

SUMMER 2023

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connecting
across
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FROM THE department chair



Dear MSU Forestry Alumni and Friends,

MSU Forestry has an international presence in research and education, which brings great benefits to our faculty and students. Conducting research or studying in a foreign country can be transformative in solving research problems and in educational growth. The exchange of ideas, which should benefit both the visitor and the host, helps us see things from a new perspective. Learning about a new culture provides a basis to reflect on our own culture and practices.

A more globally informed perspective supports success in our globally connected world. Similar benefits derive from MSU Forestry's international students, who come from numerous countries including Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Columbia, Greece, Iran, Malawi, and Nepal.

This issue of the MSU Forester provides a glimpse into some of our international activities. There are many other international activities for which we lacked space in this edition. Some additional highlights include a new education abroad program in the Yucatán of Mexico led by Dr. David MacFarlane, research on the changing Arctic in the Yukon Territory of Canada led by Dr. Emily Huff, and a new Spanish-language version of the professional short course 'Understanding Forest Carbon Management' that was developed by our Forest Carbon and Climate Program.

With a view towards harnessing the transformative potential of international collaborations, eight of us traveled to Finland in May (two faculty members participated remotely) as part of a trade and study mission and to lead a workshop on 'Climate Change Solutions through Biobased Products.' The workshop was co-led by Natural

Resources Institute Finland (Luke), hosted by Business Finland, and financially supported by the US Embassy - Helsinki. You can read more at for.msu.edu/finland. After the workshop, many of us met with MSU Forestry Alum Marko Katila (PhD, '88), who has developed several innovative forest-based investment projects. Our journey laid the foundation for collaborations and inspired lots of ideas.

We would love to hear about your international experiences and what they have meant to you. Please send your reflections to Lauren Noel (Inoel@msu.edu); if we get a good response, we will find a way to share your thoughts in a future communication.

Finally, spring 2023 was a challenging semester and I want to acknowledge the lost lives and injuries of students in February's shooting. Many of us found comfort and resilience in how the MSU community came together in many ways. I attended and found especially moving the event to welcome students back to campus the day before classes resumed; tens of thousands participated – students, families, faculty, staff, local residents, and alums. Thank you for your support.

Please contact me if you would like to share your thoughts or are interested in giving back.

Cheers,

Rich

Alum Updates

JERRY GILDEMEISTER | BS '55

After moving from La Grande to Dallas, Oregon last summer, my photographic, design, and book publishing business suddenly dried up. But, I stayed busy with some home updating. I did receive a request for a summary report of the 235-page Watershed History of the Grande Ronde River of Northeast Oregon that I authored in 1998 for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. With no files for guidance, I set about recreating an updated 30-page summary report with hopes that it will be a valuable asset for anyone involved with watershed management and restoration in the years to come. I'm now working on selecting 600+ photo images from my photo archives for transfer to the Wallowa County Historical Center in Eastern Oregon for their use.

JACK GOULD | BS '55

My report is not a favorable one, health-wise. In December of 2022, I got Covid-19 followed with a case of Sepsis, and then Pneumonia. Things didn't look good, but good medical care saved me. I am currently in a care facility called Waterstone on Augusta in Greenville, SC. Contact me at 1004 Augusta St. Apt 1204 Greenville, SC 29605. I would love to hear from old friends.

JERRY GELOCK | BS '62

My wife and I still live in Bakersfield, CA after retiring from the Sequoia National Forest in 1991. Age and health are preventing me from doing many of the things I like to do. But, I have been blessed in more ways than I can count. I enjoy getting the newsletter and seeing the exciting things going on at MSU – the best school I could have possibly attended.

TIMOTHY GAVIN | BS '78

I am a 1978 graduate of MSU Forestry, however, I ended up on a different career path. Along with my BS in Forest Land Management, I was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. I ended up retiring after 23 years of service and became a high school teacher, a career that I recently retired from after 20 years in the classroom.

PETE SCHAEFER | BS '78, MS '80, PHD '83

I have been retired since 2016 from South Dakota State University, where I spent 33 years as a professor of forestry, including 12 as department head. My happy place is family lake property near Newberry, MI, and an additional 240 acres of upland hardwood and swamp conifer forest I own with my brothers. A shout out to alumni of Jon Wright and Jim Hanover. We should have a reunion.

STEVE BABCOCK | BS '82, MBA '86

I worked for Universal Forest Products 1982-1985. I left the lumber industry and worked at Danaher Corp. in various industrial supply chain roles. I'm currently CPO and VP of Supply Chain at Columbus McKinnon Corporation, Charlotte, NC. Despite not being in a forestry-related industry, I know all of the tree species at my home, and most of them in the neighborhood – often I know the Latin names – thanks Dr. Wright!

PATRICIA HESCH | BS '85

After a 39+ year career with the USDA Forest Service, I retired on April 30, 2022. I began my career as a cooperative education student on the Huron-Manistee National Forest, Mio Ranger District. My career took me to the Gallatin NF in West Yellowstone, Montana, the Arapaho-Roosevelt NF in Granby CO, and the Medicine Bow-Routt NF in Laramie, WY. I concluded my career as the Regional Land Ownership Adjustment Program Manager for the Rocky Mountain Region in Lakewood, CO. At my awesome retirement party, I was awarded the Randall Karstaedt Lands Achievement Award for my work in land exchanges, purchases, conveyances and donations, including my mentorship of many aspiring realty specialists in the agency. After 10 years "on the road" to facilitate my career, I am living full-time at home in Grand Lake, CO with my husband Dan Fairbanks, and 9-month old puppy Luca.

TIM CHICK | MS '91

At the Spring, 2023 MI SAF meeting I was recognized for being an SAF member for 60 years.

Randy Klevickas wins Jack Breslin award

If you have been in any way involved in the Department of Forestry at MSU over the last 45 years, chances are, you know Randy Klevickas. And more than likely, you have a fond memory or funny story to share.

Randy's career began in 1977 with his first role serving at the Dunbar Forest Experiment Station in the eastern portion of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. He served as a technician, and was "living the dream in the Soo," where he and his wife purchased a rustic home, hunted, fished, and gardened. His next career move brought him down to the East Lansing campus area to serve as Farm Manager of the MSU Tree Research Center, which felt like a drastic move to Randy. Though he now admits, it turned out to be a good thing.

Randy said that one of the best parts of his career is working with so many great people. "Paul [Bloese] and I get along really well. We have our differences, and we know each other really well, and we are able to play off each other's weakness and strengths, which is so important. The camaraderie among campus and statewide research station staff has been second to none."

He also enjoys the variety that his position as Farm Manager at the Tree Research Center brings. "We do so many different things. None of our projects are so huge that they become repetitive and cumbersome. Not like if you work in a factory doing the same thing over and over, there are always new challenges," he said.

Randy recently received a letter from the parents of one of



Justin Kunkle & Randy Klevickas

his former students, thanking him for impacting their son's life in such a positive way and for the memories he will hold from his time at MSU.



"Interacting with students and the feedback I receive from them, that means so much to me. That's what has driven my career, the impact on students' lives," said Randy.

KJ Kettler, the Forester in Charge at the Kellogg Experimental Forest, describes Randy as a mentor since day one. "I have personally benefited from Randy's empathy concerning the well-being of others, specifically related to our professional challenges. Randy has provided guidance during challenging times and routinely checks in and offers a helping hand," said KJ.



Randy Klevickas & Paul Bloese

Randy would also like to credit his wife for her support of MSU Forestry and his work.

"I would really like to emphasize how much my wife is a part of this. She is part of my success. She's part of this place, and she cares for it, too."

Congratulations to Randy for winning the Jack Breslin Award, a distinguished staff award presented to those who routinely go above and beyond what is expected.

SCAN FOR
FULL ARTICLE



MSU Forestry in Costa Rica

“Hagamos un bosque!” Let’s build a forest. It’s the phrase that led Forestry and Fisheries and Wildlife student Anna Dunnebacke to her first Alternative Spartan Breaks (ASB) experience in Costa Rica in 2022. Dunnebacke had such a great time, she decided to return in 2023. This time, she brought some forestry friends with her.

Nacientes Palmichal is a beautiful community-run lodge in Palmichal, Acosta. The goal of this community is to protect the forests that line the Tabarcia and Negro river watersheds while at the same time educating the public about forest conservation. The area, that was formerly used for cattle farming, is now used for water production and protection of local plant species.

Dunnebacke was excited to return to Nacientes Palmichal, having loved her experience there in 2022. “These ASB experiences have fueled my passion for tropical forest ecology and showed me what my career could look like in regard to communication with stakeholders, topics that can be researched, as well as an everyday curiosity and passion for what I do,” said Dunnebacke.



As part of the ASB program, forestry undergraduate advisor Justin Kunkle was able to take a group of ten forestry students to Costa Rica to participate in community building and hands-on practical experiences. In addition to the intense physical work, Kunkle says there was a meaningful cultural exchange as well.

Forestry student Abigail Moore recalls one thing in particular about her week in Costa Rica – the people. “I loved seeing everything about their culture, how closely they live with the environment and respect it. We talk about it here, but seeing it actually applied was really amazing.”

One of the larger projects the students accomplished involved using existing materials from the forest to create a safe overlook to view the valley. Students built a natural platform constructed of large boulders and moved soil to level off the area. After identifying them as an invasive tree species, cypress trees were cut down, then cut to length and stripped of their bark. The bark was then used for the posts and railings to finish the overlook.



In addition to the overlook, students also constructed an amphitheater to serve as outdoor classroom space. Students created a drywall of rock, including built-in seating, providing a shaded area for groups of people to meet for educational programming.

This collaboration provided an opportunity for students and allowed for the exchange of ideas with members of the reserve, in terms of forest management. They were asked for their suggestions on how to manage the area moving forward.

Moore recalls, “We talked about the cedar forest and adding a reading area, and what books could be put here to learn more about ecosystems.”

Moore also said they talked about planting fruit trees, what animals would be an issue, and what trees are native to the area. “It was cool to be able to apply what we’ve learned in classes. There was a moment where I thought, ‘wow maybe I have learned some stuff!’ We all wanted to learn more about plants there, they were so different from what we see [in Michigan].”

Dunnebacke was also greatly impacted by the culture and kindness of the people at Nacientes Palmichal. “My favorite part of this experience was talking to the members of the community who so kindly shared their knowledge, their hospitality, and their time with us during the week. I felt truly immersed in the culture, and I have learned so much from my interactions with them,” said Dunnebacke.



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FROM THE NEW FAA president

Happy summer, Spartans!
Upon joining the FAA Board just a few short years ago, I never imagined myself as president, but here I am. I'm very excited to reach as many fellow alumni as possible during my term and greatly look forward to serving you all to the best of my ability.

2023 has been a year of great difficulty for the Spartan community and I'd be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the lives we unfortunately lost in February. To those on campus, I admire your strength and resilience during such a tragedy. My heart and thoughts were with you all, as I'm sure were all other alumni. I was extremely proud to see our community come together and be there for one another to heal.

Looking to the future, the board is working on many great networking and reunion opportunities. We will be continuing to support the Alumni Ambassador Program, as well as our own Student Mentoring Program. I encourage all who are interested to get in contact with me about these great outreach opportunities.

Last September we had our largest Alumni Tailgate to date with 100+ attendees! It was a fantastic opportunity to catch up with old classmates, tour the new mass timber building, and watch a game at Spartan Stadium. A special shout out to those who helped sponsor the event; we couldn't have done it without you. Hope to have you join us again this September!

If you get the chance, please visit the MSU Forestry Alumni webpage to update your contact information and check out other volunteer opportunities. Those interested in becoming a mentor, alumni ambassador, hosting a student intern, or joining the board in the future can reach out to me at any time. I hope to see you all at future FAA activities and SAF conferences!

Go Green!
Hilary Wells
BS 2015
President, MSU Forestry Alumni Association
Hydro Operations Forester - Consumers Energy
hilary.wells@cmsenergy.com

Save the Date / Sept 23

Mark your calendars, the **Forestry Alumni Association Tailgate** is coming up quick! Please join us Saturday, Sept. 23 for delicious BBQ, a tour of the award-winning mass timber STEM Facility, and connecting with the MSU Forestry community. We welcome all alumni, faculty, staff, students, friends, and family to join us.

Thanks to sponsors Arborjet, Michigan Society of American Foresters, Weyerhaeuser, and JM Longyear/Northern Hardwoods, we are providing the tailgate free of charge again this year and will be giving away a limited number of game tickets. Stay tuned to email and social media in coming weeks for more information and to RSVP for this exciting event!

MSU Forestry across the globe

AFRICA

Dr. David Skole participated on an international team that found that a quarter of Africa's trees are located outside areas classified as forest. This discovery opens the door for future carbon mitigation efforts and better land management.



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Photo credit: David Skole



Photo credit: Gleison Viana

AMAZON

Dr. Scott Stark conducts research in Brazil studying the fate of the Amazon rainforest and its role cooling and promoting a healthy global climate. His current focus is exploring how the roughly 50% of the Amazon where water tables are near the soil surface may contribute to its resilience against worsening droughts.



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MSU Forestry partnership with Finland

Researchers and leaders of government and industry from Finland, Michigan, Maine, Washington and other states convened in Helsinki, Finland, on May 26, for a unique set of workshops focused on biobased forestry products.

Attendees from across the United States and Europe are aiming to advance climate change solutions by considering

the unique ways in which the full cycle of forestry products can facilitate carbon storage and the displacement of greenhouse gas emissions.

This expert-facilitated workshop was co-led by MSU's Department of Forestry and the Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke), the leading Finnish natural resources research institute.

“ The support and capacity for Forestry research, development, and practice in Finland was impressive and inspiring. Although Finland has a smaller land base and fewer tree species, much of their forestland is owned by individuals and families, adding a layer of complexity to landscape-scale forest management. I came home inspired to add more forest operations content to the MSU forestry curriculum and to continue encouraging increased forestry R&D capacity in the United States.



Dr. Emily Huff
Associate Professor, Human Dimensions of Forestry



MSU Perspectives

“ I led a workshop titled “Mass timber: lifecycle and end of life strategies to optimize climate benefits” with participation by about two-dozen industry, academic, and policy representatives. It’s a big challenge to try to plan now for the next life – perhaps 50, 100 years away – of the mass timber materials going into buildings today. Dynamic conversations among the diverse workshop participants uncovered key questions – about value chain standardization and replicability, carbon value and policy, and the role of data – that we can collaborate to answer in order to help create a more circular mass timber economy.

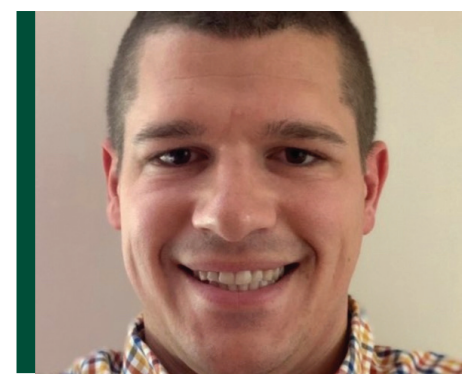


Sandra Lupien, MPP
Director of MassTimber@MSU



“ I was particularly impressed by the number of startups for forest products companies there were in Finland, versus the United States. In the U.S., there is more of a disconnect between our forest products industry, forest management, and younger labor force. There is also a greater educational focus on forestry at younger ages in Finland, educating students and beginning recruitment of forestry professionals early in school, and instilling the idea that forestry practices are environmentally friendly. We could use a similar approach to attract younger people into this profession.

Dr. Raju Pokharel
Assistant Professor, Forest Resource Economics



“ One distinct difference I observed during this visit, is U.S. limitations on management support for small landowners, whereas Finland seems to have optimized the entire process from harvest scheduling to log marketing, and community support. While there is a lot of crossover between us, from a harvesting perspective, we are trying to solve very different problems. Currently in the U.S., gaps in stakeholder participation impact efforts to make substantive changes to supply chain sustainability.

Jarred Saralecos
Instructor, Forest Education and Outreach

The MSU researchers concur that progress will move more swiftly and potentially take research farther if there is a focus on collaborations with people that work together well with a shared vision and like-minded goals, such as the University of British Columbia, who also has a delegation visiting Finland.

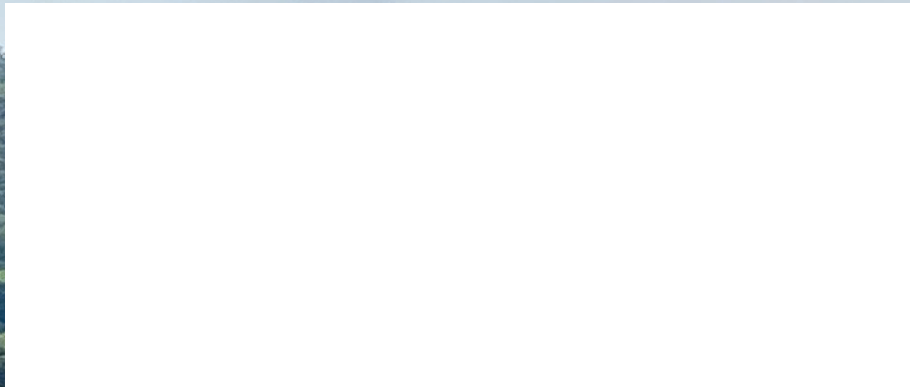
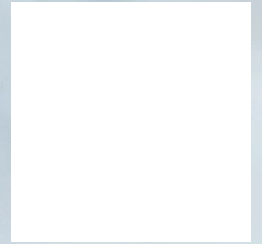
Researchers from MSU feel they are currently in a good position to take a leading role in this important collaboration. Discussions have begun regarding a return to Finland in 2024 with specific site visits in areas of mass timber, biorefinery, and other targeted manufacturing sites.



All MSU participants: Rich Kobe, Jarred Saralecos, Raju Pokharel, Mojgan Nejad, Chris Saffron, Emily Huff, George Berghorn, Sandra Lupien, David Rothstein (virtual participant), David DeYoe (virtual participant)

Important partners also include: Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Michigan Tech, Business Finland, Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke), US Embassy Finland, Washington DNR, Maine DNR

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