



SPRING, 1979

FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.

An Auburn Forestry Alumni meeting was held on January 18, 1979, in conjunction with the Southeastern Section of the Society of American Foresters. There were approximately 35 Alumni present. Dr. Emmett Thompson gave a report on some interesting and important things which are happening in the Forestry Department. Bob Tobermann gave a report on the work of the Special Legislative Forestry Study Committee. He pointed out that the committee report showed the importance of forestry in Alabama and asked that each of us use our influence with our local legislative officials to help get our fair share of available funds.

Your Alumni President presented the outstanding senior award to Tom Olliff; at the annual Awards Banquet held in Auburn in February. Tom received a Forestry Handbook and a check for \$50.00 from the Auburn Forestry Alumni Association.

Eugene Sample ('54) has agreed to serve as chairman of a committee to organize a 25-year class reunion for the classes of 1953, 1954, and 1955. I hope many of you will be able to attend this reunion.

The need to amend the by-laws of our association was discussed at a meeting of the old and new officers in January. One of the proposed amendments provided that any professor in the Auburn Forestry Department would automatically be extended membership in the Association. The other amendment would permit the Alumni President to appoint a corresponding Secretary.

As of April 30, 1979, there have been more than 110 members who have paid their 1979 dues, and the majority of these have voted in favor of the proposed amendments.

The annual Auburn Forestry Alumni Association meeting is planned for August, during the Alabama Chapter of the Society of American Foresters meeting. All Alumni members are urged to attend this meeting.

The following is some information on some recent graduates:

John C. Sutton, III ('76)

Employed by the Alabama Forestry Commission since September 1976, as County Forester in Pickens County. John is single and lives in Carrollton, Alabama. His primary duties are assisting small landowners in their forest management objectives.

Monty McKinley ('67)

Employed by Gulf States Paper Corporation; recently received a promotion to Manager of their Timber Managers Company, a consulting business. He and his wife, Joan, and their sons Rusty, 10, and Randy, 6, live in Coker, Alabama.

Mary Lou Gamble ('76)

Employed by Log Industries as a Timber Scaler and Utility Clerk. First female graduate Forest Management - Recreation Option. Married to David Gamble, a forester with Gulf States Paper Corporation. She is the daughter of Charles and Joan Rollins. Charles is a '52 graduate - Forest Management. Mary Lou and David live at Stonehedge on Lake Tuscaloosa in Tuscaloosa County.

Peter Zubowicz (June '78)

Employed by Weyerhaeuser Company in Columbus, Mississippi as Inventory Technical Forester for the Mississippi-Alabama Region. He and his wife, Margaret, live in Columbus, Mississippi. While at Auburn, very active as chairman of two committees in Auburn Forestry Club.

Hank McKinley (recent graduate)

Employed by Gulf States Paper Corporation in Timber Procurement. Previously employed by Georgia Pacific. He and his wife, Sheryl, and son, Joshua, live in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. He was very active in forestry student government affairs.

George Franklin (recent graduate)

Transferred recently from consulting firm in Georgia to Procurement Forester with Gulf States Paper Corporation. He and his wife, Mary Kay live in Centreville, Alabama.

Jimmy Jeter (recent graduate)

Employed by Gulf States Paper Corporation; recently promoted to Assistant District Forester, Aliceville District of West Central Alabama. He is single and lives in Gordo, Alabama.

James Sherer, President '61

Wayne Strawbridge, Vice President '65

Richard Cumbie, Secretary Treasurer '69

A. U. Forestry Alumni Association

FROM THE DEPARTMENT

Emmett Thompson

The 1978-79 academic year is rapidly coming to a close, and the Department can look back over the past few months with considerable satisfaction and pride. The total number of graduates this year is 76.

While not every graduate yet has a professional employment opportunity, we are quite pleased that the job prospects do seem to be up considerably over previous years. Hopefully, during the next few weeks all graduates will have found employment.

One of the things we are very proud of is the institution of a new degree program in Forest Engineering. In the Fall Newsletter, I mentioned that the Departments of Forestry and Agricultural Engineering had cooperatively submitted a proposed B.S. degree program to the University administration. Late last Fall, the proposal was approved and will be officially implemented in September 1979. A copy of the Forest Engineering curriculum is attached on the following page. The program is designed to meet forestry accreditation standards through the Society of American Foresters, as well as engineering accreditation through the Engineers Council for Professional Development. Currently, there is only one program in the United States, at the University of Maine, which meets both these accreditation criteria. Ours will be the second in the nation and the first in the South. We think there is a real need for individuals trained to apply engineering principles to forestry problems. We intend to do more than our share in meeting this need.

In the last Newsletter, I also indicated we anticipated new faculty joining us during the year. Ralph Meldahl and Robert Tufts have reported for work in the Department since the last Newsletter -- Ralph in Forest Biometrics and Robert in Harvesting. In addition, we have employed two individuals who will join the Department in June, 1979. Gene Campbell is completing a Ph.D. in Forest Economics at Iowa State University; Gene will teach and conduct research in the general area of Forest Management/Economics. Since Gene was not able to join us prior to the beginning of Spring Quarter, I was able to "get back in the harness" and teach Forest Management for the first time in several years. This course will be one of Gene's responsibilities next year.

Robert Leichti, previously employed by United States Gypsum Company in Chicago will join the Department as Research Associate in Forest Products. Bob will be working with Dr. R. C. Tang and also pursuing a Ph.D. in Wood Science.

Although it does not involve new faculty, we have made a responsibility change in the Forest Products Laboratory. Dr. R. C. Tang, who joined the Department as Professor of Wood Science and Technology in March, 1978, has recently assumed additional responsibilities as Forest Products Coordinator for the Department. In this capacity, Dr. Tang will continue his own involvement in forest products education and research, but also be responsible for all aspects for the Department's Products Programs.

MH 161 An. Geom. & Cal.	5
BI 101 Prin. of Biology	5
TS 102 Graph. Comm. & Design	2
EH 101 English Comp.	3
PE 101 Fund. of Phys. Ed.	1
	<u>16</u>

Freshman Year	
MH 162 An. Geom & Cal.	5
BI 102 Plant Biology	5
IE 204 Comp. Prog.	3
EH 102 English Comp.	3
PE 102 Begin. Swim.	1
	<u>17</u>

MH 163 An. Geom. & Cal.	5
EC 200 Econ. I	5
CH 103 Fund. of Chem & Lab	5
EH 103 English Comp.	3
PE From Group II	1
	<u>19</u>

MH 264 An. Geom. & Cal.	5
PS 220 Gen. Physics I	4
ME 205 Appl. Mech. Stat.	4
CH 104 Fund. of Chem. & Lab	5
	<u>18</u>

Sophomore Year	
ME 207 Strength of Mat.	3
PS 221 Gen. Physics II	4
ME 202 Engr. Mat. Science	3
MH 265 Diff. Equat.	3
EC 202 Econ. II	5
	<u>18</u>

AY 305 Gen. Soils	5
PS 222 Gen. Physics III	4
ME 301 Thermodynamics I	4
ME 321 Dynamics I	4
	<u>17</u>

Summer Camp ^{2/}	
FY 300 Intro. to For.	2
FY 301 Dendrology	3
FY 302 For. Biology	2
FY 304 For. Surveying	4
FY 305 Field Mensuration	3
FY 306 For. Cartography	1
	<u>15</u>

FY 313 Sampling I	4
Elective (Social Sci. & Humanities)	5
AN 301 Mech. of Farm Machinery	3
ME 340 Fluid Mech.	3
EE 261 Circuit Analysis I	3
	<u>18</u>

Junior Year	
FY 314 Sampling II	4
FY 415 For. Mensuration	5
EE 263 Circuit Analysis II	4
AN 302 Mech. of Trac. Power	3
History or Literature ^{3/}	3
	<u>19</u>

FY 421 For. Ecology	5
AN 517 Photogrammetry	5
ACF 211 Accounting	4
Elective (Engr.)	3
	<u>17</u>

FY 540 For. Econ.	4
FY 520 Silviculture	5
AN 401 Forest Machinery	3
Elective (Engr.)	3
History or Literature	3
	<u>18</u>

Senior Year	
FY 541 For. Mgt. & Admin.	4
FY 570 Harvesting	3
AN 402 Roads & Struc.	4
Elective (Social Sci. & Humanities)	5
	<u>16</u>

AN 501 Ag. Power & Mach. Design	3
FY 571 Adv. Harv. History or Literature	3
Elective (Engr.)	8
	<u>17</u>

TOTAL: 225

- ^{1/} Students whose combined ACT scores for English and Mathematics are lower than 50, or whose total SAT scores are less than 1100, are enrolled in MH 160 for no credit.
- ^{2/} Summer Camp may be taken at the end of either the Freshman or Sophomore years. It may be taken between the Freshman and Sophomore years by a transient student who is regularly enrolled at another institution and is planning to transfer to Auburn University.
- ^{3/} Selected from one of the following sequences: HY 101-102-103; HY 204-205-206; EH 260-261-262.

All news about faculty does not involve additions and new responsibilities. From time to time a University Department, like any other organization, loses faculty members. Don Janes who has taught Forest Mensuration for the past few years has recently resigned to accept employment with Drummond Coal Company in Jasper, Alabama. We wish Don every success in his new employment. At least he will still be in Alabama so we can expect to see him from time to time.

This year's Forestry Summer Camp will be somewhat unique. Actually, the correct term is Summer Camps. Since we are phasing in a new Forest Management curriculum, which has Summer Camp at the end of the Freshman or Sophomore year, we will have our Junior students going to the "Old Camp" and our Freshman/Sophomores attending the "New Camp". As you might expect, this is causing some organizational and logistics problems. However, the faculty are shouldering additional loads for the extra effort needed to run two camps, and I am confident that when September finally gets here we will all have survived, as well as provided meaningful educational experiences for students in both programs.

The 1980 Summer Camp will also be unique. It will be the first camp conducted at the Solon Dixon Forestry Education Center, which the University is currently constructing between Andalusia and Brewton in southern Alabama. For those of you who have not heard about the Center, it is being donated to the University, for the benefit of Forestry, by Mr. and Mrs. Solon Dixon of Andalusia. The facilities under construction are designed to house up to 120 students plus faculty. The classroom, auditorium, and dining facilities will accommodate 150 individuals. The gift is the largest ever made to Auburn University by a living person. When complete, it will be the finest such facility available to any forestry program in the United States. The Center's primary use will be for the Department's Summer Camp--the first being in 1980. However, the facilities will be available for other uses throughout the year, such as continuing education programs, in-service training for various agencies, etc. Sometime during 1980, the facility will be formally dedicated; I hope many of you will be able to attend.

While we feel the overall, long-term outlook for Forestry at Auburn is extremely bright, there may be some rough spots in the near term. Those of you who live in Alabama are aware that universities are being asked to hold the line with respect to budget increases for fiscal year 1980. While this will obviously curtail some of our programs and rate of development, I am optimistic that fiscal 1981 could be quite favorable for the Department's programs. I have several reasons for being optimistic. First, the 1978 session of the Alabama Legislature appointed a Forestry Study Committee to look at all aspects of Forestry in Alabama and to make recommendations to the 1979 Legislature. I am sure many of you have seen the Legislative

Study Committee Report or the summary which was printed in the March 1979 issue of Alabama Forests. The Study Committee concentrated on those aspects of forestry under the direct control of the Legislature, namely the Alabama Forestry Commission and Auburn University's programs in forestry education, research, and extension. For the Department, the Study Committee specifically recommended an annual increase of \$120,000 in the teaching budget. This increase would bring the Department's state support per student credit hour up to the national average for forestry programs. The report also recommended an additional \$100,000 to be split between the Departments of Agricultural Engineering and Forestry to fund implementation of the proposed Forest Engineering curriculum. As indicated, the Forest Engineering program has been approved. We now need to make sure we have sufficient resources to implement it in a quality manner. The Study Committee also recommended an additional \$400,000 for forestry research which would give us greater capability in timber harvesting, forest measurements, forest protection, and management/economics. The Study also recommended an additional \$120,000 for Forestry Extension. It appears that none of these recommendations will be implemented in the 1979-80 budget. The Study Committee will probably be reactivated for at least one more year. Hopefully, we can get more support for these recommendations and see them included in the 1981 budget. If it appears appropriate, we will be in contact with the officers of the Forestry Alumni Association to solicit support and influence for our fiscal 1981 budget.

A second reason for optimism about the future of forestry at Auburn is connected to a similar degree of optimism about forestry and forest products in Alabama. Warren Flick, Associate Professor of Forestry Economics, has just completed a research study, partially funded by the Alabama Forestry Association, which documents the economic importance of forestry and forest products to the State of Alabama. Warren presented the initial results at the Alabama Forestry Association meeting in Mobile on May 15. The economic figures associated with Alabama forestry and the State's forest products industry are extremely impressive. Forest products is likely the most important industry in the State and the Association is contemplating a communications program to get this word to the citizens of Alabama and particularly to the legislators and other decision makers. Such favorable publicity about forestry and its role in Alabama cannot help but enhance opportunities for the Department.

Conrad Brewer

This coming summer promises to really be a unique experience. As most of you know, we are establishing our new curriculum in Forest Management and also phasing out our old one.

We have pre-registered 110 students for the last "old camp" this summer and expect about 100 in the "new camp" for our trial run. Both camps will operate from the campus this year with some out-of-town tours as in the past.

One of the problems we have run into is the fact that we have practically no students who can work this summer. It really hurts to have to write and call many of you and turn down your offers of employment for our students. However, we will have more than 100 students actively looking for summer work next year. These students will already have been to camp and taken Dendro, Mensi, Surveying, Cartography, and will have been exposed to a lot of Silvicultural practices. So, please keep the students in mind and make plans for providing summer jobs for them in 1980.

Stuart Daba

The first part of the winter involved taking measurements on one white ash and three longleaf pine progeny tests. It was encouraging to see the good early height growth of many of the longleaf families. The white ash information is now being written up and will be helpful in choosing seed sources. During January a loblolly pine progeny test was established on sandy soil in Autauga County and a slash pine progeny test was established, with half the progeny fertilized, in Bullock County. Early spring was hecticly taken up with collecting pollen although there was less slash and longleaf pollen available, apparently due to last year's drought. Recently, a Virginia pine test was planted in the nursery. The loblolly pine cuttings that were rooted last fall were carried through the winter in the greenhouse and will now be outplanted. During April I also had the opportunity to present a lecture, slide show, and field demonstration to Dr. Larsen's Silvics class about the tree improvement program.

Warren A. Flick

Our research project with the Alabama Forestry Association on the Contribution of Forestry to Alabama's Economy is nearing completion. We now have tentative results from our computer work and are planning to present the results at the Alabama Forestry Association meeting in May. The project is continuing and graduate students are adding data and analyses to the basic input-output model.

We have also been working hard with our classes. The undergraduate class in Forest Economics went fairly well this Winter. We had about 75 students in the class and had each one of them do projects on taxation and on the profitability of growing pine trees.

Two graduate courses were taught this year in Forest Economics for the first time. We had about 8 or 9 students enrolled in the first quarter and 5 students enrolled in the second quarter. Several undergraduates who had already taken our undergraduate Forest Economics course took the first quarter graduate course. The graduate courses need some polishing, and we look forward to making refinements in future years.

We are also pleased that Dr. Gene Campbell will be joining us early this summer. Gene is a new graduate of Iowa State in the area of Forest Economics and will teach Forest Management and add to our research capabilities.

Our first two graduate students in Forest Economics are graduating this spring. Both men are already committed for employment with International Paper Company. We are hoping to attract more students for next year.

James F. Goggans

During the winter quarter most of our efforts in tree improvement have been directed toward the establishment of open-pollinated progeny tests of the plus-tree parents that are being used in our current seed orchards. Two tests representing a small slash orchard that is located at the Hauss Nursery were established in Bullock County. One of these tests is being fertilized to determine variation in reaction to fertilization.

Two tests representing a 42-clone southern Alabama loblolly seed orchard were also established. One of these was established in Autauga County on a very dry site to test drought resistance. All this testing will result in improved, certified varieties of southern pines.

Michael Golden

During the past year, my teaching load has decreased and research obligations increased. I no longer teach silviculture or site evaluation. I did still teach watershed management and a graduate ecology course. During this year I am involved with planning and teaching in the "new" summer camp and will teach a section of the new undergraduate forest ecology course, as well as watershed management. I am currently directing the research of two graduate students and serving on committees of several more.

My research activities have been divided among several areas: development of loblolly pine site index curves and determination of

factors influencing the shape of these curves; a study of yellow-poplar site relationships (site curves and factors affecting site quality) in the Hilly Coastal Plain; an ecological study of the Reed Brake Research Natural Area in Bibb County; completion of a site evaluation guide for Alabama and Mississippi (work begun by Earl Hodgkins); and completion of manuscripts relating to previous ecological studies in the Great Smoky Mountains and the Alabama Piedmont.

Don Janes

My year has been involved with getting the last of the "old curriculum" students ready to go to the last "old" summer camp. The more recent alumni will be saddened(?) to recognize the impending demise of Kathy Kronarshum, Pathogen Pete, Granpa (Grandfather's Timber), the Piedmont Landowner, Tim B. Barton, and other colorful (as you gave them life in your reports) characters who perhaps made the summers a little more cheerful, if no easier. In their places, who knows? Drop by when you are in Auburn and nominate your favorites. Best regards.

Bobby L. Lanford

My first year at Auburn ended last January, and it was a very active 12 months. Last fall my students and I labored through a course in harvesting. Initial course preparation is always difficult, and this one was no exception. It will be offered again in the winter of 1980, and hopefully, presented in a more organized fashion. As with last summer, Dr. Tang and I will be leading the charge through forestry and manufacturing facilities in this year's summer camp. Last summer was a riot, and this one will probably be no better. My decision on playing softball is still pending; at last year's camp, I was hit between the eyes with the ball going from first to second base.

In November of last year we were very fortunate to have a forest engineering curriculum approved by the University. This program develops a person equally competent in engineering and forestry. It is a tough four years of work, but those who complete it can be very proud of their credentials. Employers will find these dual talents very useful in forestry operations. Currently, we have ten students enrolled in this program.

Timber harvesting research in two areas is actively underway at present. The first involves developing cost and production rates for various feller bunchers. As chain saw operators become more scarce, many loggers are looking toward feller bunchers as an alternative. This study should provide some comparative results. The second study

involves a small German tractor that can be used for ground skidding or cable yarding. We have taken time studies using both methods in a slash pine plantation thinning. The machine is small enough to maneuver between trees without endangering them. Yours truly, Robert Tufts, and some of the U. S. Forest Service Engineering Group have been in the woods doing the work as well as taking data for the last couple of months. We have had some real laughs at ourselves as well as made some production. Anyone desiring instruction on the proper method of laying a tree on a power line should give me a call.

Richard Martin

With the price of stumpage up last year I have become inundated with requests for forestry assistance from the Agricultural Experiment Stations. The woodlands on these stations varies from high value overmature timber all the way to completely cutover upland hardwoods. It offers quite a challenge, but there is a great opportunity to demonstrate some of the techniques applicable to small landowners. I hope I can make an impact.

Somehow I managed to become responsible for obtaining enough equipment to handle the "double" summer camp this year. Ever try to borrow 22 transits, 22 levels, 22 level rods, 60 range poles . . . ? With the help of other Departments at Auburn, the Forest Service, and some from private companies, I think we will make it.

Art Nelson

I am teaching Forest Policy and Law again the Spring Quarter as Visiting Professor. This course, which was formerly taught during the Fall Quarter has been re-aligned to be taught as a "Capstone" course. Its main purpose is to give the students an awareness of current forest policy issues and controversies. Background information is developed on each issue. Some previous issues that have been resolved are studied to see how the resolution was obtained. Someone said this course ought to be entitled "Forestry in the Real World."

I am also acting as coordinator for the course on wood procurement. This course, which was pioneered by Auburn last year is a cooperative venture between the Alabama Forestry Association and the Department of Forestry. Ten industry specialists teach the ten class sessions, outlining their particular field of log and wood procurement. The course has proven to be very popular. Over fifty students are enrolled and the course has had to be moved to the auditorium in Comer Hall.

I spend Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at Auburn during the quarter. My stay during the Fall quarter was very enjoyable and I

appreciated the opportunity to get to know the faculty. The Spring Quarter promises to be just as enjoyable.

R. C. Tang

Since joining the Department of Forestry last March, I have spent considerable time in visiting and communication with forest related industries in the South and forest products research institutes in other states to exchange and collect research information needed for the development of Wood Science program in Auburn. I have submitted two research proposals, one to American Institute of Power Research and the other to the Department of Energy, and both of them are still under review. Last year, I had the opportunity to participate in summer camp. It was a very enjoyable experience and gave me chances to meet many of you and people from Alabama forest industries.

We are planning to expand our Wood Science and Technology program and to increase applied research in forest products and utilization at Auburn Forest Products Laboratory. If you or your company need technical assistance in Wood Technology and Utilization, please let us know.

Robert Tufts

I am happy to be a new member of the Department of Forestry faculty. My primary fields of interest are harvesting, mechanization, and forest engineering.

Since joining the staff in March I have been preparing to teach a course in surveying during summer camp. I am also working on a project to assess the reliability of mobile chippers and feller-bunchers, and helping Dr. Lanford on an evaluation of the Holder A-55 tractor.

In addition to this, I am completing my research requirements for a Ph.D. under Dr. T. A. Walbridge, Jr. at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.