

FORESTRY NEWSLETTER

April 1982

Dear Alumni:

It has been just about one year since the last Alumni Newsletter. During this period we have been extremely busy, but there have been very few changes in terms of faculty additions or departures. We have added two research associates to work in the Nursery and Silvicultural Co-ops. Pat Minogue joined us just about a year ago after finishing a Masters degree at NC State. Steve Knowe came aboard about the same time following completion of his Masters here. Steve has now departed for greener pastures with forest industry, so we are looking for a replacement. Other than these two research associates, which are not permanent positions and are tied to research grant funds, our faculty is the same as last year.

Over the past few years, the faculty has spend a considerable amount of time evaluating and revising the Department's undergraduate curricula in forest management, forest products, and forest engineering. We have also spent considerable effort in identifying, planning, and developing new research initiatives. We now seem to be pretty well settled into teaching the revised curricula and implementing the research plans.

Enrollment and employment are always of interest to alumni. Our undergraduate enrollment continues to decrease, but graduate enrollment is increasing. The decreasing undergraduate enrollment is due to a number of factors. The new curricula which the Department has adopted are quite rigorous, and the publicity about the depressed condition of the forest products industry is also contributing to low enrollment. As a faculty, we are not upset about undergraduate enrollment declines and we still have plenty of students. In terms of undergraduate enrollment we have gone from a peak of 377 in the Fall of 1976 to 190 last Fall, and 161 for the current quarter. In 1976, almost all of the undergraduate students were in forest management. Currently 118 are in forest management, with 4 in forest products and 39 in forest engineering. We think this diversity is healthy and together with the increasing graduate enrollment we feel our production of foresters, forest products specialists, and forest engineers is in line with what a normal market would take.

As you might suspect, this year is not a normal market. Graduates are having difficulty finding professional employment. While some are employed, there are not professional opportunities for all graduates. Anything you can do to help us out will be appreciated. We do not expect overt favoritism in hiring, but we would like to know about open positions. When we have had an opportunity to compete for jobs, our graduates have always done very well.

Over the past few months a number of you have expressed interest in having an Alumni meeting, perhaps a barbeque lunch, in conjunction with Homecoming. We are certainly receptive to any suggestions along these lines and would be pleased to work with the Departmental Alumni to establish such a function. If you are interested, please let the Department or the Forestry Alumni Officers know of your interest.

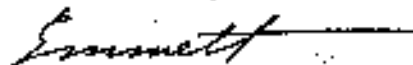
We have just undergone a very comprehensive review of our research program conducted by the Cooperative State Research Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. CSRS is the federal agency which oversees the McIntire-Stennis formula funds which go to the various states for forestry research. The Review Team was composed of five very knowledgeable individuals from throughout the United States. We had a good review and I am sure we will receive some very constructive suggestions when we receive the Team's final report. Concerning reviews, approximately one year from now, April 1983, we are scheduled for our periodic ten year accreditation review by the Society of American Foresters. We are not concerned about retaining accreditation and look forward to the SAF visit. This means our total program, both teaching and research, will have indepth outside reviews within a one year period.

One activity we are trying to push a little harder than in the past is continuing education for professionals. We are doing this through a series of workshops, many of which are conducted in conjunction with Forestry Update, Inc., a consulting firm. The most recent such workshop was on mechanized thinning. The next workshop is on financial analyses of forestry operations and will be held the third week in June. We send notices of these workshops to all Alabama registered foresters. If you are not getting the notices and would like to be on the mailing list, please drop us a line.

In the way of unfinished business, in the last newsletter I did convey the news that Professor Henry Posey had passed away. As I also indicated, we have set up a Henry Posey Memorial Fund. We are still receiving contributions to the fund which will be used to establish one or more undergraduate scholarships or awards in Mr. Posey's name. If you have not done so and would like to make a contribution, please send your check to the Department made out to the Henry Posey Memorial Fund.

Finally, I want to endorse the accompanying comments from Harrell Trice and Gene Sample. Let Harrell know what you think about initiating a distinguished alumnus award. If you can follow through on Gene's request for support of the Auburn Forestry Foundation, it will be greatly appreciated.

Best wishes,



Emmett F. Thompson
Department Head

From Your President

Activities of the Auburn Forestry Alumni Association have been rather sporadic during the past several months. We had a well-attended lunch meeting at the Alabama Chapter meeting of the SAF at Selma in the fall. Approximately 40 members and guests were present. Several students and quite a few professors from our Forestry Department were able to attend. It's always very encouraging to see our forestry students taking an active part in Society affairs and being concerned with the activities of the Forestry Alumni Association. I certainly hope all of them will become active members of the Association in the near future. Dr. Thompson brought us up to date on progress and problems within the Forestry Department.

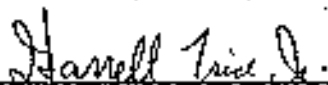
The Alumni Association sponsored a reception for Auburn Alumni at the National SAF meeting in Orlando in September. The reception was well-attended and enjoyed by all present. I was not able to attend; however, Dr. Thompson carried our banner in good fashion I understand.

In January at the Annual Southeastern Society of American Foresters meeting we enjoyed the facilities, sights and sounds of the Port City of Mobile. We had a good turnout at the breakfast meeting although the early morning hour did take it's toll. We were again happy to have as our guests a good student contingent. Several professors present added distinction to our sleepy group.

The Outstanding Senior Award was presented to Dale Dickens at the 1982 Forestry Awards Banquet in February at the Auburn Conference Center. The students are to be commended for another outstanding job. A portion of the Banquet is always allocated to a Faculty Roast — excellent performance! I only wish we had thought of this in the early 60's — very early!

We are presently discussing the possibility of initiating a Distinguished Alumni Award to be awarded annually to an alumnus who has made outstanding contributions to our profession during the past year. Thoughts now are to form a committee to select the recipient and to make the award at the Awards Banquet in Auburn each year. Your thoughts concerning this are certainly appreciated.

It comes to my attention that we as alumni are becoming slack and even downright negligent in submitting our Forestry Alumni dues. We need your active support and membership. The 1982 dues are now due. Please send \$5.00 directly to our Secretary/Treasurer, Frank Walburn, Route 7, Box 28, Selma, Alabama 36701.



Harrell Trice, Jr. ('62)

President

Auburn Forestry Alumni Association

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Harrell Trice, Jr. ('62)
President
Auburn Forestry Alumni Association

Auburn Alumni

FORESTRY NEWSLETTER

Fellow Auburn Alumni,

Through the years many of us have derived our livelihood from the practice of forestry as a profession. We obtained this professional status by having a school, which has strived throughout the years to maintain and improve the instruction of forestry practices and techniques, be it management, wood tech, or forest engineering.

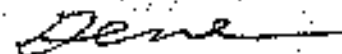
To insure that this level of instruction is maintained, the Auburn Forestry Alumni Association founded the Auburn Forestry Foundation to supplement the Department of Forestry of Auburn University with necessary unappropriated funds with which to purchase needed instructional equipment and/or material for the improvement of the teaching process.

The Auburn Forestry Foundation has established a Forestry Endowment Trust Fund for this purpose. This fund needs the active monetary support of all Auburn Forestry Alumni. The funds are restricted in use and are designed to strengthen Auburn forestry education.

We need your support NOW. Contact your employer about matching contributions to double the effort.

Send your contributions (no amount too small) to:

The Auburn Forestry Foundation
Department of Forestry
Auburn University, AL 36849



Eugene A. Sample, Jr.
President
Auburn Forestry Foundation

P.S. The contribution is TAX DEDUCTIBLE.