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# HUMBOLDT STATE FORESTRY ALUMNI

## **HSU APPOINTS NATURAL RESOURCES RECRUITER**

Arcata – Humboldt State University’s College of Natural Resources and Sciences (CNRS) has named Lisa Perry, Education Director of the California Forest Products Commission, to serve as Campus Recruiter and bolster the ranks of ethnically diverse students in natural resource careers.

The appointment of Ms. Perry, a specialist in delivering and administering K-12 natural resource education programs, stems from a partnership formed in April by Humboldt State and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service, Vallejo, Region 5-California, to increase the number of new students in forestry and other natural resource majors.

As Education Director at the California Forest Products Commission, which was created in 1990 to inform the public about science-based forestry practices and management, Ms. Perry has been responsible for outreach programs to K-12 classrooms that explore natural resource issues. A credentialed teacher, she has spent a great deal of time in the field researching complex forestry and related subjects.

Ms. Perry is an appointed member of the California Instructional Materials Advisory Panel (Science), which has acquainted her with the educational system at the local school, district and state levels.

In that capacity, she launched a Career and University Outreach Program to help arrest the declining enrollments in natural resource programs and the consequent shortage of qualified employees in allied professions.

Dr. James H. Howard, Dean of the CNRS, said Ms. Perry’s recruitment drive will increase young people’s awareness of natural resource career opportunities and also address opposing trend lines: a declining number of graduates in the field versus rising job demand for trained professionals.

“We are very excited to have someone with Lisa Perry’s experience and statewide connections join us in the College of Natural Resources and Sciences,” Dr. Howard said. “A big part of future growth of many of our academic programs will depend on educating the public about the great opportunities our students have and the rewards of helping to manage and protect California’s amazing natural treasures. This position is being jointly funded by our college, HSU’s Enrollment Management Office and the U.S. Forest Service. I am certain that all parties will see immediate benefits from the person we have selected.”

Readying to take up her new position at the Arcata campus on August 15, Ms. Perry said, “I look forward to recruiting the best and the brightest students to one of the finest natural resources and sciences programs in the state. I hope to make sure that students everywhere know about the incredible opportunities available in this state’s natural resource programs. Through an emphasis on outreach and programs that engage industry, agency and academic professionals, we can bring a large and talented pool of students to HSU.”

Humboldt State University  
Public Affairs

### **Vacancy Announcement:**

The HSU Forestry Alumni Association currently has an opening for the position of First Vice President. Other officer positions will be coming available at the first of the year. For further information, please contact us at:

*forestry\_alumni@humboldt.edu*



## **FORESTRY ALUMNI ASSOC. SCHOLARSHIP REVIVAL?**

Did you know that a forestry alumni sponsored scholarship was established in the 1970's? Yes, and for a few, short years, small amounts of money were awarded to deserving forestry students. The forestry department selected the awardees based on an application process. Maybe you were a lucky recipient! However, eventually contributions dried up, and since the scholarship requires annual funding, no further awards were made.

Today, the forestry alumni scholarship fund contains less than \$100, hardly enough to purchase a book or two, let alone significantly assist a needy student. This situation seems unworthy of an alumni group that has over 2700 graduates! Yes, there are other forestry scholarships that are available to forestry students, mostly started by other donors in memory of loved ones. But, don't you think we as a group are capable of providing annual funding to get the existing scholarship off the dime and going full bore again?

In fact, if we can get enough interest in this project, we could consider creating an endowed scholarship fund whereby the principal remains inviolate and only the investment earnings are used for the annual scholarship awards. One problem with that approach might be the HSU's new scholarship guidelines which specify a \$25,000 minimum for endowments. Although this amount seems pretty ambitious, this approach would preserve the scholarship in perpetuity, and the University will assist in designing a plan to achieve this goal .

Your HSU Forestry Alumni Association Board is currently looking into what can be done and we are asking for your input and active participation in the project. What do **you** want? Are you grateful for the opportunities your education provided? Do you have sufficient pride in the forestry profession to now help other students make the grade? Let us know through mail sent to the address found elsewhere in this newsletter or through emails to our address at: forestry\_alumni@humboldt.edu. We'll be waiting for your answer!

Ted Scheutte  
Class of 1960



## **GUIDING THE FUTURE OF THE DEPARTMENT**

At the last meeting between the Alumni Association officers and President Rollin Richmond and his administration, we were asked if the Association could play a role in providing a look into the future. As part of the ongoing program assessment, it will be very important to incorporate feedback from employers as to the specific skills and education that employers feel will be essential for foresters over the next five to fifteen years. This activity would be very consistent with our mission statement which emphasizes our support of the Department.

To accomplish the task, we formed a subcommittee consisting of Ken Fulgham, Gary Rynearson and myself to develop a plan. Our concept is to involve three entities in a workshop meeting to develop specific meaningful questions to be drafted into a mailer plus a mailing list to be sent to all types of forestry employers in the area. The three entities will be the Department faculty, the Forestry Alumni Association and the Forestry Advisory Committee. We will be looking for two members from each who will be able to set aside some time to attend a meeting of the group at the University. Ken Fulgham is attempting to find a convenient date and place for the gathering at this time. We will contact potential attendees after more details are known. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Ken, Gary or me.

Jim Brown  
Class of 1965

“...we were asked if the Association could play a role in providing a look into the future.”

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN FORESTRY & WILDLAND RESOURCES AT HSU?

The Forestry program's three new faculty, Chris Edgar, Andy Stubblefield and Han Sup Han, have completed their first year as members of the HSU Faculty. It was exciting to see their progress in teaching, service and scholarly pursuits. Their energy and scholarly interest bodes well for the continuing growth and success of the department.

As you may have noticed the header for my report is different and that reflects the request by the college administration to complete the merger of the programs of Forestry & Watershed Management and Rangeland Resources & Wildland Soils. At the faculty retreat in May we voted to call our collective programs the Department of Forestry and Wildland Resources. All degree options will remain in effect.

The pending retirement of Bill Bigg (December) and the unexpected departure of Chris Keyes to the University of Montana (research) will leave holes in the faculty and position requests to hire replacement faculty have been submitted. Also submitted was another request for the faculty position in Ecological Restoration (ENVS) and Wildland Soils. Potentially the department could be hiring three new faculty for the start date of August 2008. We still struggle to convince the upper administration of the importance to approve the search processes for the faculty positions in the department. Your continuing support for our collective efforts to get these position search processes approved is appreciated.

Enrollments continue to see small increases, especially in Forestry. My evaluation is that the student recruitment efforts focusing on the high school graduates needs to stress the interdisciplinary nature of a degree in forestry or rangeland resources. Students graduating from high school need to understand that a degree from our programs is focused on sustainable management of goods and services from forest lands and rangelands using sound ecologically based management decision making processes. At the graduate level we continue to deny admission to students as we have too many applicants. Each faculty member should have no more than 3-5 active graduate students for successful research endeavors and to maintain their teaching productivity at the undergraduate level.

The support of the HSU Forestry Alumni Association is essential for our success and the Forestry Recruitment Initiative is critical for sending students to our programs. The search process for the Natural Resources & Sciences Recruiter position is nearly completed and, if successful, the top candidate will have a huge impact on student recruitment for the 2008-2009 academic year. (*Refer to front page story*) As always, please encourage the President to continue his support for the Forestry and Wildland Resources.

K.O. (Ken) Fulgham  
Department Chair

## THE 2007 ANNUAL HSU FORESTRY ALUMNI WEEKEND WAS ONCE AGAIN A SUCCESS!

Friday evening was spent at a student/alumni mixer hosted by the HSU Forestry club. Saturday included a golf tournament as a benefit for the HSU Student Chapter of the Society of American Foresters, HSU's "Spring Preview", and our annual banquet with an engaging presentation by Lisa Perry of the California Forest Products Commission. The weekend finalized with a Sunday morning breakfast and planning session. We want to thank all of you that contributed towards making the weekend enjoyable.

Your Forestry Alumni Association also met with University administration during our Annual Alumni Weekend to discuss our ongoing role in efforts to increase enrollment in the Forestry Department. We were reminded of how much the University values and appreciates our student recruitment efforts and we realized that we are now a more respected voice in discussions concerning the Department. *Continued on page 5...*

"...we voted to call our collective programs the Department of Forestry and Wildland Resources."



## FACULTY PROFILE: DR. MORGAN VARNER

I joined Humboldt State University from the University of Florida, where I received my Ph.D. in 2005. I graduated from the University of Idaho with a B.S. in Forest Resources and received my M.S. in Forestry from Auburn University. My background has been focused on the use of prescribed fire in forest management, with experience throughout the southeastern US with the Department of Defense, USDA Forest Service, The Nature Conservancy, and the State of Florida.

Since arriving at HSU, I have taught and advised students in the increasingly popular Wildland Fire Management option. I typically teach courses in fire behavior (FOR 323; every fall), fire use (FOR 422), wildland fuels management (FOR 423; every spring), and the introductory forestry course each spring (FOR 116). I have also taught forest ecology (2004-05), applied forest ecology (2006-2007), and seminars in wildland fire management and ecology, climate change and fire, and fire in redwood forests. I advise the Student Association of Fire Ecologists (S.A.F.E). My courses are all field-based, with recent trips to the 2003 Canoe Fire, Biscuit Fire in southern Oregon, as well as to prescribed fires at Redwood National Park. I am always looking for great field sites that furnish lessons in fuels and fire management.

My research program at HSU has been focused on helping fire managers with applied problems. The focus of my Ph.D. work was on post-fire conifer mortality, a subject I continue to work on in California. At HSU, my primary research has been on fuels generated by mechanical mastication. In collaboration with Forest Service researchers in Redding and managers region-wide, two of my graduate students (Jeffrey Kane and Jesse Kreye (BS '04) are evaluating fuel loading, vegetation response, drying rates, and fire behavior in 10 masticated sites in northern California and southern Oregon. Jeff and Jesse have presented their research findings at local, regional, and national meetings in California, Oregon, and Florida. Brad Graham (BS '02), another graduate student in my lab, is working on downed fuel loading in old-growth redwood stands across the North Coast. Other research includes the response of fuels grown at elevated CO<sub>2</sub> (Duke Forest, North Carolina), long-term post-fire pine mortality (Alabama, Florida, and Georgia), and the effects of thinning on fuels and future fire behavior. Since arriving at HSU, my research has been published in the *Canadian Journal of Forest Research*, *Restoration Ecology*, *Fire Management Today*, *Northwest Science*, and *Forest Ecology and Management*.

Rachel, my wife (also a University of Florida graduate and now a freelance agricultural researcher), my three daughters Zoe (12), Maya (3), and Clara (19 mos.), and I live in Arcata. We can be found in our garden, or out at Saturday Farmer's Markets, playing on the beach, or drying out on rocks along the Trinity River on foggy Humboldt days.

I am a very enthusiastic member of our changing faculty and would like to encourage you to contact me to discuss wildland fire, the changing Forestry landscape, or your favorite grits recipe.



Meet  
Dr. Morgan  
Varner...

## !!!UPCOMING EVENTS!!!

### HSU HOMECOMING

Join us during HSU's Homecoming celebration on Saturday, October 13th at the Fiesta Café in Sunnybrae from 3-6pm before the football game. More details will follow on our website.

### SAF CONVENTION

"Your HSU Forestry Alumni will be hosting a reception during the upcoming SAF National Convention in Portland, Oregon on Wednesday, October 24th at the Rockbottom Brewery in downtown Portland.



## IT'S QUIZ TIME!

Let's take a little quiz. Answer each question with a "Yes" or "No":

1. When asked where you went to college, do you take pride in the fact you can answer "Humboldt State"?
2. Do you ever look back on the time you spent at HSU and have fond memories of the things you learned or people you met?
3. Have you ever wondered what some of your old classmates or instructors are currently doing?
4. Has the fact that you are an HSU graduate ever positively influenced the outcome of a job interview or promotion for you?
5. Have you ever been concerned about the direction that forestry programs at HSU are heading?
6. Do you have concerns about where future forestry professionals are going to come from?
7. Do you believe that quality professors should be hired and retained by the Administration?

"Perhaps now is the time for you to join and participate in your Forestry Alumni Association. "

If you answered "yes" to any of the above questions, you should be a member of the HSU Forestry Alumni Association. While these are just a few of the topics that the Alumni Association is involved in, they are very important in helping HSU to retain its standing as one of the best forestry programs in the country.

We are pleased with the growth the Forestry Chapter has seen recently. We have gone from fewer than 50 members to almost 90 in just the past year. The HSU Administration has singled out our chapter as a "model" for other chapters to emulate. Nevertheless, we still have a lot of work to do and we need your help. There truly is "strength in numbers". Perhaps now is the time for you to join and participate in your Forestry Alumni Association. It is easy to join and important to serve. Besides, we're a fun group! Just follow this link: <http://www.humboldt.edu/~alumni/join.html>. We look forward to seeing you at the next event!

Jay Francis

Class of 1984

## SUCCESS CONTINUED...

Throughout this next year we will continue to remind the University administration, as they deal with budget issues once again, on the importance of preserving Humboldt's SAF accreditation by maintaining the minimum number of faculty and by reminding them of the importance of Forestry as a profession. We will be asking for your help once again when we hold another letter campaign this fall to encourage the University to replace retiring faculty, as our previous efforts proved to be such a success. We are disappointed that we must again push for this effort, but we can all see the Forestry Department rebounding thanks to the great leadership of Ken Fulgham and the recruiting efforts of our alumni, and we must continue to remind the University that **NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO REDUCE THE DEPARTMENT'S FUNDING!**

Throughout this next year we will also work with the Natural Resources Recruiter, Lisa Perry, by helping her promote the benefits of a career in Forestry so that she can better encourage students to enroll in the Department. We will continue to maintain an open dialogue with Department faculty so they are kept abreast of our efforts and to ensure they agree with our positions.

We are proud of the work we accomplished last year, but we must continue to remain a strong voice in Arcata! Thank you for supporting the Humboldt State Forestry Alumni Association, and if you are not a member, please **JOIN NOW!**

Elizabeth Hadley

Class of 2000



*HSU Forestry Alumni Association  
Humboldt State University  
1 Harpst St.  
Arcata, CA  
95521*

*The Humboldt State University Forestry Alumni Chapter was established to support the Department of Forestry and Watershed Management. The Chapter aims to provide a source of expertise to the students and faculty, and to provide for the fellowship of the alumni, students and faculty of the department.*

*Yes, I'd like to join...  
the Forestry Alumni Chapter  
of the  
HSU Alumni Association*

- Annual HSUAA and Forestry Alumni Chapter Membership: \$45  
(includes HSUAA membership)
- Annual HSUAA Membership: \$35
- Life HSUAA Membership: \$400
- Annual Forestry Alumni Chapter Membership for current Life or current Annual HSUAA Members: \$10  
(must be an HSUAA member to join the Chapter)
- Forestry Alumni Chapter 3-Year Plan: \$105  
(includes HSUAA membership)
- Forestry Alumni Chapter Life Membership: \$150  
(Open to all Life Members of the HSUAA)  
\*Spousal rates available, please contact the HSUAA

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Major & Year graduated HSU \_\_\_\_\_

Tell us what you've been up to \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you!*

**Please** make checks payable to: **HSUAA**  
and mail this form to:

**HSU Forestry Alumni Association  
c/o Department of Forestry & Watershed Management  
Humboldt State University**