

New Department Head

Dr. Emmett F. Thompson assumed the duties of Head, Department of Forestry on February 1, 1977. Prior to accepting the position at Auburn, he served for 3 years as Head of the Department of Forestry at Mississippi State.

At a Winter convocation shortly after his arrival, Dr. Thompson spoke on his views of forestry education and employment. He urged students in the forestry curriculum who truly want careers in forestry to work toward graduating in the upper half of their class. Also, and carrying quite a bit of weight from the man who is chairman of the SAF Committee on Forestry Employment, he recommended that the same students seek out summer employment in forestry related fields; even if it means less money than working in the supermarket back home. You might take this as fair warning!

Dr. Thompson is a native of Oklahoma. He received the BSF from Oklahoma State, an MS in Forest Management from North Carolina State and the PhD in Forest Economics from Oregon State, the latter in 1966. He has served as a Forester on the Ouachita National Forest in Arkansas and as Professor of Forest Resource Management at VPI. He is an active member of the Society of American Foresters and the Forest Products Research Society, presently serving on a number of committees in the areas of policy, economics, and finance. He is the author or co-author of more than 50 technical publications or professional papers, mostly in the general area of forest resource management and economics.

The Thompsons's - Emmett, ViAnn (Vi), Juli, Chuck, and Meri - at last account were still trying to settle in.

Dr. Thompson comments: "I do not have much to add to the preceding comments other than to underscore how delighted my family and I are to be associated with Auburn University and community. The people in both the University and the community have made this a very smooth and pleasant move for the entire family. We are looking forward to our tenure here and associations with friends, students, associates, and alumni. I am particularly eager to get acquainted with alumni. As I travel around the state, I am sure I will have an opportunity to meet many of you. As you are in the Auburn vicinity, please consider this a personal invitation to drop by the office and get acquainted.



25-year service plaque presented to Professor DeVall by Tom Newman (51)

Professor DeVall Steps Down

After twenty-six years of service as Department Head, Professor Wilbur B. DeVall has relinquished the administrative responsibilities of the job. Counting his first years as a Faculty member, his thirty-one year term of service spans the entire period of the existence of the Department of Forestry. He is proud of the fact that he has known personally every graduate of the Department's programs.

Professor DeVall's current projects relate mostly to service to Alumni and undergraduate students now enrolled. He is completing and bringing up to date all of the Alumni records that the Department maintains. The same thing is being done for undergraduate records of scholarships and awards. In addition, he will continue to produce the graduating senior's picture sheet that is sent to employers across the Southeast every quarter.

A project which will enable the astute

student to talk more comfortably and more knowledgeably with prospective employers involves the compilation and collection of Annual Reports and other publications from Industrial Employers in the 15 Southeastern States. These will be made available to students preparing for interviews and before writing letters of application.

Professor DeVall is also busy preparing manuscripts which will provide a valuable historical record of the business of the Department of Forestry over the last thirty-one years. He is touching on subjects which range from "Firsts in Forestry" at Auburn (First plantation in 1927 to first female graduate in 1976) to detailed histories of research projects on outlying Experiment Forests.

He invites friends and Alumni to continue to drop by when in town — the office has changed but the welcome hasn't.

Faculty Notes

We have one arrival and one departure to report in the Faculty ranks. The arrival is Dr. Daniel V. Goulet, who is on a joint appointment with the Industrial Engineering Department. He will spend 3/4's of his time teaching in the Industrial Engineering Department and 1/4 time (Summer Quarter) doing research in the Forest Products Area. He holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in Mathematics, and the PhD (University of Houston, 1976) degree in Industrial Engineering, specializing in operations research. He has yet to define his area of research, but there has been some faculty speculation that he may do studies in the area of the operating ef-

iciency of primary wood conversion plants.

The departure to report is that of George Coleman. Dr. Marilyn Coleman received the PhD in Poultry Science (actually, in animal physiology) at Fall Quarter, 1976, graduation. They have moved to Columbus, Ohio, where Marilyn is an Assistant Professor in Poultry Science at Ohio State and George is Chief Design Engineer for a company which manufactures pre-fab concrete structures. Before he left, George had Professor Christen's old sawmill (blown down by Hurricane Eloise) 96% rebuilt as a more permanent structure behind the new Forest Products Lab.



Alumni and faculty at 25-year reunion, Class 1951

Class of '51 Reunion

For the Auburn Forestry Class of 1951, it was time for reminiscing and tales of the "good old days" when they returned with wives to the Auburn University campus October 22 to participate in the dedication of a yellow-poplar to Prof. Christen and to Montgomery the same day to celebrate their 25th reunion — returning to the campus on the 23rd for Homecoming.

About 25 class members returned to greet their classmates and friends, and tell about their successes since leaving the Auburn campus. Not all of these were from the Class of '51 but I believe we all had summer camp together. All were a little fatter and had a higher forehead. They were, however, much more careful with their "tall tales" since wives and children were present.

The occasion also marked Prof. Wilbur DeVall's 25th anniversary as Head of the Department of Forestry. For his outstanding services and achievements while heading the department, the group presented him with a special plaque at the Ramada Inn East, Montgomery, following a buffet dinner.

Alumni receiving prizes during the evening were: Bob (doc) Pipkin ('51) who traveled the greatest distance; Jim Haynes ('51) for the most children; Willie Padgett ('51-58) for the youngest child; John Reece ('51) for the oldest child and grandchild; Roy Gamble ('51), Chairman for the reunion, who admitted to being the oldest alumnus to register.

Guests included Professors DeVall, E.W. Johnson, J.F. Goggans, and H.C. Posey.

Tom Newman ('51)

Auburn Forestry Foundation

A brief explanation of the purpose and function of the Auburn Forestry Foundation is probably in order. The Foundation was formed for the purpose of providing financial assistance to the Department of Forestry in areas that do not come within the budget but are considered necessary by the foundation board of directors. Long range goals include the financing of chairs in specific areas of forestry education.

The foundation is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of nine people serving terms of six years each, three of whom are elected every two years by voting members of the Auburn Forestry Alumni Association. Ex-officio members are the university treasurer and the president of the Auburn Forestry Alumni Association. The foundation's annual meeting is usually held in March each year and funds collected during the year are distributed in accordance with the by-laws as directed by voting members of the foundation board at this meeting.

In 1976 the foundation board created a special fund in memory of Dr. H.E. Christen which is to be a permanent part of the foundation. We recognize a need for more participation by alumni in the foundation and urge everyone to make an annual contribution even if it is for only a few dollars.

Foundation directors wish to welcome Dr. Emmett Thompson to Auburn as the new Department Head of Forestry and we pledge our full cooperation to him in his efforts to improve forestry education at Auburn.

Also, we wish to express our sincere thanks to Prof. DeVall for his many years

of dedicated service to Auburn and to the forestry profession and the foundation. He has touched the life of each Auburn forestry alumnus to this point and is the only living person who knew each alumnus personally. We wish for him the very best.

Presently serving on the board of directors of the Auburn Forestry Foundation are Frank Jones ('50), Frank Stewart ('48), Jim Collins ('49), Roy Gamble ('51), Harold Coun ('52), Dale Perdeys ('64), Bob Shaffer ('67) and Gene Sample ('54) along with ex-officio members Fred Harmon ('59) and Rhett Riley. If you wish more information about the Foundation or if you have some suggestions concerning the Foundation contact one of these people and they will be glad to assist.

Roy Gamble ('51)
Foundation President

Alumni Mia's

Civilians, especially forestry alumnus, may become missing in action. This means that mail, sent to their addresses of record, is returned. Please help locate those named below by sending addresses to the Department of Forestry, attention of Professor DeVall.

P.H. Bourns ('57) A.D. Lewis (MS '60)
W.R. Bullock ('49) M.D. Frost ('65)
R.R. Hammond ('59) F.J. Wood ('61)

Editor

Larkin Wade Promoted

Larkin H. Wade ('61) who holds the B.S. and M.S. degrees in forestry from Auburn University, has been promoted to the position of Head, Extension Natural Resources with the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service at Auburn.

Larkin, who had served as Extension forester at Auburn since July 1965, will provide supervision and overall program leadership for the natural resources group. Specialists within the group have educational responsibilities for forestry, wildlife, wood products marketing and utilization, and fisheries. In addition to his role as head of the group, Larkin will continue to carry out educational responsibilities in forestry.

Since joining the Extension Service, the Lee County native has led aggressive and progressive statewide educational programs in forestry. He has been particularly successful in innovating patch cutting demonstrations on small non-industrial private forest ownerships. Among many conferences and short-courses he has led is the Auburn Forestry Forum, which annually attracts 150 professional foresters to the AU campus. Larkin has also used specialized programs extensively to transfer new technology to potential users. He is the author of numerous publications and news articles on forestry and the forest resource in Alabama.

Larkin was educated in the Beau regard and Opelika school systems of Lee County. He received the B.S. degree in forestry from Auburn in March 1961, entered the U.S. Army that same month as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army, and served in the artillery for 24 months, 13 of them in Korea. He was discharged from the U.S. Army Reserve as captain in August 1969.

After working for Hudson Pulp and Paper Corporation for six months in Palatka, Fla., he entered Auburn in September 1963 to do graduate study in forest economics. He received the M.S. in that field in August 1965.

Larkin is a member of the Alabama Forestry Council, and has served as chairman, the Consulting Committee on Forestry Research at Auburn University, is a member of the Alabama Forestry Association, the Society of American Foresters, Xi Sigma Pi, Alpha Zeta, Gamma Sigma Delta, and is a registered forester.

He is currently serving as chairman of the Southern Group Extension Foresters and is on the ECOP (Extension Committee on Organization and Policy) Task Force Committee on Forestry.

He is married to the former Marian P. Martin of Opelika. They have two daughters, Wendy, 11; and Laurie, 6. They reside at 525 Auburn Drive, Auburn.

From Your Association President

New things are happening at Auburn. A new era began at Auburn, February 1, 1977 when professor DeVall stepped down as head of the Auburn Department of Forestry after 25 years of unselfish service. I understand professor DeVall will be tending to some unfinished business until his time of retirement. The alumni association sincerely appreciates professor DeVall's years of service and his contribution to the Department.

On behalf of the Auburn Forestry Alumni, I would like to welcome Prof. DeVall's replacement, Dr. Emmett Thompson, to Auburn. The association pledges itself toward giving Dr. Thompson all the assistance possible.

As the new president of the Auburn Forestry Alumni Association, I would like to express the membership's appreciation to the very capable officers who served the alumni association for 1974-1976. They were Charles Figg ('55), President, Eddie Gibson ('53), Vice President, and Billy McIntyre ('64), Secretary-Treasurer.

Chester Bille, Jr. ('69), our very capable new Secretary-Treasurer, mailed dues notices to the membership in early February, 1977. It is vital to not only have your financial support, but we also need your vocal and physical support to make the Auburn Forestry Alumni Association a positive force to bind Auburn Foresters together professionally and socially and to support Auburn's Department of Forestry.

The outstanding senior award for 1977 was presented to Roger D. Young of Pied-

mont, Alabama at the Annual Awards Banquet held in Auburn on February 24, 1977. Mr. Young received a forestry handbook and a check for fifty dollars from the Auburn Forestry Alumni Association. It was most gratifying for me to represent the Alumni Association at this function and to observe the fine professional young men and women who will be future foresters.

The 1977 Annual Auburn Forestry Alumni Association meeting is planned for August during the Alabama Chapter, S&F meeting to be held in Mobile, Alabama. All you alumni members come out and meet Dr. Thompson.

I have been told that the 1951 graduates had a "whiz bang" class reunion in Montgomery last fall as reported elsewhere in this Newsletter. I wish to express appreciation to Roy Gamble ('51), Chairman, Jack Crouch ('51), Jim Haynes ('51), Tom Newman, ('51), George Wood, ('52), and Bill Black, ('51) who engineered the event.

Charles Rollins ('52) will coordinate the 1952 class reunion. If you were in the class of 1951, 1952, or 1953 and would like to be associated with this effort, please contact Charles at 34 Twin Manor, Northport, Alabama 35476 or phone 732-1264 (home). Charles will be calling on several of you for assistance.

If you have not already paid your dues for calendar year 1977, please send \$5.00 directly to Chester E. Bille, Jr., Route 3, Box 338, Bay Minette, Alabama 36507.

Fred Harmon ('59),
President

In Memoriam

Arvis B. Dearman ('57)

Memorial Program Honors Professor Christen

October 22, 1976, saw Alumni, Students, and Faculty gathered on the front lawn of the Forestry building to honor the memory of Dr. Harold E. Christen. A representative of each group spoke in tribute of Prof. Chris. Concluding the brief but impressive ceremonies, the group planted and dedicated a yellow-poplar seedling in his memory. A simple plaque has been installed by the tree, calling attention to the circumstances of its dedication.

Newsletter Staff

Editor Jim Cupp
Associate Editor David Steele
Faculty Coordinator Don James
Alumni Representative W. B. DeVall
Assistant Editor James Buford



Larkin Wade ('61)

Annual Awards Banquet

On February 24th, the Auburn Forestry Club held its Annual Awards Banquet. Representatives of the industry, the SAF, and alumni joined with the department in honoring students for their accomplishments throughout the past year.

Professor Wilbur DeVall presented the L.M. Ware Outstanding Senior in Forestry Award to Jim Cupp, and the E.A. Hauss Scholastic Improvement Award to Hank McKinley. Jay Purnell was recognized as the recipient of the Garden Club of Alabama Award for Outstanding Achievement in Plant Science. Charlotte Sage was presented the Southeastern Section SAF Outstanding Senior in Forestry Award by John McCulloch, and Fred Harmon presented the Auburn Alumni Association's Outstanding Senior Award to Roger Young. James Spears of St. Regis recognized this year's recipients of his company's scholarships, Jay Purnell and Sharon Mohnney, and Ed Gibson presented the American Can Math Award to Mark Meagher. Bill Bryant was awarded the Forestry Wife's Club Outstanding Senior Award by Marianne Van Houten.

The Forestry Club presented engraved plaques to Professor DeVall and Mr. Henry Posey in appreciation for their many services to students. In addition, other members of the faculty and staff were presented with humorous awards for their efforts. It was an evening to be enjoyed and remembered.

Co-op Program Established

The Department of Forestry has at long last a functioning co-operative work-study program. With more courses being offered more often due to increased student enrollments, Professor Posey has been able to juggle schedules so that Auburn can keep a man in a given job slot for four quarters a year. With two (maybe even 3 or 4) students filling the slot in alternate quarters, students now have a chance to earn and learn on the job while still an undergraduate. Participation in the program will usually stretch the time required to graduate to 5 years.

The Department has at present 2 jobs which must be filled year round. There are good prospects for several more. The program is administered within the Department by Professors DeBrunner and Posey, and at the University level by Mr. Frank Vandegrift, Director of Cooperative Education, Auburn University.

Student Chapter -S.A.F.

The 1976-77 officers of the Auburn Student Chapter of the Society of American Foresters are Hank McKinley - chairman; Jim Cupp - Vice chairman; Don Van Houten - Treasurer; Nancy Abernethy - Public Relations; Charlotte Sage - Secretary. The goals of the chapter are to encourage fellowship among forestry students and further acquaint students with the profession of forestry. This is an ever challenging problem to the chapter as we try to involve underclassmen in fun and projects.

The first convocation of fall quarter was once again held by the students with slides from the National Convention, and some outdoor labs, summer camp, and conclave. The history of the chapter and club activities were presented in an effort to introduce new students to the chapter and curriculum at Auburn.

As a result of the success with firewood sales (due to an unusually "chilly" winter), the club held a catfish fry around a huge fire this fall quarter. The fry was the final event of a day that started with a conclave practice day at the new practice field next to the wood products lab in the forestry plots. Both events were a great success with students, wives, kids, and dogs alike having fun. Conclave will be held at Stephen F. Austin, Texas, this year, April 14, 15, and 16. Final eliminations for contestants will be held April 2 and all alumnae are invited to attend.

Because of the interest students have in students affairs, a panel discussion concern-

ing student problems with the administration was held at one of the chapter meetings. Representatives from the Dean's office, Forestry Department, and Faculty were present. Problems with classroom size, acquiring books, lack of adequate equipment, and lack of faculty - with extra loads placed on the present faculty, were aired. There was some positive response, but alot more needs to be done to remedy some of our present problems.

Three representatives from the chapter, Hank McKinley, Don Van Houten and Bill Bryant, attended the National Convention of SAF in New Orleans in October. The topic was "Forestry for America's Future: Beyond the Bicentennial."

Posey Calls for Your Chris Stories

The Student Chapter, SAF - Forestry Club - now has Prof. Chris' effects, both personal and professional. They are inventorying them with an eye toward possible inclusion as memorabilia in a suitable memorial.

In the same vein, Professor Posey requests that you send in your favorite stories ("including profanity" - a direct quote from Posey!) about Chris. He hopes to obtain a number of anecdotes for a volume which will reflect the character of the man who as much as any other represents Auburn Forestry.



1977 Conclave Team - These members of the Student Chapter SAF attended the ASFC conclave held this spring at Stephen F. Austin University. Auburn placed ninth out of thirteen schools.