

FIRSteam News

a newsletter for future forestry students

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OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF FORESTRY

Welcome New and Prospective Students

Welcome to OSU's College of Forestry. Not only are you considering (or have already selected) an excellent University, the College of Forestry maintains a top reputation among Forestry schools for pursuing a forestry degree program. Our world premier Forest Engineering department's graduates often have jobs prior to graduation. This situation is not unfamiliar to other degree programs in the College as well.

Student success is our priority in the College of Forestry. Assisting in job placement is just one of the many resources we provide within the College to help you succeed. Through scholarship opportunities, to computer lab access, to the self-learning center, as well as the many mentors available to you among the faculty and staff, we hope you will find just what you're looking for in the College of Forestry.

Because we care about our student's success, academic advisors assist you in achieving your academic goal of graduation. Meeting with your advisor, each term prior to registration, helps to ensure your staying on track. They can also assist you in internship placements, research opportunities, or mentoring in your academic and professional area.

We welcome the opportunity to have you pursue your degree program with us. Plan a visit to OSU and the College of Forestry. We'd love to show you around.

Debbie Bird, Head Advisor

Annual Ring Highlights

Hosted by the College of Forestry, the Annual Ring serves as a welcome for new students and a time to meet other new and current students within the college. Traditionally held the week before classes begin as a culmination to CONNECT week, the Annual Ring encompasses a personal welcome from the Dean to the new class of foresters and a day full of fun, including tours of the forestry buildings on campus as well as the research forest north of town. This year's activities on the forest included hiking, mountain biking, canoe racing, logging sports demonstrations, and lunch with a presentation given by forestry club representatives.



A Note From the Forest Engineering Department

"A forest engineer blends a unique forestry and engineering education to help manage forests sustainably while meeting the world's appetite for wood products, water, recreation, wildlife habitat, and other resources. To meet this challenge, forest engineers utilize sophisticated computer software and other high-tech equipment to collect information and design plans, and then spend lots of time in the woods to implement them and monitor results."

- Steve Tesch

This comment by Steve Tesch, OSU's Forest Engineering Department Head, highlights one major within the College of Forestry. A student with a strong quantitative aptitude, an interest in applied problem solving, and the desire to work outdoors would be well suited to the forest engineering program. The forest engineer uses engineering skills to solve complex forestry problems. These solutions might include planning and implementing operations in surveying and mapping, road construction and maintenance, timber harvesting, site preparation for reforestation, and other operations. The problems are solved within the context of managing forested ecosystems for a variety of resource values – not as isolated engineering problems. This is what makes forest engineering unique from other engineering disciplines.

The Forest Engineering Department holds the reputation of being the premier academic forest engineering program in the world, with roots back to 1913. The department offers a four-year forest engineering degree and a five-year forest engineering / civil engineering double degree. Faculty maintain close ties with employers in the forest industry, state and federal agencies, and private consulting firms to keep abreast of the education that forest engineers need to be successful on

the job. Excellent faculty, small class sizes, high quality advising, and a nearby College-owned forest for field labs support the educational experience.

The department's mission to advance forest operations in a safe, economical, and environmentally sound manner through outstanding teaching and innovative leadership in research and outreach education has been strengthened by recent modifications to upgrade the curriculum. The revisions support the department's efforts to supplement its long-standing accreditation in forestry with one in engineering from the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), thereby strengthening the credibility of the engineering education. Engineering accreditation will also ensure that graduates continue to have access to professional engineering licensing exams in the future.

Forest engineering at Oregon State has stood the test of time and continues to educate the forest engineers of tomorrow. The job placement for graduates has been 100% in recent years. The demand for forest engineers is strong as forest regulations and public expectations dictate better forest planning and more carefully engineered forestry practices. Employers have been very pleased with the mix of fundamental knowledge and practical experience that forest engineering graduates bring to their first job. They are well prepared to hit the ground running and only get better with continued professional development!!!



GIS is an important part of forest engineering today.

TREE TRIVIA

Trees are nature's oldest living things and can be as old as 4,000 years. What is the common name of the tree that attains this ancient age?

Bristlecone Pine (*Pinus Aristata*)



Welcome New Faculty

- **Glen Murphy** – After working in New Zealand doing research, teaching, and consulting, Glen has joined our Forest Engineering Department as a professor of harvest operations analysis. He also received his PhD from OSU in the mid-1980s.
- **Stephen Schoenholtz** – Coming to the Department of Engineering from Mississippi, Stephen is an associate professor in forest hydrology.
- **Glenn T. Howe** – The Forest Science Department welcomed Glenn as an assistant professor of forest genetics this past term. Glenn is returning, as he received his doctorate in 1991 and worked within the College of Forestry in the mid-1980s.



Incoming Student Stats

In Fall term 2001, the College of Forestry welcomed seventy-three new undergraduate and twenty-six graduate students. While the majority of our new undergraduates come from Oregon, our entering class also included students from the states of: California, Hawaii, Michigan, New York and Washington. Twenty-eight students joined the college directly from high school while forty-five transferred from another college or university. Our entering class ranged in age from seventeen to the early forties.

Our newly enrolled undergraduate students are studying in a variety of majors including: thirteen in Forest Engineering; three in Forest Engineering / Civil Engineering; three in Forest Products, twenty-nine in Forest Management, thirteen in Forest Recreation Resources, and thirteen in Natural Resources. With the addition of these new students our total college enrollment grew to 476, of which 342 are undergraduates. The college enrollment now includes 143 female and 333 male students.



Student Profile

James Anderson,
Forest Recreation Resources



him to succeed there. In fact, it was after two years in the Navy on the submarine, including 3-month stints of sitting in the open ocean on deployment, that he realized his desire to attend a university offering him the ability to

Imagine designing and building your own kayak, fashioning it from mahogany and fiberglass, and then setting off from Seattle, WA headed for Alaska. James Anderson imagined it and then made it reality. The trip took 2 months and 750 miles, covering 15 to 50 miles per day. When I spoke with him, James commented that he and his best friend turned traveling companion “really got in tune with the first nations.” “We talked to them as much as possible because they knew the land.” This was even more important after their GPS bridge to bridge tracking device broke during the first week of the trip.

Kayaking the open ocean isn't the only conceived reality James Anderson has undertaken. After graduation from high school in Medford, OR he joined the Navy and began a tour of duty stationed on a submarine in Bangor, WA. The work schedule of the military afforded him the ability to take night classes at the local community college and provided a well-structured environment that helped



James Anderson transferred to the College of Forestry after leaving the Navy.

study both recreation and forestry. This foresight aided James when it came time to leave the Navy and choose a school.

As an Oregon resident, James focused his school search on programs offered in Oregon, Washington and California in order to take advantage of the in-state tuition. The Forest Recreation Resources degree program from OSU was a great match with his desires, an in-state school offering a degree with a melding of forestry and recreation plus a

smaller college town location. What more could he ask for? Well, as James was acutely aware of, there's more to a complete college experience than location and courses.

Entering OSU as a transfer student opened further possibilities to him, namely the opportunity to live in Dixon Lodge. Dixon is a co-ed cooperative house on campus available to transfer students at a modest cost. James commented that “living at the co-op has definitely been great. There's always someone that wants to do something there. You can easily scrounge together 10 people to go play basketball or ask someone if they want to go for a run or go up to Portland and hang out.”

Another university experience many students seek to take advantage

of is becoming a foreign exchange student. James is no different. With a longtime desire to travel the world and a Navy experience that didn't include any foreign



ports, he applied early to the university exchange program and was accepted to study abroad in New Zealand, the country offering programs for the Forest Recreation degree. After a single term on the OSU Corvallis campus, James has gone to pursue travels in Japan and Southeast Asia for almost two months before beginning his studies in New Zealand. “I've wanted to live in a different country for a long time. This is a good opportunity to do so and I really hope it will open my eyes to the worldview there.” He understands that traveling to various areas can offer wonderful insight but until you are able to live there, you can't understand what's really going on.

Upon returning from New Zealand, James will have one more year before completing his program. After receiving his degree, he hopes to gain experience in the field of guiding throughout the world. When he's ready to settle down he sees himself employed as a park ranger or manager with a family. Once the yet-to-be-born kids are on their own, he envisions opening his own guiding business. When asked if he'll always return to

Oregon and the Northwest, James said, “I do like the NW. There's a lot of opportunity here, especially with a Forest Recreation Resources degree.”



2001 Starker Lecture Series In Review

2001 Starker Lectures, “Visions of Natural Resources—Peeking Into The Neighbor's Yard”

Speakers for Fall 2001

October 25- *Monty Bassett*, Natural Resources Filmmaker, Out-Yonder Productions, Smithers, B.C., Canada

November 1- “Gentrifying Ecotopia: A Brown Girl Looks At Home, Landscape, and Power,” *Dr. Debra Salazar*, Professor of Political Science & Affiliate Professor of Environmental Studies, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA

November 8- *Iisaak Panel*, Canadian timber company. From the recent PBS, Bill Moyer's special, “Earth on Edge,” a timber operation designs commercial harvest to mimic forest natural processes. Panel members are *Larry Baird*, Chief, Ucluellet First Nation; *Linda Coady*, V.P. Weyerhaeuser, B.C. Coastal Group; *Alton Harestad*, Associate Professor of Wildlife Biology, Simon Fraser University; *Eric Schroff*, General Manager, Iisaak Resources, Canada

November 15- “Urban Forestry: Forestry's Final Frontier,” *Dr. Gregory McPherson*, Project Leader, USDA Forest Service, Western Center for Urban Forest Research and Education, UC Davis, California

The Starker Lecture Series is sponsored by the Starker family in memory of T.J. and Bruce Starker. As leaders of modern forest management, T.J. and Bruce Starker were visionaries for sustainable forestry in Oregon. With advances in knowledge, technology, and public environmental issues, forestry in Starker Forests has changed, but the constant value of tending the land remains unchanged. The sound, progressive forestry and community spirit of T.J. and Bruce Starker continue today.

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College of Forestry
140 Peavy Hall
Corvallis, OR 97331-5710

Phone: 541-737-2004
Fax: 541-737-8508
Email: FIRSteam@for.orst.edu
www.cof.orst.edu

College of Forestry Scholarships

Each year the Scholarship Committee of the College of Forestry has the privilege and responsibility of allocating more than \$200,000 to 60-70 of our most deserving students. These scholarships are awarded based on various criteria, from need to academics and other aspects of student life and achievements. In order to apply for College of Forestry scholarships, students must submit an application form, a letter of intent describing future educational and career goals, a list of extracurricular activities, an official copy of current

transcripts including SAT or ACT scores, and two references. All students who are admitted to the university and College of Forestry will receive scholarship application material. As scholarship applications are due by March 1st of each year, seeking early admission is an important step for possible funding of your first year at OSU in the College of Forestry.



Mt. Hood is within a few hours driving distance from OSU.

Preview of COF Job Fair

The Society of American Foresters OSU student chapter organizes a student job fair each year. Employers representing various segments of the forestry, recreation, and natural resource industry are asked to join us in February to recruit students for both seasonal and permanent employment. As of December, the following employers have confirmed attendance for 2001-2002 job fair on February 5, 2002:

- Roseburg Forest Products
- Lone Rock Timber Co.
- BLM Eugene District Office
- Sierra Pacific Industries
- Stuntzner Engineering, Inc.
- McKenzie Ranger District
- Starker Forests
- Timber Products Co.
- Weyerhaeuser Co.
- Swanson-Superior
- Plum Creek
- Camp II Forest Management
- USDA Forest Service - PNW Region
- Oregon State Parks & Recreation Dept.

