



College of Natural Resources

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

SUMMER 2005

17,000 PROPAGATED MUSSELS RELEASED IN ONE OF THE WORLD'S GLOBAL HOT SPOTS FOR DIVERSITY



One of the global hot spots for bio-diversity was made better in June when 17,000 mussels were released into the Clinch River at Cedar Bluff in Southwest Virginia.

A toxic spill in 1998 had wiped out all aquatic life along seven miles of the Clinch River, the greatest loss ever in America of endangered species. The Nature Conservancy says this region has more mussels and more endangered mussels than anywhere else in the world. Part of a \$3.8 million damage settlement from the trucking company to the Department of Interior provided funds for restoration of the dead stretch.

Fisheries professor Dick Neves (pictured on left with a "living mussel" character), developed a means to propagate mussels in an aquaculture setting. The goal is to restore the

river's mussel population within 10 years. Without the modern technology and techniques, it would take centuries for the resource to be restored naturally.



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MUSSELS AND PEARL EXPERT CONSULTS WITH NATIVE AMERICANS

Hua Dan came to Virginia Tech in 2003 from China to study mussels and pearls under Dick Neves, professor of fisheries; she had primarily been doing a project with for the Chinese government. After leaving a husband and young son behind to earn a master's degree in fisheries, she graduates this summer.

Dan had been working for the Freshwater Fisheries Research Center (FFRC), Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences, in Wuxi, China, for 20 years as a freshwater pearl culture specialist. She came to Virginia Tech for one semester and decided not only to stay but to establish a cooperative agreement between the Freshwater Fisheries Research Institute in China and the college's Virginia Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit to allow the exchange of information on freshwater mussel propagation. The FFRC consented to allow her to continue research and earn her master's degree during these past two years.

While studying English, taking master's classes in fisheries, and doing thesis research, Dan added another trophy to her stint at Virginia Tech. She joined the women's table tennis team, and this spring, the team traveled to Dallas, Texas, to compete in the National Table Tennis Collegiate Championship. Dan won all of her matches helping Virginia Tech bring home the national championship trophy.

Dan's husband and son recently visited her to see what life in the U.S. was like. In turn, she has introduced authentic Chinese lunches to the graduate students and technicians working at the Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Center and the Aquaculture Facility on the Virginia Tech campus.

While working in China, Dan worked in Bangladesh as a consultant from May to November, 2001, developing a pearl culture industry under the Agricultural Research Management Project (ARMP) of the World Bank (IDA Credit No. 2815-BD). From that research, Dan produced a manual entitled Freshwater



Pearl Culture: Principles and Techniques, which was published by the Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute and a consultancy report on pearl culture research for ARMP. In addition, she has published a dozen publications on pearl culture, mussel research and fish culture in ponds of China. In June, she co-authored a presentation at the National Fish and Wildlife Conference in Choctaw, Mississippi, to see whether Native Americans in the Southwest would want to use her methods to produce pearls.



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

MORGAN, GOERLICH NAMED FRIEND OF THE COLLEGE AND OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNUS



Dan Goerlich and Ken Morgan

The college has given its Friend of the College Award to J. Ken Morgan Jr., a resident of Clarksville, Va., president of Morgan Lumber Co., Inc. in Red Oak, Va., and president of Sunrise Shavings, L.I.C. J.

Morgan's Lumber Company, where he has been employed for 33 years, is a manufacturer of southern yellow pine. He graduated in 1971 from the University of Richmond with a B.S. in industrial management.

He serves on the Virginia Forestry Association Board, the Board of Directors of Halifax Regional

Health System, Virginia State Reforestation of Timberlands Board, and Board of Governors of the Southern Pine Inspection Bureau, as well as is stewardship chairman of Jamieson Memorial United Methodist Church, vice-president of the Virginia Forestry Educational Foundation, and secretary of the Virginia Forest Products Association Board.

This year, the Outstanding Young Alumnus Award was given to Dan Goerlich, resident of Nathalie in the Halifax, Va., area and forestry Extension agent for south-central Virginia.

Goerlich received his B.S. in forest and wildlife management from Virginia Tech's College of Natural Resources in 1994, and an M.S. in forest management from SUNY-ESF in 1998. He currently develops and coordinates educational programs that provide science-based management information to forest landowners, loggers, natural resource professionals, youth, and the general public throughout southside Virginia.

The Outstanding Young Alumnus, who serves on the Virginia Forestry Association Board of Directors, received the 2004 Society of American Foresters National Young Forester Leadership Award. He served as principle author of 4-H Virtual Forest, a web-based learning experience for youth that was recently awarded the 2005 Natural Resources and Environmental Management Flagship Award.

DONOR TARGETS INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

One of the college's priorities in recent years has been to expand its educational, research, and developmental programs to governmental agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and private companies throughout the world. The college focuses these programs on the protection, production, management, marketing, and utilization of renewable natural resources.

To enhance the programming and enable more students to have international experiences, Dean Mike Kelly and his wife Candi have given \$50,000 to the college's endowment. "We felt that helping future students widen their perspectives through studies in other cultural environments was the best investment we could make," the dean said.

The college's growing number of international centers includes the International Forestry Center, Conservation Management Institute with its Las Cuevas Research Station in Belize, the Sardo Pallet and Container Testing Laboratory, Center for Forest Products Marketing and Management, and the Forest Nutrition Research Cooperative with programs in Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, and Colombia.

Research projects are underway in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Education abroad opportunities have expanded to Sikkim, India, the Himalayas, Dominican Republic, Latin American countries, Russia, Estonia, Finland, and Canada, in addition to Australia, New Zealand, Galapagos, and South Africa.

COLLEGE GIFT EARMARKS STUDENTS

This year, the college has been the grateful recipient of a generous bequest from an anonymous alum. The donor requested that the money be used to help students, specifically graduate students who are doing research to "help the environment."

Donations to the college through deferred gifts such as bequests and wills are a lasting means of ensuring the future vitality of the college. The benefits for donors of deferred gifts can be tax savings, the opportunity to direct how the gift will be used, as well as induction into the Legacy Society. The Legacy Society was established as a way to recognize deferred gift donors and shows the university's gratitude for the generosity of its members. For further information on the various ways to give to the college, please contact the college at (540) 231-7048 or visit online at www.givingto.vt.edu/plangiving.html.

AMERICAN WOOD COUNCIL AND BOISE WOOD PRODUCTS DONATED TEXTS TO WOOD DESIGN STUDENTS

The American Wood Council and Boise Engineered Wood Products partnered to donate 40 copies of the Load Resistance Factor Design Manual for Engineered Wood Construction and the 2001 National Design Specification® for Wood Construction for Dan Hindman's Design of Wood Structures class.

In thanking Boise for its generous donation, Hindman explained that "with the rising costs of textbooks and tuition, the students were genuinely appreciative that a company would make such a donation, especially since it's not a common practice."

Garth Wilkin, one of the engineering students in Hindman's class, added, "The prices of books have been rising steadily and we greatly appreciate how the donors saved us a significant amount of money."

PROFESSOR MONITERS WILDLIFE

Marcella Kelly, assistant professor of wildlife sciences, traveled to Tanzania, East Africa, to develop a remote camera-monitoring program for 35 species of carnivores in several parks and reserves. This project is a joint project between the Zoological Society of London and the Tanzanian Wildlife Research Institute. In addition, she spent time training the Tanzanian Carnivore Project staff in wildlife monitoring techniques. The project was supported by a grant from the Acorn Alcinda Foundation. Her visit helped promote the transfer of important skills from the U.S. and the U.K. to Tanzania.



College of Natural Resources

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Dean J. Michael Kelly

Editor Lynn M. Davis

Associate Editor Hilary Fussell

Assistant Editors Megan Davis, David Arnold

Designer Joe Swope

Photography Contributors

Lynn Davis, John McCormick, Hilary Fussell, Megan Davis, David Arnold

Printer Progress Printing, Lynchburg, Va.

Alumni Office (540) 231-5809

Development Office (540) 231-8859

Public Affairs davisl@vt.edu

Sports Information (540) 231-6796

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FROM THE DEAN'S PERSPECTIVE

The 2004-2005 academic year has come to a close. This past year has seen many notable events, not the least of which was the awarding of 117 bachelors and 41 graduate degrees. We all wish the Class of 2005 the best as they take their place in the profession or pursue further training. At this time of year, I am often asked for my perception on the job market for new graduates. My general feeling is that those students who have sought employment in the profession have been able to locate a position. Graduates with wood science and geographic information systems training seem to be especially sought after and frequently have more than one job offer. So the jobs are out there for students who prepare well and make an effort to market themselves effectively. Preliminary enrollment estimates for Fall 2005 look favorable for holding or even slightly increasing our student numbers. Again wood science and geography appear to be leading the way.

The college research program is, by all measures, making great strides. We have increased the amount of funding coming into the college from external grants and it is also important to note that the number of grants awarded relative to proposals submitting continues to increase. The latter is a reflection of the excellent quality of our faculty and their ability to develop innovative and relevant research efforts. It is also related to an increasing perception of the College of Natural Resources as the "go to place" for relevant natural resources research and insights. Increased external support via grants will provide the vital resources needed to train more graduate students. The coming decade will see an increasing need among



state and federal natural resource agencies for professionals with advanced degrees. To meet that need and to strengthen our research output, the college is working to increase its graduate enrollment in doctoral programs.

This is a very competitive process and we want to be in the position to continue to attract the very best students in even greater numbers. To facilitate this process we are adding dynamic new faculty members with expertise in areas that offer significant research growth potential, as well as new cross cutting graduate programs in biomaterials processing and remote sensing/geographic information systems that will appeal to today's student and meet important societal needs.

And speaking of meeting the needs of society, one of the areas that I am committed to is enhancing our participation in activities that help to create an awareness and appreciation on the part of the general public for the full value of natural resources in Virginia. As a college we will be seeking ways to partner with state and federal agencies as well as NGOs to advance public awareness and understanding. Water resources, both quality and quantity, is but one example of an area in need of significant effort.

The coming year will offer us opportunities to continue the education of talented undergraduate and graduate students while at the same time strengthening our research and outreach efforts. It will be challenging at times, but a journey worth continuing!

J. M. Kelly



Commencement: Dean Kelly presided over May commencement activities, including the planting of the commemorative yellowwood tree on Cheatham lawn by the Class of 2005.



Candi Kelly, wife of Dean Mike Kelly, visited the college's bear research center, where ongoing studies have expanded into areas relating to human health.

COLLEGE HELPS SPONSORS GOVERNOR'S GREENWAY CONFERENCE

In 1999, with Virginia woefully behind most other states in its greenways development, the college partnered with other state agencies and non-profit organizations to host a statewide conference in Roanoke to help communities realize the benefits of greenways, blueways, and trails.

Two more greenway conferences later, in May the college again partnered with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, BikeWalk Virginia, Virginia Department of Forestry, VDOT, Virginia Department of Health, Virginia Tech's Community Design Assistance Center, National Park Service, and others to host the statewide Governor's Greenway Conference in Richmond.

Five hundred some participants attended the three-day event to learn how to develop and expand greenway infrastructure in their communities.

Research data from the last 15 years shows that greenways not only enhance quality of life but also are an economic development engine with financial benefits to a community.



Dean Mike Kelly, pictured above with Department of Conservation and Recreation Director Joe Maroon, welcomed the attendees at the opening reception. Jeff Marion, adjunct professor of natural resource recreation and unit leader at the college for the U.S. Geological Survey's Field Station, led a session on managing the impacts of camping and trail use. Marion helped develop the national Leave No Trace program, educating citizens how to recreate without damaging natural resources.

Lynn Davis, public affairs director for the college, served on the core planning committee for the conference.

WILDLIFE MAJOR HONORED WITH DAVID SMITH AWARD

Erica Santana, a senior wildlife science major, has been awarded the David Wm. Smith Award for Outstanding Service.

Santana is currently a Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program participant. She is also a founding sister of Hermandad de Sigma Iota Alpha, Inc., a Latina sorority at Virginia Tech.

The David Wm. Smith Award for Outstanding Achievement is presented annually to a graduating senior who not only engaged in productive scholarship but also best demonstrated the traits of leadership, college and community service, and professionalism,



which characterized David Smith's service to the college and the profession.

THE DEAN'S AWARD



Lon Weber receives the Dean's Award for his computer support to the college from Dean Kelly.

NEWS NEWS, SEND US YOUR NEWS

Please let us know what is happening in your life so we can include the news in our next college alumni newsmagazine.

Send your information to Lynn Young at younl@vt.edu;

Virginia Tech, Alumni Hall, Blacksburg VA 24061;

540 231-5809. Thanks. We would love to hear from you.

Send it NOW while you are thinking of it!

COLLEGE SPONSORS NATURAL RESOURCES EDUCATOR AWARD

The departments of fisheries and wildlife sciences, wood science and forest products, forestry, and geography help sponsor the Natural Resources Educator of the Year Award for the Virginia Museum of Natural History.

In May at the museum's 18th Annual Thomas Jefferson Awards ceremony the award was given to William S. Portlock of Bowling Green, Virginia. He is an educator, naturalist, and wildlife photographer at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and has devoted his personal and professional life to field studies and sharing his love of environmental stewardship with others.

He has been working with science teachers, students of all ages, and the public since 1975 to make Virginia's natural history and ecology meaningful, understandable, and accessible to all. The educator and bay naturalist serves on the Virginia Resource-Use Education Council and has been instrumental in revising water quality and watershed education for Virginia through such efforts as the Virginia Environmental Education Commission and the Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Education Implementation Plan.

CAPITAL REGION HITS THE FIELD



Steve Sheffield shows a salamander found under a dead log to students, Catherine Leonard and Margie Burks, while other students stand by for the next stop along the trail.

NR 5984 Field Biology and Ecology in the National Capital Region's Natural Resources Program featured all-day field trips held on Saturdays to accommodate working professionals. The students conducted biological surveys and ecological profiles of key habitats throughout the mid-Atlantic Region (Coastal Plain to Appalachian Plateau).

2005 COLLEGE AWARDS



CAMBLOS NAMED OUTSTANDING SENIOR

Hilary B. Camblos, of Clarksville, Va., a senior and a fisheries and wildlife sciences major, has won the college's Outstanding Senior Award.

Camblos first became interested in the environment at an early age while an avid reader of *Ranger Rick*, a children's magazine,

published by the National Wildlife Foundation. Since, she has traveled to Belize, Central America, to assist Marcella Kelly, assistant professor of fisheries and wildlife sciences in the College of Natural Resources at Virginia Tech, with a research projects estimating jaguar densities and identifying pumas using remotely triggered cameras.

She has received numerous scholarships, awards and honors including the Outstanding Sophomore Scholar Award, the Pamplin Leader Scholarship Award, Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship and the Udall Scholarship. She plans to pursue a Ph.D. Other honors include: the Shelton H. Short Scholarship, the William and Mary Leadership Award, the Va. State Chapter of the P.E.O. Scholarship, and the Jean B. Duerr P.E.O. Sisterhood Scholarship.

She is involved in the Virginia Tech Chapter of the Wildlife Society, Xi Sigma Pi (the Forestry Honors Fraternity), and YMCA Student Programs.

CONGRESSMAN VISITS CAPITOL REGION



Oregon Congressman Earl Blumenauer (middle) spoke to graduate students studying Urban Affairs and Planning and Natural Resources at the Virginia Tech – National Capital Region campus in Alexandria.

Blumenauer, who began his political career in college, stressed the importance of working with local citizens and organizations on ways to improve land use, environment and transportation. David Trauger (left), head of natural resources, and Chris Nelson (right), head of the Urban Affairs and Planning program, met with Blumenauer to discuss research on the major forces shaping metropolitan development patterns and their implications for Congress.

COAKLEY PRESENTS SEMINAR ON NORTHERN SNAKEHEAD

The Virginia Tech Chapter of the American Fisheries Society hosted a seminar by Brett Coakley, fisheries biologist with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, entitled "Dealing with an exotic species introduction: the northern snakehead (*Channa argus*) past, present and future management in Maryland."

"Northern snakehead fish are an invasive species and at the top of the freshwater fish food chain. If a population were successfully established, it would disrupt the ecosystem by displacing native fish and competing for habitat," says Jamie Roberts, fisheries researcher at the college.

COLLEGE PREMIERS FOREST SERVICE FILM IN SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA

The college in collaboration with the U.S.D.A. Forest Service premiered the Forest Service centennial film, *The Greatest Good*.

Taking three years to complete, the movie documents the first 100 years of forestry in America. It played

to a packed house the first week of January at the National Centennial Congress that was held in Washington, D.C., where it received a standing ovation. Uniquely American, the documentary brings together national organizations, renowned historians, political activists and major corporations to share their perspectives on one hundred years of conservation and the prospects for the future. It includes the journey from the "wise use" of resources to the "land ethic" that has defined the evolution of the Forest Service. Viewers will get to know visionary foresters Gifford Pinchot and Aldo Leopold.

Narrated by Charles Osgood of CBS News, the film is filled with spectacular scenery. The Skywalker Symphony, part of the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra, performs the original score. The film will also be shown at 50 film festivals throughout the world, on the History Channel, and possibly on the Discovery, National Geographic Television, and PBS stations.

The producers conducted nearly 60 interviews, looked at 500 films and over 60,000 still images, read over 100 books, and consulted with hundreds of people to try and discover just what is *The Greatest Good*.

EXTENSION GARNERS AWARDS

Several Cooperative Extension agents and the 4-H Virtual Forest Development Team received awards recently for their projects.

Jeffrey Kirwan, a forestry Extension specialist, received the Mass Media Award for his program, "Communicating Urban Forestry Messages Through the Big Tree Program."

Daniel Goerlich, a forestry and natural resources Extension agent, received two awards: one for excellence in program organization, for his educational program titled "Woods, Wires, Water and Wildlife;" and the second award was for his Extension newsletter, *Forestry For'um*.

James Johnson received an Extension Publication award for his bulletin titled "Harvesting Your Timber? –Factors to Consider to Ensure a Profitable and Healthy Forest."

The 4-H Virtual Forest Team was awarded the Epsilon Sigma Phi State Team Award. The team included Jeff Kirwan, Carl Estes, Joe Hunnings, Elaine Oliver, Jim Willis, Gabrielle Amos-Minnich, Josh Napier, Lex Bruce, Jason Fisher, Karen Cronin, and Dan Goerlich.

A B Massey Honorarium

Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences

Jay D. McGhee

Department of Forestry

Guillermo Trincado

Department of Geography

Christopher W. Stahl

Department of Wood Science and Forest Products

Richard K. Johnson

Alumni Award for Outstanding Scholarship

Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences

Hilary B. Camblos

Department of Forestry

Lauren B. Stull

Department of Geography

Kristin L. Morales

Department of Wood Science and Forest Products

Christopher P. Gabrielli

College of Natural Resources

Hilary B. Camblos

David Wm. Smith Award for Outstanding Service

Erica M. Santana

The Curriculum Clubs' Faculty Award

Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences

Marcella J. Kelly

Department of Forestry

Stephen P. Prisley

Department of Geography

John D. Boyer

Department of Wood Science and Forest Products

Daniel P. Hindman

The Dean's Award

Lon A. Weber

Friend of the College Award

J. Kenneth Morgan, Jr.

Outstanding Alumnus Award

Edward B. Knipling

Outstanding Young Alumnus Award

Daniel L. Goerlich

Outstanding Sophomore Award

Katharine L. Sanford

Outstanding Science Award

Olivia M. Watts



Olivia M. Watts with Academic Advisor Susan Leslie (left)

Individual Club Awards

American Fisheries Society

Brett Ostby

Forestry Club

Matthew Carroll

Forest Products Club

James Schwillie

Geography Society

Susan O'Donnell

Society of American Foresters

Brandon Martin

Crisi Suarez

Urban Forestry and Arboriculture Study Society

Crisi Suarez

The Wildlife Society

Bonnie Darkow

Xi Sigma Pi

Brandon Martin

STUDENT NOTES

GRADUATE STUDENTS AWARDED TOP HONORS AT 2005 SILVICULTURE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Three graduate students from the college received awards for presentations they gave at the Biennial Southern Silviculture Research Conference held in Memphis, Tennessee.

Jason Corrao, graduate student in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, was honored for the best poster presentation at the conference. His presentation was based on research he conducted along with forestry professor Mike Aust and fisheries professor Andy Dollor, who is the project leader of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service Southern Research Station in Blacksburg. Corrao's research project titled "Relationships Between Streamside Management Zone Width and Biotic Communities of West Virginia Headwater Streams" took an in-depth look at the impact of forestry operations on water quality and aquatic habitat, particularly how the width of streamside management zones affects water quality and aquatic habitat.

In addition to Corrao, Mike Tyree and Nathan King, two forestry graduate students, were co-awarded for best oral presentations. Mike Tyree won for his presentation on "Effects of Fertilization on Carbon Dioxide Efflux in a Two-Year Old Loblolly Pine Stand on the Virginia Piedmont." Nathan King also received an award for his oral presentation based on his research project "The Short Term Effects of Fertilization on Loblolly Pine Photosynthesis, Dark Respiration, and Leaf Area."

CLIMBING CREW FINISHES FOURTH AT NATIONAL COMPETITION

During the spring semester, the college's Urban Forestry and Arboriculture Student Society, also known as the Urban Forestry Club, sent its climbing crew to participate in the "arboriculture techniques" competitions at the annual Professional Landcare Network (PLANET) Student Career Days held at the University of Maryland in College Park, Maryland.

Brett Blevins and Mike Pavlis, the club's president, represented the crew in the competitions and took home fourth place honors out of 39 teams. The climbing crew along with the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' Horticulture Club helped the university finish third overall out of 53 schools in the 23 green industry events.

This year was the first time the climbing crew competed in the competitions, but plans to send a crew each year from now on. Next year, PLANET Student Career Days will be held at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah.

FORESTRY STUDENTS PROPOSE TRAIL



Natural resources recreation seniors studied the Cedar Run area of Blacksburg to determine its suitability for a trail and picnic area. Anne Spillman and Tania Jacobson presented their study team's proposal, with course advisor Jay Sullivan introducing the session.

STUDENTS HOST 22ND ANNUAL MUD BASS CLASSIC



The Mud Bass Classic Fishing Tournament has been a tradition within Virginia Tech's chapter of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) for over twenty years. The event was held this spring at the Virginia Tech Duckpond, attracting participants from both the university and the surrounding community. The tournament helps to instruct children and

inexperienced anglers on proper fishing techniques, share knowledge about the New River Valley's rivers, streams, and lakes, and most importantly, promote stewardship of these aquatic resources.

NATURAL RESOURCES STUDENT TAKES NATIONAL CAPITOL REGION RESEARCH PRIZE

During Graduate Education Week this spring, the National Capital Region held a research exposition of the work of current graduate students. Shannon Pederson, a graduate student in the College of Natural Resources, won the overall presentation for her work on "Preparing Residents in the Greater Washington Metropolitan Area for Urban Coyotes."



FORESTS PRODUCTS MARKETING

Students in the forest products marketing course taught by Bob Bush, professor of wood science, presented their research on Radio Frequency Identification: A Case Study for Brunswick Box Company. The students developed a new product as well as a marketing plan for the venture. Braden White explains to Professor Bush how the new product works.

FACULTY BRIEFS

SCARPACI HONORED FOR RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

Joseph L. Scarpaci, geography professor, received in May the Al Sturm Award for Excellence in Faculty Research. Scarpaci was recognized for his work on his book, *Plazas and Barrios: Heritage Tourism and Globalization in the Latin American Centro Historico*.



The book explores how heritage tourism and globalization are reshaping the Latin American historic centers, called *centro histórico*. Scarpaci analyzed the transformation of the urban core from town plaza to historic center in nine cities: Bogotá, Colombia; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Cartagena, Colombia; Cuenca,



Scarpaci is pictured here with the Panama Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Housing, and Culture, and administrators from the Panama Canal Administration.

Ecuador; Havana, Cuba; Montevideo, Uruguay; Puebla, Mexico; Quito, Ecuador; and Trinidad, Cuba. It tells how these pressures, combined with the advantage of a

downtown location, have raised the potential of redeveloping these inner city areas but have also created the dilemma of how to restore and conserve them while responding to new economic imperatives.

The Phi Beta Kappa Sturm Award honors the memory of Albert Lee Sturm (1911-1998), a founding member of the Phi Beta Kappa chapter at Virginia Tech and university research professor in political science. It recognizes scholarship that contributes significantly to the advancement of broad-based learning. Joseph L. Scarpaci lectured at the University of Panama during his recent sabbatical. He delivered a short course for faculty and students titled "Tourism and Globalization: The Experience of the Latin American Centros Históricos." He is pictured here with the Panama Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Housing, and Culture, and administrators from the Panama Canal Administration.

Scarpaci exchanged books and other materials with Panama Secretary of State Lewis Navarro in the historic Salón Bolívar, where the Panamanian independence document was signed in 1903.

ANGERMEIER HOSTS EEL SUMMIT

No one ever thought the only American eel population in the Atlantic would ever decline, but scientists are now scrambling to come up with a plan to prevent what is on the horizon. Associate professor of fisheries Paul Angermeier, who holds a dual appointment with the U.S. Geological Survey's Cooperative Research Unit, and Andy Dolloff, associate professor of fisheries who holds a dual appointment with the U.S. Forest Service's Coldwater Fisheries Research Unit, have been studying eels and realized it was time to develop some strategies to stem the decline.

This spring they invited a small group of policy makers and eel experts to carve out a working plan that will soon be released.

Eels are important for several reasons. They are important to America's fishing industry; they provide bait and are a cherished food in Asia and Europe. Eels are a vital part of the ecology and food chain; they feed on fish, worms, and other critters and themselves are eaten by larger fish, birds, and animals.

They are born north of Bermuda in the Sargasso

Sea and have one of the largest ranges, most diverse habitats, and unusual life states of any creature in the world, making them difficult to study. After birth they fan out across the Atlantic Ocean to Greenland, to northern South America, to saltwater estuaries, inland to streams as far away as South Dakota.

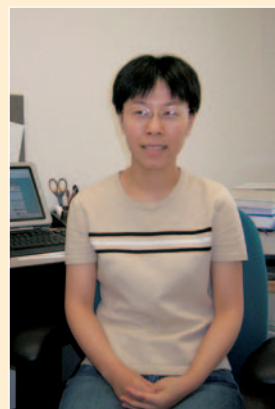
SHIN TO RESEARCH PALLET LOGISTICS



The Department of Wood Science and Forest Products welcomed Dong-Sun Shin as a visiting scholar for one year. Shin works in the area of logistics and packaging in the Center for Unit Load Design. Shin will focus his research on the interchangeable use of pallets between far East Asia and the United States.

His background is in economics with an emphasis on logistics. He has served as a research fellow at the Korea Transport Institute for more than 17 years.

FISH POPULATIONIST ON BOARD



This spring the college welcomed Yan Jiao, assistant professor in the fisheries and wildlife department. Jiao will teach classes and conduct research on fish population dynamics and stock assessment. Jiao said "I was attracted to Virginia Tech by the impressiveness of both the campus and the fisheries research team."

Jiao conducted post-doctorate work at the University of Guelph, one of Canada's top-rated comprehensive universities. She earned her Ph.D. from the Department of Biology at Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada, and received her master's and bachelor's in marine fisheries from the Ocean University of China in Qingdao, a coastal city in the Chinese province of Shandong.

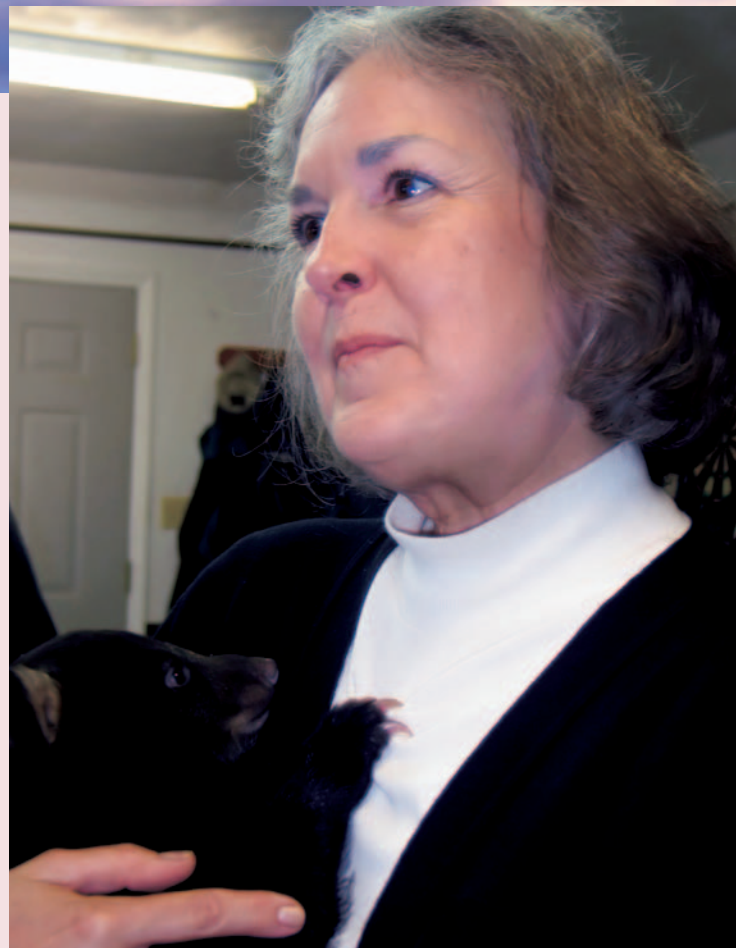
BEAR RESEARCH CENTER ADDS ULTRASOUND EQUIPMENT

In January, the college's Bear Research Center, which has been studying bears for the past 17 years, brought in a new piece of equipment that is not ordinarily associated with wildlife research, an ultrasound machine. "This allows us to study bear body fat ratios before, during, and after hibernation, hopefully telling us how much weight a bear needs to gain before going into hibernation," professor Mike Vaughan explained.

The portable ultrasound machine funded by Virginia Tech's equipment trust fund can be attached to a car battery for use in the field. Without the use of this type of technology it was hard for researchers to determine even if a bear was pregnant.

His center tracks ultrasound readings, blood samples, and body fat measurements in hopes of helping researchers in human health to come up with new treatments for human diseases. Blood samples are sent to Sean Donahue, a researcher at Michigan Tech who studies bone loss. When bears hibernate, they don't eat, drink, or relieve themselves; a human inactive for that long would suffer from osteoporosis. While the bears do lose some bone mass, they do not suffer from osteoporosis.

Another human health researcher who focuses on depression also uses the bear data to better understand depression in people. Blood samples are also sent to John Tsiouris, a psychiatrist in New York. As bears go into hibernation, they produce hormones similar to those in people suffering from depression. Tsiouris hopes this will help doctors diagnose patients with other mental or physical disabilities, as well as those who cannot clearly communicate their symptoms.



Janet Steger, wife of Virginia Tech President Charles Steger, toured the college's bear research center this spring.

WOOD-BASED COMPOSITES CENTER WELCOMES NEW INDUSTRIAL PARTNERS

The Wood-Based Composites Center (WBC), which serves the educational and research needs of the wood-based composites industry, has added three new industry partners for 2005: Louisiana-Pacific, B.A.S.F., and the Tembec Resin Group. This brings the total number of industry sponsors in the WBC to 14.

RESEARCH FACILITY ON TRACK FOR FALL 2005 COMPLETION

A \$25 million agriculture and forestry laboratory research facility is being built next to Slusher Tower. The building is scheduled for completion this fall.

The blueprints hold promise of a striking building, said Harold Burkhart, head of the forestry department. "The purpose is to provide a modern, state of the art, plant sciences research facility, that will enhance our research and graduate education capabilities," Burkhart said.

The five-story 84,000 sq. ft. building will serve six departments in two colleges: forestry and fisheries and wildlife services, and horticulture, entomology, crop and soil sciences and plant pathology.

WILDLIFE STUDENT STUDIES RARE FROGS ON MILITARY BASE



David C. Bishop, doctoral candidate in fisheries and wildlife science, has been awarded the 2005 College of Natural Resources Outstanding Graduate Student Award.

Bishop has taught conservation biology to undergraduate students. He has been an active member of the fisheries and wildlife graduate student association, and his research has become the foremost authority on the Florida bog frog.

He has been studying the ecology of Florida bog frogs (*Rana okaloosae*) on Eglin Air Force Base in north-west Florida. The bog frog was discovered in the early 1980s. Scientists say it is extremely rare to find a new vertebrate in North America in recent times. The range of the species is mainly within the boundaries of Eglin Air Force Base. Because of its limited range, the Florida bog frog is one of the rarest frogs in North America.

Rare species often survive on military lands, where

large tracts of land are set aside and undeveloped. "Eglin Air Force base has nearly a half million acres and acts as a wildlife refuge from the surrounding tourist areas of the Florida Panhandle." Bishop said.

LEMELY'S SELENIUM STUDY IN THE NEWS

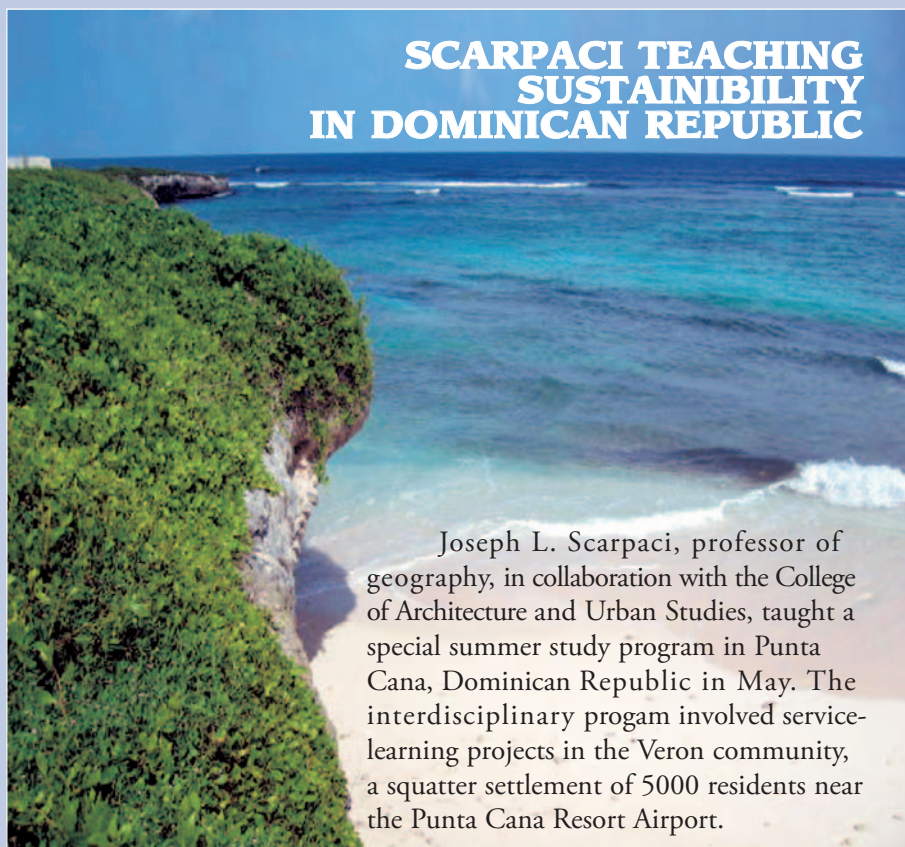
National news recently cited Dennis Lemly's study on selenium toxicity when the EPA proposed to weaken Clean Water Act limits. Assistant professor Lemly said the EPA was misusing his research on selenium poisoning in bluegill. Lemly is a research fisheries biologist working with the U.S. Forest Service Cooperative at the college.

The EPA proposal to accept the death of up to 20 percent of vulnerable fish by enacting its more lenient policy, which Lemly believes can be damaging to healthy fish populations and overwhelming to species that are endangered or threatened.

Selenium is needed in small levels; it is an essential trace element in living organisms. When selenium accumulates in the ecosystem, it kills young fish and travels through the food chain, poisoning waterfowl and other wildlife. Selenium can be released from the environment through coal, phosphate, uranium, or copper mining and the careless disposal of certain irrigation, electric power plant or oil refinery waste waters.

INTERNATIONAL CROSSINGS

SCARPACI TEACHING SUSTAINABILITY IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



Joseph L. Scarpaci, professor of geography, in collaboration with the College of Architecture and Urban Studies, taught a special summer study program in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic in May. The interdisciplinary program involved service-learning projects in the Veron community, a squatter settlement of 5000 residents near the Punta Cana Resort Airport.

STUDENTS STUDY ABROAD IN THE HIMALAYANS

Under the direction of Tom Hammett, professor of wood science and forest products, a group of students journeyed to Sikkim for a two month-long course in the Himalayan mountains of India to study that culture, its influence on natural resources, and the rich diversity abounding there.



PROFESSOR VISITS FROM SOUTH KOREA

Jung-kee Choi of the College of Forest Sciences at the Kangwon National University in South Korea is a visiting professor in the Department of Forestry for the next two years. In South Korea, Choi works as an assistant professor of Forest Biometrics and Statistics. Pictured here with his family, he will be conducting research on spatially explicit, individual tree growth and yield models for a variety of Korean tree species.



COLLEGE GIVES OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS AWARD TO KNIPLING OF U.S.D.A.

The college has given its Outstanding Alumnus Award to Ed Knipling, a resident of Clarksville, Md., and administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service.

In receiving the award, Knipling, expressed appreciation for his forestry education at Virginia Tech that provided the basis for his lifelong career in research. While at Virginia Tech he was a member of the Corps of Cadets, Omicron Delta Kappa, and the Order of the Gavel Club.

In his career, Knipling served as acting Agricultural Research Service administrator from 2001 until this year when Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman appointed him to the position permanently "because he had provided such valuable leadership." He is responsible for managing U.S.D.A. main

in-house scientific research agency, with more than 2,100 scientists and 8,000 total employees in 100 some locations throughout the U.S.

A Texas native who grew up in the Washington, D.C., area, Knipling earned his B.S. in forestry from Virginia Tech in 1961. He received his M.A. in 1963 and Ph.D. in 1966 in plant physiology from Duke University.

Knipling served as director of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Maryland (1988-89) and served as deputy administrator of the National Program Staff, Beltsville, Maryland, until October 1996. He was acting administrator for ARS from October 1996 to November 1997 and appointed associate administrator of ARS in December 1997.



Dean Mike Kelly with Outstanding Alumnus Award recipient, Ed Knipling.

BAKER TAKES A BREAK TO TRAVEL THE WORLD



Shawn Baker, B.S. in forestry 2001 and M.S. in forestry 2003, is touring the world. He has been documenting his travels through his own online blog, and has currently traveled through Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, and Bolivia. He plans to see South America, Asia, and Europe in six months. To check out his adventures visit: <http://tblogs.bootsnall.com/shawn>.

KENDALL HIGHLIGHTED FOR RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS

Ronald J. Kendall, 1980 Ph.D. in Fisheries and Wildlife, was the center of two articles in the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal recently, focusing on his instrumental research achievements.

Kendall is the director of Texas Tech's Institute of Environmental and Human Health (TIEHH), and founding chairman of the Department of Environmental Toxicology. Since he and his team of scientists founded TIEHH at Texas Tech University in May 1997, Kendall and his team have generated more than \$50 million in grant money, and numerous scientific publications, books, patents, doctoral and master's graduates in environmental toxicology.



Pete Bettinger, B.S. 1987, M.S. 1989, in forestry, was recently named Professor of the Year by Xi Sigma Pi, the student honorary academic society, at the University of Georgia's Warnell School of Forest Resources.

The award, presented at the School's 74th Annual Spring Awards Banquet, recognizes Bettinger's contributions to undergraduate and graduate teaching and advising.

Bettinger, associate professor of landscape planning and harvest scheduling, has been at UGA since 2002, teaching field orientation and measurement of forest resources, quantitative decision methods in forest management, aerial photo interpretation and advanced forest planning. He is faculty advisor to the Forestry Club, which recently took third place at the 48th Annual Southeastern Forestry Conclave, held in March at Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches, Texas.



COUNTY COORDINATOR AND E-MENTORING A GREAT WAY TO GIVE BACK!

The alumni board of the college has organized a wonderful opportunity for you to give something back to the college – we don't want your money, but we do want some of your time. We are looking for friends or alumni of the college that wish to serve as the local liaison with schools in their area to participate in career fairs, counsel potential students, and provide presentations upon request. In short, we want you to serve as the college's county/area contact person who assists in student recruitment and promotes the college as opportunities arise.

Our initial training is scheduled for the fall, in conjunction with the college homecoming on September 24. You will be equipped with resources from the college, including duties and goals for your position, a power point presentation, brochures,

school contact information for your area, and a nice gift from the college for agreeing to step up. If you are interested but cannot make the September 24 training session, we can reach you by other means.

The second new program is e-mentoring, a voluntary, structured, e-mail based mentoring program that connects undergraduates with alumni. When possible, mentees are matched with mentors working in their field of study. CNR e-Mentoring promotes e-mail communication because it provides a familiar and convenient way to share experiences and ideas, without the constraints of schedules or location. Mentoring pairs can also connect over the phone and in person. Students benefit from the encouragement, informal advice, and networking opportunities provided by their mentors. Mentors are rewarded by the knowledge that they are giving a helping hand to a future natural resource professional and giving back to their school.

To sign-up for these programs, please e-mail Lynn Young at: youngl@vt.edu.

CORRECTION TO LAST ISSUE



Jim Chamberlain is the USDA research scientist in the Department of Wood Science and Forest Products pictured correctly here with ramps! He is an expert on non-timber forest products, including ramps, an early spring, edible wild onion/scallion/leek-like vegetable that grow in the Virginia and North Carolina mountains, New England, and Minnesota, and may be in decline.

BETTINGER HONORED FOR OUTSTANDING TEACHING AT UGA

EXTENSION AND OUTREACH

VIRGINIA'S SHARP LOGGER TRAINING AND EDUCATION PROGRAM

Thanks to Virginia Cooperative Extension, more than 2,000 Virginia loggers, representing well over 90 percent of the logging production capacity in the state, have completed the SHARP Logger Program since it was implemented in 1996. VCE is leading the education component of the SHARP (Sustainable Harvesting and Resource Professional) Logger Program, which is part of the American Forest and Paper Association's Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), a nationwide initiative designed to publicly demonstrate the forest industry's commitment to practicing sustainable forestry (<http://www.virginiasfi.org>).

Bob Shaffer, the Charles Nettleton Professor of Forestry Operations and timber harvesting Extension specialist in the college, is the director and Scott Barrett, forestry Extension associate in the Department of Forestry, is the SHARP Logger Coordinator in Virginia. They work with a variety of timber firms and industry groups to provide the program curriculum.

A list of SHARP Loggers, as well as upcoming training programs, is available on the SHARP Logger website at <http://www.sharplogger.vt.edu>.



BANNER AWARD YEAR FOR GEOGRAPHY



CAMPBELL OUTSTANDING SCHOLAR IN GEOGRAPHY

James B. Campbell, professor of geography, has been named Outstanding Scholar in Geography by the Virginia Social Science Association.

Campbell has been a member of the Virginia Tech faculty since 1976. His research efforts concentrate on areas such as land use, soil and landscape variability, and land reclamation, from the vantage of aerial photographs and related images collected by aircraft and satellites. In 2003 while in residence at the Department of Archaeology, University of Rennes, France, he studied the history of coastal reclamation in southwestern France. As a member of the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, he has held offices at both local and national levels. In 1994 he received the Society's Outstanding Service Award, and in 1996, the Fellow Award. In 1997 he received the Outstanding Service Medal awarded by the Remote Sensing Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers.

His text, *Introduction to Remote Sensing* (Guilford Press), now in its third edition, is widely used for university courses in several disciplines in the United States and Canada and is published in Europe by Taylor & Francis for distribution overseas.

The Virginia Social Science Association annual awards have been named since 1981 in recognition of outstanding scholarship in social sciences.



RESLER WINS AWARD FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN GEOGRAPHERS, KOLIVRAS A FINALIST



Lynn Resler, assistant professor of geography, has received the J. Warren Nystrom Award from the Association of American Geographers at its annual meeting in Denver, Colorado.

This national award recognizes the top research paper in geography based upon a recent dissertation. "Only a handful of finalists are selected from throughout North America to present their recent dissertation research in the Nystrom competition sessions at the

annual meetings each year, so this is quite an honor," said Larry Grossman, head of the geography department.

Resler joined Virginia Tech's faculty in 2004 after receiving her Ph.D. from Texas State University. The award-winning paper outlined the multi-scale response of alpine treeline in Glacier National Park to environmental change. In this holistic investigation, Resler explored how both geomorphic and biogeographic processes influence conifer growth at the alpine treeline.

Another geography faculty member, Korine Kolivras, was also a finalist in the competition. Kolivras, who joined the Department of Geography in 2004 as well, presented the paper "Mosquito Habitat and Dengue Risk Potential in Hawaii: A Conceptual Framework and GIS Application." Grossman noted that "It is very rare for one department to have two finalists in the Nystrom competition in the same year. That both were selected to participate is a reflection of the quality of the scholarship of our new faculty members."

This is the tenth major award that the department has received at the university, state, and national level since 2002.

BOYER WINS STUDENTS' CHOICE AWARD FOR FACULTY MEMBER OF THE YEAR



John Boyer, geography instructor in the college, received the Students' Choice Award for Faculty Member of the Year. The Student Alumni Associates of the Virginia Tech Alumni Association (SAA) sponsors this award.

Boyer has taught the World Regions course since 1998; this university core-course typically enrolls more than 500 students. He has created an online accompanying text and presents a highly popular, weekly international film series, "Geography Night at the Movies," to reinforce themes covered in class. He uses music videos, live web interaction, and slide shows to enhance learning.

The award is presented each year in conjunction with the Student Alumni Association's annual Faculty Appreciation Day celebration. More than 24,000 graduate and undergraduate students were provided with the opportunity to vote for their favorite faculty member at voting stations throughout campus.

The Students' Choice Award was established in 1995 by Kent Picklesimer, then president of the SAA, to augment Tech's Founder's Day awards to faculty with an award based solely on student input. "The emphasis of this award is on teaching, how the professor relates to students, and how he or she helps the students learn," said Jen MacDonald, student programs coordinator for Virginia Tech Alumni Association.

July 4th CELEBRATIONS

Mike Vaughan, known worldwide for his bear research, and Peggy Quarterman, known for her quick wit and sense of humor, set the pace for high style with their Fourth of July outfits!



College of Natural Resources

MARK YOUR CALENDARS COLLEGE HOMECOMING SEPTEMBER 24

Join college faculty, students, and alumni at the pre-game tailgate to get ready for the game against N.C. State on September 24. For more information visit: <http://www.vatechalumni.com/reunion/index.html>.

College of Natural Resources
Virginia Tech
324 Cheatham Hall (0324)
Blacksburg VA 24061

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