions, bacon, Swiss cheese and Russian dressing, all on a burger bun.

Mary Clements '82, former president of the ESF Alumni Association, marvels that sometimes roughly half the seniors hug Murphy when they walk across the stage at Convocation.

"Where else do you see that?" she said.

And if you don't actually know Big Neil, well, no problem. He often walks up to strangers with a simple introduction: "Hi, I'm Neil Murphy." No title, no bowing and scraping, please.

"I have never met anybody who's had something bad to say about him," said PJ Connell, president of the Undergraduate Student Association. "Maybe it's because he's so personal. He's a person, not a boss."

Preston Gilbert, B.S. '73 and ESF Program Leader for Community Redevelopment, said Murphy, just like previous presidents Ross Whaley and Edward "Bob" Palmer, was perfect for his time, which was one of pinched budgets and global environmental concerns, a time when creative collaboration carried the day.

"If there's a hallmark Neil leaves, it's that the issues we're dealing with are so enormous they can only be dealt with through collaboration, and Neil has led the way," Gilbert said. "We've got our own Leonard Bernstein to stand up on the podium to make it all happen."

#### Demonstrating what can go right

"Big Neil" led ESF with a reverse Murphy's Law: Think about what can possibly go right. The glass is always half full. Whether it's the next big thing in doggie treats or campus buildings, aim high.

Staff members and partners from an array of projects recall their encounters with Murphy's quiet optimism:

You say we don't have space to build Centennial Hall, our first dorm? Don't worry about that right now, let's go for it. You think you can help local economies across the U.S. suffering from dying paper mills? Get back to me with more info and we'll see if we can make it work.

We've never had an athletic program, since we began in 1911? No sweat. Let's see if we can scrape up a few bucks to get the ball rolling.

When Dr. Robert French, the then-new vice president for enrollment management and marketing, arrived at ESF in 2006, he, like other leaders on the staff, was encouraged to think big by the College president for the upcoming strategic planning session in August.

French wondered if establishing an officially sanctioned athletic program would attract more accomplished high school students who were choosing other universities, but he didn't know if his new boss, whom he barely knew, would endorse such a huge leap.

That doubt ended before their first conversation was over. Murphy loved the idea.

"He asked me to advance the idea at the upcoming retreat to get some additional feedback, but before our meeting was over he was already suggesting that our first step might be to upgrade the men's (club) soccer program and how he was sure he could find a few thousand dollars in the College budget to make that happen," French said. "We were off and running."

Today the Mighty Oaks are members of the U.S. Collegiate Athletic Association. Some 220 students compete in soccer, cross country, track, men's basketball, golf and the Woodsmen's Team. The men's cross-country team won consecutive national championships in 2011, 2012 and 2013 while the women's team finished second and third. The men's soccer team played in the USCAA national semifinal in 2012; the women played in the national tournament in 2013.

The advent of the Mighty Oaks has helped ESF step out of Syracuse University's big shadow a bit, part of Murphy's vision to establish more of an identity for the College.

One chilly morning Nov. 29, 2012, athletes and three coaches from the men's and women's cross-country teams were waiting outside behind Bray Hall for their 6:15 a.m. vans to Lake Placid for the national championship.

Who was there to see them off? Murphy, of course. He shook hands and wished them luck as they boarded three vans.

"Cross country is often overlooked, so if anyone shows up to wish us luck, it definitely means something," said Timmy Callahan, the men's team tri-captain who led the team to its second consecutive national title. "I really don't know him too well, but you don't need to know him too well to know what a good person he is."

## Things You Might Not Know about Neil Murphy

- 1. He was born in Seattle, down the coast from the base where his father worked as a communications officer on a sub chaser.
- 2. He used to have a photographic memory. "When I was in grad school, if I would study a paper or a text, I could visualize that page, and a lot of it was equations, and not only could I remember the equation, but I could remember where on the page that equation is."
- **3.** As a form of communication, he ranks email behind faceto-face meetings, personal phone calls and handwritten letters.
- 4. In his first job at O'Brien & Gere, as a lab technician, he analyzed mercury sediment and its effect on fish flesh in Onondaga Lake.
- 5. He is an avid skier. "In the last 20 years, I dislocated my left shoulder, broke my right shoulder, broke a collarbone in my right shoulder, ruptured my ACL in my left knee and people say, 'Why do you keep doing this?' And I usually say, 'It's the one thing I do that reminds me I'm still alive.' I just love to be on a mountain in the winter and feel the power of nature."



















In his 13 years as ESF president, Cornelius B. Murphy, Jr., mingled with students, faculty, staff and alumni; appeared at events on and off campus with elected leaders; and built relationships with a range of business partners as he became the public face of ESF. Upon stepping down from his leadership role, he was named Senior Fellow for Environmental and Sustainable Systems for SUNY.

ESF File Photos













Besides starting the athletic program, ESF under Murphy's leadership has:

■ Increased total enrollment from 1,700 to 2,300 students

■ Increased sponsored research expenditures from \$9.8 million to \$14.4 million

■ Increased ESF College Foundation total assets from \$9.6 million to \$61 million. The \$20 million Centennial Campaign, the first comprehensive campaign in the College's history, has reached \$17 million in gifts and pledges.

Expanded academic offerings, adding programs such as bioprocess engineering and sustainable energy management

■ Undertaken an unprecedented expansion of physical facilities, including the first residence hall, the \$30 million Centennial Hall; the \$28.3 million Gateway Center, designed to LEED Platinum standards; the \$6 million renovation and expansion of The Ranger School; the restoration of Huntington Lodge at the College's Newcomb Campus; and the acquisition and restoration of the Masten House, now part of ESF's Northern Forest Institute in Newcomb.

■ Looking ahead, the College's Climate Action Plan calls for ESF to have zero net CO2 emissions by 2015.

"The (campus) master plan is demonstrative of what we feel is important as an institution," Murphy said in 2009. "Our students said, 'If you're going to teach green, you have to be green."

#### The measure of Murphy's success

Appointed in May 2000 as the College's 12th leader, Murphy had been president and director of O'Brien & Gere, a design, engineering and consulting firm in Syracuse.

Murphy, who earned a Ph.D. in physical inorganic chemistry — he studied the properties of boron hydrides as potential rocket fuels for NASA — at SU in 1970, inherited a passion for science from his father, an applied research scientist who invented clandestine personnel detectors that saved thousands of U.S. troops in the jungles of Vietnam.

"I learned about science at the kitchen table," Murphy said. "My mentor lived with me. That was my dad."

When he arrived on campus, the ESF Board of Trustees gave Murphy two broad goals: increase the College's visibility and develop and execute a strategic planning process. By all accounts, Murphy has been a smashing success in these missions and in many others.

ESF's visibility has increased dramatically, including numerous rankings as one of the

nation's best colleges. The College also earned one of the worst rankings out there, but Murphy is quite proud of it: "Worst Overall Party School" in the nation, according to Playboy Magazine in 2012.

"But," the magazine noted, "with all the time its students have to study, in 10 years you'll likely be calling an ESF grad 'Sir.' "

Not so fast, says Murphy: because nearly half the student body is now female, you might actually be calling that grad "Ma'am."

As for strategic planning, Murphy led the charge, culminating in the Board of Trustees'

#### "For the size of the institution, it's just amazing how much the faculty does. It blows me away every day."

-Dr. Cornelius B. Murphy, Jr.

2003 adoption of Vision 2020, ESF's blueprint for the future. This is a strategic plan that doesn't collect dust on a shelf. Each August, Murphy convened his planning retreat, where about 18 vice presidents and department heads compared notes on about 100 metrics, from budgetary numbers to total hours students devoted to community service.

Want to know about ESF's increasing visibility? Try these yardsticks, tracked every year: total number of column inches in print coverage, total number of minutes on radio, total number of hours of coverage on TV, the number of ESF-related You Tube videos and the total number of hits on the College website.

"Anything we're doing well is worth measuring," Murphy said. "If you measure those things and if you regularly review them, you almost have to make progress. If you don't keep track of them, you're not going to make the kind of progress you otherwise would have made. People every year want to exceed what they did last year. I've always told them this will not be used in a punitive way but only as a method for knowing where we want to go."

With six years remaining before 2020, "we are somewhere between two-thirds and threequarters of the way there," he said of the goals outlined in Vision 2020.

But Murphy knows that all the metrics in the world wouldn't make ESF what it is without a dedicated faculty and passionate student body.

"Today, we have a faculty of 135, 57 research projects outside of the U.S., and a research project on every continent," he said. "Dave Keiber is measuring dimethyl sulfide concentrations liberated by algae in the Ross Sea in Antarctica," he said, referring to a faculty member in the Department of Chemistry. "Another faculty member is looking for viruses in ice cores in Greenland. We have test plots of short rotation crops in Afghanistan. We had a project that was funded by the U.S. Department of State to help with the revegetation of Ghana."

Murphy paused a moment, then began to speak enthusiastically about Associate Professor Christopher Nomura's research into using a protein molecule to disrupt the process by which bacteria become virulent, about Professor James Gibbs' groundbreaking efforts to protect the endangered snow leopards in Russia's Altai Republic, and it would have been easy for Murphy to keep going.

"For the size of the institution, it's just amazing how much the faculty does," Murphy said. "It blows me away every day."

#### Leading in a time of change

With changes in global environment and economics and advancements in science against a backdrop of relentless pressure on the College budget, Murphy was the perfect leader for a new era of collaboration and partnership, said Gilbert.

State Sen. John DeFrancisco said Murphy's business know-how and ability to connect with people created the right atmosphere for collaborations.

"I don't think I know anybody who dislikes him," said DeFrancisco, who described Murphy as a "soft-spoken, articulate man who speaks from his heart."

Larry Leatherman, a longtime friend, business colleague and former president of the ESF College Foundation, said Murphy "has the ability to understand how to apply the academic concepts, how to make it understandable to the politicians, to the faculty, to the donors. He knows enough to be correct and say it the right way. And Neil has a wonderful manner about him. I've never heard anyone say they don't admire him."

One of Murphy's jobs is to help faculty advance their ideas, and many of those ideas involve collaborations, both inside and outside ESF.

Take Gilbert and Amidon. Observing the decline in the paper and forest products industry and its impact on rural New York, they approached Murphy four years ago with an idea to stop some of the bleeding.

That idea, called the "New Forest Economy," is a strategic approach to reintroduce manufacturing into rural New York using high-technology bioprocessing and related clusters of secondary industries in paper mills, creating jobs in sectors ranging from food production and biotechnology to industrial tourism.

Murphy's reaction? "He said, 'I trust your judgment and knowledge, come to me with a solution'," Gilbert recalled."'If it makes sense to me, I will support it."

With Murphy's backing on campus, in Albany and around the northeast, Amidon, Gilbert and a cadre of other ESF faculty members today are planning the establishment of the Northern Forest Economy Institute, an ESF entity that will collaborate with eight other major universities across the United States, Brookhaven National Laboratory and a USDA research lab in California to begin the transformation.

#### "He is a true champion of service, even engaging in his own community-based projects, and conveys his passion for service to students and faculty...."

#### — Elizabeth Mix

The project will start with mills in Lyons Falls, N.Y., and Wellsville, N.Y., and expand to 30 mills nationally to begin improving the economy of forested states across the nation. The institute's goals are to reuse shuttered mills and help existing mills add new products and capacity, contributing to economic development in entirely new ways. The institute is also exploring the potential for similar projects in the United Kingdom.

The Northern Forest Economy Institute is just one of many collaborations involving ESF and partners around the state, the nation and the rest of the world. At the same time, ESF faculty are working with each other and with other SUNY institutions.

Standing in the middle of this complex collaborative mix, with an open door and a welcoming smile and an aversion to the phrase "no, we can't do that," was the maestro of ESF.

"An absolute collaborator, leader and visionary, and, if I can broaden this last term, the ultimate enlightened entrepreneur," Gilbert said. "One who knows how to make things happen by gaining the trust of others, making investments in people, creating collaborations and being creative in how you solve a problem."

"Beyond that, he inspires you, and he is so damn likeable that people are happy to fall in behind him," Gilbert added.

That spirit of collaboration carries over to ESF's alumni relations.

"He always knows what's going on with the Alumni Association, and yet he never micromanaged anything," Clements said. "He is always making connections with us, with the alums, at the meetings. He's like an extraordinary man but an ordinary man. He doesn't do it for the power."

Murphy and his wife, Joanne, have four grown children and nine grandchildren, and when he starts in on how much he loves his ESF students, you sense the joy he must feel each fall, when a fresh batch of scholars arrives: more kids to care for.

"I tell people — a lot — that one of the best things of my job is I have the ability to be around young people that are deeply passionate and very motivated, and they truly want to change the world," he said. "They lift me up every day."

Murphy has gotten another kind of lift over the years from many Syracuse University faculty members who raved about having ESF students in their classes. They describe the ESF students as hard working and bright.

That sort of institutional compliment came his way one night a few years ago when a stranger approached Murphy as he ordered a glass of wine at a restaurant bar. Murphy at the time didn't know the gentleman was an SU professor who had taught some ESF students.

"Hey, is your name Murphy?"

"Yes, it is."

"Are you the Murphy at ESF?"

"Yes, I am."

"I don't know what the hell you're doing over there, but don't screw it up."

## "He's also very conscious of the people"

Because he remembered what everyone on campus was up to and actually took an interest in those details, he constantly sent the most powerful motivational message of all: what you're doing is important, and I care. On Murphy's personal version of the periodic table, that was the human element.

"I've always said, when you go to retire, you'll never remember how much money you made in any given year. You'll never remember, in the case of O'Brien & Gere, the billable rates, the gross operating income or the net income," Murphy said. "The only thing you're ever going to remember is the people you had the privilege to touch and the people who had the opportunity to touch you. So, numbers in the long haul don't mean anything."

"He's a perfectionist," his wife, Joanne, said, "but he's also very conscious of the people he works with. The people ultimately would come first." Dr. Kelley Donaghy, an associate professor of chemistry, saw this when Murphy stood up at a meeting to read a letter from an ESF student who said her outlook on life was transformed by her community service work.

"He was really struck by her letter," said Donaghy, who serves as executive chair of ESF Faculty Governance. "You stand there and watch your president get emotional."

Donaghy then redesigned her general chemistry course to help students "get dirty" working on the environment, out in the community. "He's inspired me to do things outside my comfort zone," she said.

Last spring, Donaghy's General Chemistry 2 class had 262 students overall, of whom 152 performed more than 20 hours each of community service. About 35 kept alive the struggling Carpenter's Brook Fish Hatchery in Elbridge, which produces more than 80,000 brook, brown and rainbow trout annually and stocks more than 100 miles of local streams and 10,000 acres of impoundments.

"My hatchery kids always do more than they're asked," said Donaghy. "They get up at 7 a.m. on a Saturday to work four or five hours."

Former Donaghy student Erika Stoddard got hooked on helping fish, volunteering four consecutive springs at Carpenter's Brook.

"We're helping keep the fish alive," she said.

Stoddard, who graduated with a major in aquatic and fisheries science in 2013, works for the state Department of Environmental Conservation, monitoring movements of king salmon in the Great Lakes to help develop the best stocking methods for the popular game fish.

"I wouldn't change a thing," she said of ESF. "It opened my mind up to so many opportunities I didn't even know existed."

Under Murphy's stewardship, the servicelearning track has skyrocketed. Last year, students contributed more than 75,000 hours of community service on a wide array of projects.

"He is a true champion of service, even engaging in his own community-based projects, and conveys his passion for service to students and faculty at almost every opportunity he gets," said Elizabeth Mix, who served as ESF's Community Service and Service-Learning Coordinator. "I believe that the creation of my position (in 2010) sent a pretty significant message across campus that community engagement is an important piece to an ESF education."

#### Knowing how to get things done

For Murphy, the hardest part of the job involved wrestling with limitations on the College's state-funded budget, which is roughly \$40 million a year. In the last 13-plus years, "we had a good state budget only four years," in which ESF's programs were fully funded, he said.

But Murphy has been extraordinarily successful in finding money from the state, donors, alumni and others. DeFrancisco, who has secured many chunks of state money for ESF, including \$6.3 million to jump start the Gateway Center, is not surprised.

When Murphy left O'Brien & Gere for ESF, "he was attuned to going out and getting business and getting things done, rather than theorizing on the latest academic idea," DeFrancisco said. "And you end up feeling, if you can get money to him, that things are going to get done. People have confidence he'll get things done because he's competent and a trustworthy guy."

Murphy brought with him 30 years' worth of contacts, many of whom also knew how to get things done. His extensive network was on full display each holiday season when he and Joanne hosted a party, which last January attracted about 250 people, including leaders of business, politics and academia. DeFrancisco, who has been in public office since 1978, has seen his share of holiday parties. And the Murphys' stood out.

"His wife is a sweetheart," he said. "It's in their own home, which you don't always see. He opens his home to many, many people, including students, which I rarely see. And he and his wife are warm, kind individuals, and you can tell they enjoy doing it and not because it's an obligation."

One morning in August, DeFrancisco caught up with Murphy at a meeting at Onondaga Community College. Murphy mentioned his post-presidency plans include teaching and perhaps special projects. DeFrancisco replied: "I'll support anything you do in the future as long as you keep having your holiday party."

## Taking the College to a different level

Looking back, Distinguished Teaching Professor Emeritus George Curry said the Murphy era was the highlight of his 44-year career.

"The last 13 years have been the most exciting and fun time I've had in 40-plus years of teaching," he said, adding that Murphy, with his down-to-earth approach, political savvy and intellect, "has taken this College to a whole different level" in prestige and visibility across the United States. "It's been a joy working with him."

And for Murphy: the best part of his second career?

"Being with students," he said.

When Connell, the newly elected president of the Undergraduate Student Association, showed up at the annual scholarship luncheon last April, he quickly realized he was sitting at a table with Murphy and other administrators.

To his instant mortification, Connell also realized he was the only person on the planet who didn't get the memo on how to dress. Wearing a gray T-shirt, cargo shorts and flipflops, Connell stared out at 141 other people decked out in business attire. Taking his seat next to Murphy, an embarrassed Connell confided to his mentor: "I can't believe how underdressed I am."

Big Neil, though, didn't seem too concerned. "No, PJ," he replied, "everyone else is overdressed."

Mike Fish is a freelance writer in Syracuse and a member of the ESF College Foundation Board of Directors.



#### Major construction projects during that period:

Completion of Baker Laboratory rehabilitation: \$37 million Ranger School renovation, expansion: \$6 million Construction of Centennial Hall (ESF's first residence hall): \$30 million Construction of Gateway Center: \$28 million Plan begun for Academic Research Building: \$44 million (first phase)

## Gateway to ESF's Future

New student space makes an inviting environmental statement



#### **By Susan Fassler**

It was an incredibly bittersweet moment when I graduated from ESF in 2012 with a Bachelor of Science degree. ESF not only was the place where I made lifelong friendships and memories but also where I received a truly meaningful education.

Many people have made the mistake of viewing ESF as the SUNY campus behind the famous Carrier Dome. Clearly, the College has been much more than that. In the past, the College lacked a tangible landmark that represented it. However, with the opening of the Gateway Center in 2013 I believe this problem is well on its way to being solved. I began the 2012–2013 academic year as a secondsemester graduate student at ESF and was glad to be on campus to see the completion of the Gateway Center. It has become a physical representation of the College's core values and provides a modern space for students to gather to share ideas and conversation. The environmentally sound combined heat-andpower system housed within Gateway reduces fossil fuel consumption while supplying the College with electricity and heat. It also can serve as a tool to educate the increasingly interested general public about sustainable energy production technologies.

Before the Gateway Center opened, students did not have a large space available to them that was completely dedicated to relaxation and conversation. It would have been nice as a freshman to hang out in a beautiful building like Gateway, but I am very happy I can do so as a graduate student now. The classes of the future should consider themselves lucky that they get to spend four years in such a nice building.

In the summer of 2013 I began working toward a master's degree at Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. I have remained strongly tied to my ESF roots and have continually brought new classmates over to the campus to show off the Gateway Center and the Trailhead Café within. One of my classmates described ESF as a "gem of a campus" and I like to think the Gateway Center was a major reason he thought in this way. It has added an element of modern sophistication and excitement to the campus that engages visitors. The Center has helped draw both students and the public to ESF's campus and will make the values shared by previous, current and future students more apparent.

Susan Fassler ES '12, is a dual-degree graduate student in SUNY-ESF's Environmental Science (environmental policy and the democratic process) graduate program and Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs (Master of Public Administration).



Filippo LaRosa

Behind the scenes of the new Gateway Center is Physical Plant Engineer Filippo LaRosa. He is the first – and only – person to manage the building's unique combinedheat-and-power (CHP) system. He spends most of his weekdays in the basement of the Gateway Center monitoring components of the biomass and the natural gas systems that make up the CHP.

#### Where are you originally from?

I grew up in Meri, Italy, a little town with about 1,200 people. Things are a little different there now, but when I was there, there was just one school and the boys and girls were segregated from each other in different rooms. I was 12 when my family immigrated to the United States, and I've lived around the Syracuse area since then.

## *When did you start working at ESF?* I started in April of 2013.

#### What did you do before working at ESF?

Before coming here I worked at the steam plant at Auburn Correctional Facility. I have worked for the state for 10 years but not all of them as a plant utility engineer. Most of my steam power plant experience comes from my Navy background. I am a 27-year Navy veteran. I worked on Navy ships that traveled all over. I've been just about everywhere on the East Coast.

## **Gateway Connections**

#### Filippo LaRosa is the power behind the pipes of ESF's newest building.

A conversation with Shannon Hazlitt SU '14

## Can you talk a little more about your experience with the Navy?

Sure. I'm what's called a master chief petty. That's the rank of E9. I'm the senior enlisted leader, so I manage a program that consists of about 1,200 enlisted Navy sailors who repair and maintain Navy ships.

## What do you think sets your job in the Gateway Center apart from others?

It's brand-new technology. I'm an outdoor person, so I like the idea that the College is using renewable energy. Since this is something new and the College has never been exposed to it, it's a little bit more challenging than working at a powerhouse or steam plant that has been running for 20 years.

#### What are some of the challenges and benefits or rewards of working in the Gateway power plant?

It's like a living building. We have to figure out how it operates so we can fine tune it to what works best. It's rewarding since I'm the only one who's usually down here, so it kind of feels like my personal baby (laughs). I like the idea that it feels like it is mine so I can take care it. It's very complex, and there are a lot of components that come together. It's very impressive.

## What exactly does your position involve with the Gateway Center?

Basically it's to monitor and maintain the CHP. I could be turning equipment on and off, making some type of adjustment, responding to trouble calls – basically maintaining the plant. I've also given students tours. When the freshmen were first here, I often offered to give them tours.

## What do you think about interacting with ESF students?

They are about the same age as my kids, and it's great to talk to them. When I give tours, they are always listening and asking questions.

## Have your children seen the Gateway Center?

I have three children: Margaret, who is 17, Maria, who is 15, and I have a 30-yearold adopted son named Stephen. I would like to bring them in. I like to get my kids involved with what I do.

#### What are some of your hobbies?

I like to ride bikes, mountain and road bike, go cross-country skiing and running. I am an outdoorsman. I also enjoy gardening, canning tomatoes and peppers, and making homemade wine.

#### What else do you do in your spare time?

I volunteer for a nonprofit organization called WholeMe. It's a one-of-a-kind organization. We work with deaf and hard-of-hearing kids. My oldest daughter is hard-of-hearing – that's how I got involved. WholeMe was started to help kids reach their full potential and to educate parents about how to make good decisions for their kids.

## How long have you been a part of WholeMe?

For about 10 years, roughly. My daughter started going to the after-school programs and I slowly worked my way up to become vice president of the executive board.

#### Wow! It sounds like you are very busy! What inspires you to do so much outside of your job at the Gateway?

Passion, pride, always wanting to do better, never settling for less, and being willing to do things for others without expecting anything back ... that's who I am. (laughs again). I've had opportunity, so I'm trying to pay some back. I'wo Row Wampum

ESF faculty and students paddle to honor parallel course of cultures

By Renee K. Gadoua

Dr. Jack P. Manno says his relationship with the Haudenosaunee, the People of the Longhouse, has spurred a number of "aha" moments. One came during a conversation with an Onondaga Nation elder, Chief Irving Powless Jr., about early European settlers.

"He said, 'We understood there was something strange when they thought they could go out into the woods to be alone. In the woods they are surrounded by thousands of beings,' " Manno recalled. That gave him a sense of the deep connection the Haudenosaunee have to their living environment.

Continued on next page

Associate Professor Jack Manno speaks in Cold Spring, N.Y., where the paddlers camped for the night. Manno was participating in a discussion called, "The Two Row Wampum: Past, Present and Future."

Below, paddlers pass historic Bannerman Castle on the Hudson River.



"We think about property as things we own and have a right to," Manno said. "Traditional people view property as what they're responsible for. It has to do with our place in the world as human beings and how we interact with it. It's a relationship."

Those insights about humans' relationship with nature have become central to how Manno, as associate professor in the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry Department of Environmental Studies, views the world and teaches about the environment. It's also a key idea of the Two Row Wampum Renewal Campaign. Manno is educational outreach coordinator for the program, which celebrates the 1613 agreement between the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois Confederacy) and the Dutch, who were then newcomers to what is now the Capital District of New York state and other parts of the mid-Hudson Valley area. It stresses a commitment for the Haudenosaunce and the newcomers to share the river of life while respecting each other's differences. Priorities include honoring Haudenosaunee sovereignty and protecting Mother Earth.

Manno is among at least four ESF faculty members and at least four students and alumni who participated in the yearlong campaign. The faculty group also included Dr. Robin Kimmerer and Dr. Karin Limburg, professors in the Department of Environmental and Forest Biology, and Janine M. DeBaise, an instructor in the Department of Environmental Science. Several members of the ESF community participated in the central event of the campaign: a 13-day enactment of the Two Row Wampum, commemorating the commitment to parallel coexistence by paddling 140 miles down the Hudson River from Albany to New York City from July 28 to Aug. 9. Along the way, members of both groups made friends, camped together and attended festivals and events to share their message of mutual respect for each other and the environment. Some paddlers carried signs calling for the closure of Indian Point power plant as they passed the nuclear facility south of Peekskill.

"Most important to me was to see the commitment people had to put their time, their energy, their body, their boats in the water for the ideals of honoring the Two Row," said Kimmerer, a Distinguished Teaching Professor who teaches environmental biology and directs ESF's Center for Native Peoples and the Environment. Kimmerer, a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation in Oklahoma, paddled a canoe for five days with a non-Native American friend who works as an ally to Native peoples in Oregon.

"One of the important messages we heard along the way was, people talk about treaties as if they are only for Natives," Kimmerer said. "But a treaty is an obligation for both nations. They must mean as much to the newcomers as to the Native people. The renewal of our commitment to live well on the river of life is a powerful thing."

The overwhelming support from allies along the way shows a commitment to advocating for the rights for indigenous peoples and working to save the environment, she said.





Above, ESF alumna Aya Yamamoto EFB '12, at far right, participates in Two Row Wampum Renewal Campaign activities.

At right, Dutch Consul General Rob de Vos welcomes the paddlers at Pier 96 in New York City. "If there isn't going to be justice in the courts, what we need is a movement," she said. "We need people calling for honor and justice even if the courts don't recognize it. We want to do the right thing. We want to act with honor."

DeBaise, instructor in the ESF writing program, paddled with her 18-year-old son, Bryan Sweeney, for five days, then greeted the group when it arrived at Pier 96 in New York City. "There were always people cheering and clapping for us," she said.

The trip fostered trust, respect and generosity, she said. In Cold Springs, for example, a woman named Kate offered her a shower at her home. "There was that kind of community the whole way," she said.

DeBaise expects to draw on the experience in her classes. This year's ESF theme for first-year students is water. "This is timely," she said. "We'll be talking about it."

Aya Yamamoto, EFB '12, was drawn to the Two Row Campaign by its environmental message and ideas gleaned from Indigenous Issues and the Environment, a course she took from Kimmerer in the Department of Environmental and Forest Biology.

"I realize more and more to heal our relationships with one another, we have to heal our relationships with the land and to heal our relationships with the land we have to heal our relationships with one another," said Yamamoto, who served as a volunteer and intern, then as a paid staffer.

Yamamoto spent much of the 13-day trip coordinating details on the ground, and she paddled when she could. She tried to plan for everything but soon realized that was impossible. "As soon as our first night passed, I knew everything was going to be OK," she said. "Things just fell into place better than a lot of us had hoped. Everyone stepped up."

She attributes the cooperative spirit to the campaign's message. "Everyone there had the desire to make the world a better place," she said. "Having that in people's hearts helped the logistics because people were already thinking, 'What can I do to help?' "

When Yamamoto's job ended at the end of August, she planned to return to New York City, where she grew up.

She hopes to continue a career in environmental activism, perhaps working with the White Earth Reservation in Minnesota.

Cayla Naranjo, a senior environmental studies major, volunteered behind the scenes, updating www. honorthetworow.org and the campaign's social media presence. She, too, was influenced by Kimmerer's classes.

"I learned about the history of new settlers coming in and taking land away from the Native people, and we see how that ended up," Naranjo said. "I would describe it as degradation and loss of identity. When we're concerned with other things like money and bettering the economy, we forget about the environment."

Naranjo said she learned a lot working with the Two Row project. "There was really great communication," she said. "I am taking that with me. I really like to work with grassroots groups."

Rain provided another lesson. "We don't control the weather," she said. "It's patience. Nothing should be rushed. It's better that things go a little slower than too fast."

Naranjo, who is from East Harlem, plans to apply to the Peace Corps, and she'd love to work in Fiji.

"I don't want to westernize other places, but I feel I can aid them in creating their own environmental ethics and making it more efficient," she said.

Manno noted that the last few miles of the paddling trip were very difficult. "They had a strong current going against them. When they stopped to rest, they basically went backward. But they kept going."

Native Americans are very resilient, he noted. "These are people who had been targeted for destruction, and yet they continue with great courage and determination. I think there's a lot that our students can learn. But they also have to find it in themselves."

As for the long-term impact of the Two Row campaign, Manno said time will tell. "We're not going to know the results of what we've done here for another 100 years. But we can be confident there will be an effect."

Renee K. Gadoua is a freelance writer and editor in the Syracuse area.





The Mighty Oaks women's soccer team heads to the national tournament in October.

#### Mighty Oaks Women Play in Championship Tournament

The Mighty Oaks women's soccer team earned a spot in the United States Collegiate Athletic Association Soccer National Championships this fall.

The team lost in the first round, falling 4-1 to Alfred State. The Mighty Oaks had a tough loss in the consolation game, losing 2-1 in double overtime to Penn College.

ESF's Academic All-Americans were honored before play began: Ashley Miller, junior, environmental resources engineering (ERE); Kiana Morse, sophomore, ERE; Jessica Vacarre, sophomore, environmental science; and Megan Kuczka, senior, environmental science.

The Mighty Oaks closed the season 10-3-1, with the most wins in the program's history and the team's first appearance at nationals.

"ESF had a nearly flawless season in its program's fourth year," said Coach Dan Ramin.

The men's soccer team ended the year with a 7-6-1 record. When the team's six seniors — Adrian Wiegman, Kyle Siegel, Ryan Graig and Pat Alcot, all environmental studies majors; and Ross Volpe and Ben Bednarski, bioprocess engineering majors — were honored at the end of the season, they were credited with earning 32 victories, the most wins in school history.



The men's cross-country team celebrates its third consecutive national title.

#### **Runners Win USCAA National Championship**

The Mighty Oaks men's cross-country team brought home its third United States Collegiate Athletic Association (USCAA) Cross Country National Championship Nov. 8 at Drumlins. The ESF women's team finished in second place.

From the Field

The top three colleges in the men's 8K were ESF; Daeman College, Amherst, N.Y., and Dine College, Tsaile, Ariz. The overall fastest runner of the day was ESF team captain and junior Timmy Callahan with a time of 27:30. Four of the top 10 runners were from ESF.

Daemen College took first in the women's 6K race with ESF coming in a close second. Third-place honors went to the University of Dallas, Texas. The top ESF finisher was senior Emily Martin.

More than 280 of the nation's best collegiate cross-country runners converged in Syracuse for the meet. Athletes represented more than 30 colleges from across the United States at the two-day event. The event was hosted by ESF with assistance from the USCAA.

This was the first time Syracuse was selected to host the USCAA Cross Country Championships.

The ESF men's team won the championship in 2011 and 2012, while the women's team has finished in the top five for the past three years.

#### ESF's McFee Finishes 2<sup>nd</sup> in Collegiate Timber Sport Championship

ESF student Evan McFee finished second in January at the Collegiate Ironjack World Championship held at the Lumberjack Feud Sports Arena in Pigeon Forge, Tenn.

Junior Stephen Tramposch and seniors McFee and Max Wiesner took on some of the sport's top competitors in six disciplines over three days. Competitors were scored on these events: ax throw, speed birl, singlebuck sawing, chainsaw obstacle pole, 60-foot speed climb and standing block chop.

Tramposch and McFee advanced to the second round, with McFee continuing on to the final round of competition. In that final round, McFee posted two arena records. He climbed the 60-foot indoor pole in just 8.82 seconds to take first in the event and then set another



From left, senior Max Wiesner, junior Stephen Tramposch, graduate student/coach Cassandra Pinkoski, senior Evan McFee, senior Jason Schenck and senior Alexandria Miller.

record with a time of 14.20 seconds for 15 revolutions on the birling log.

ESF's timber sports team, the Woodsmen, began the spring semester by preparing for its home meet, scheduled for March 22 in Tully, N.Y.

## **Get ESF sports** schedules and updates at www.esf.edu/athletics

#### ESF Student Named Scholar Athlete

ESF student Zachary Kalette has received the Chancellor's Scholar Athlete Award.

Kalette, a member of ESF's basketball team, is a fifth-year senior in the landscape architecture program. He is a resident of Fayetteville, N.Y.

Student athletes are nominated by their campus athletic director, and their credentials and accomplishments are then reviewed by a panel of athletic directors from across SUNY as well as the provost's office. Sixty-six student athletes received the award this year.

"These outstanding students are SUNY champions not only in their chosen sports but also in our classrooms, with an average GPA of 3.59 among them," said SUNY Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher. "Congratulations to this year's honorees, to the professors and coaches who mentored them, and to the many faculty and staff on our campuses across the state who supported them."



ESF student Mim Powelson and quidditch teammate Joseph DiStefano, of Syracuse University, compete against players from SUNY Geneseo in pool play of the 2013 Northeast Regional Championships in Rochester, N.Y. Powelson is one of several ESF students who are members of the SU quidditch team. The sport, played with broomsticks, is familiar to readers of the Harry Potter books about the wizarding world. Quidditch is played on college campuses around the country.

#### Awards and Honors

Bonczek, Michelle, winner of Trio House Press Open Reading Period for best unpublished poetry manuscript for The Ghosts of Lost Animals. (Trio House Press, forthcoming); and a poem, "Entering the Body," selected to appear in the 2013 Best New Poets Anthology

Clemons, Jessica '06, named Emerging Leader by the American Library Association

Greenfield, Brenda, named Nonprofit Executive of the Year by the Central New York Business Journal

**Powell, William A.**, named Forest Biotechnologist of the Year by the Institute of Forest Biotechnology

Ryan, Sadie J., one of nine junior scholars named CHANS Fellows 2013

#### **Books**

Kimmerer, Robin W., Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants, Milkweed Editions, 2013, 320 pages by CHANS-NET (Coupled Human and Natural Systems Network), presented at the 98th Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting

Senecah, Susan, awarded honorary doctorate by the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

Smardon, Richard C., reappointed chair and member of the Great Lakes Basin Advisory Council

**Toland, Timothy,** recipient of an Outstanding Service Award from the American Society of Landscape Architects

Verostek, Jane, 2013 New York Library Association, Academic and Special Libraries, Excellence in Library Innovation Award

Sonnenfeld, David., Routledge International Handbook of Social and Environmental Change (co–editor with Stewart Lockie and Dana R. Fisher, eds.), Routledge, 2014, 344 pages

#### **Smardon Named Distinguished Service Professor**

Dr. Richard C. Smardon received SUNY's highest faculty honor when he was appointed a Distinguished Service Professor.

Smardon was one of 16 faculty members from the 64-campus system who were added to the distinguished ranks by the SUNY Board of Trustees.

Candidates for Distinguished Service Professorship must have demonstrated substantial distinguished service not only at the campus and the State University, but also at the community, regional and state levels. Many candidates have performed influential service at the national and international levels.

In announcing the award, SUNY noted Smardon has an outstanding record of service to the university, his professional colleagues and the community, both locally and beyond.

In some 30 years with ESF, Smardon has served as a full professor for more than 15 years, also acting as co-director of the SUNY Great Lakes Research Consortium, co-director of ESF's Division of Environmental Science, director of ESF's Graduate Program in Environmental Science, chair of the Department of Environmental Studies and director of the Randolph G. Pack Environmental Institute.

#### Three ESF Empoyees Honored with Chancellor's Awards

Three employees of the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF) have been honored with SUNY Chancellor's Awards.

The honorees are Dr. Charles A.S. Hall, a professor in the ESF Department of Environmental and Forest Biology, who received the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities; Ragan Squier, secretary to the college president, who received the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Classified Service; and Mark Storrings, an instructional support specialist in the ESF Department of Environmental Resources Engineering, who received the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service.

For more information about the honorees, visit www.esf.edu/chancellors2014.



State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry

Office of Communications 1 Forestry Drive Syracuse, New York 13210-2778

#### CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG. U.S. POSTAGE PAID PERMIT NO. 248 SYRACUSE, N.Y.

## Join the Alumni and Friends of ESF

#### Help Us Reach Our Campaign Goal of \$20 Million.

Our wonderful alumni and friends have donated over \$17 million during The Centennial Campaign for ESF.

You can keep the legacy of environmental leadership alive for the next 100 years by being a part of our success.

Look for special receptions in your area through 2016, and be sure to join us.

To learn more go to www.esf.edu/TheCentennialCampaign or contact Campaign Manager Dana Piwinski '80 at dpiwinski@esf.edu or (315) 470-4948.



The Centennial Campaign for ESF Environmental Leadership for a Second Century

