

HUMBOLDT STATE FORESTRY ALUMNI

Spring 2012



1 Harpst Street, Arcata, CA 95521

www.humboldt.edu/fwr/alumni

forestryalum@humboldt.edu

Honolulu Came and Went

By Whitney Schimke

In November, the HSU SAF Quiz Bowl team traveled to Hawaii to attend the National SAF Convention and compete in the annual Quiz Bowl. The team was comprised of four competitors, Sam Tenneson (senior), Whitney Schimke (senior), Kate Williams (senior), and Alexander Taylor (junior); and two alternates who served as scorekeepers during the competition, Shelly Raines (sophomore) and Rick Shurtz (junior). The HSU team made it through the first round of single elimination competition, but were beat out by one question in the second round; who knew that the judges (HSU Alum!) would be picky enough to not accept “overland flow” as the correct answer for “Hortonian overland flow”. Nonetheless, the team was well prepared and did better than the previous year. While in attendance at the convention, the students were able to attend

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Honolulu Came and Went	1
News from the CNRS Recruiter	1
Update: HSU FWR Department	2
Humboldt State Forester, an adventure of a lifetime	2
A Life Celebrated and Remembered, Joan Pierson	3
Alumni in the News	4
Alum Issues Challenge	4

lectures focused on global forestry, interview with the Forest Service for jobs (two students were even offered permanent positions), and meet forestry professionals and Humboldt Alumni alike. One evening during the convention, an impromptu alumni reception was held, about 10 HSU alumni and the 6 students were in attendance along with two current HSU professors. The reception was a wonderful time for the students to interact with alumni, learn some tricks of the trade, and make professional connections to the world of forestry.

News from the CNRS Recruiter

By Lisa Perry

While I normally start notices like this by sending greetings from campus, truthfully as you read this I will most likely be on the road promoting our great programs. This fall I traveled all over Northern California, Oregon and even Alaska to talk about our great Natural Resource programs, and interest in Forestry remains high. It's still the program that many students, counselors and parents think of when they think of Humboldt. In addition to my work, I work extensively with the rest of the Admissions staff to keep them up to

date on all of the exciting things happening on “this side of campus.” We are so excited to have hired a full time regional recruiter in the Los Angeles area and the applications from that area are higher than ever. We are seeing more and more interest in Natural Resource programs from these urban areas, very exciting.

If any of you would be interested in presenting to classrooms or other groups, let me know. I can provide handouts, campus material and

Please see *Recruiter* on page 5

Update: HSU Forestry and Wildland Resources Department

By Ken Fulgham and Megan Parker

Much is in the works this year with student enrollments, faculty grants and contracts, graduate student enrollment, and gifting to the University. Two new faculty searches are in progress. The Forest Policy–Economics–Administration position is partially funded by the California forest landowners and producers, and candidates are currently being evaluated. The Department will also be seeking a replacement for Morgan Varner who currently fills the Wildland Fire Ecology and Management position. Additionally the Department will be submitting a second request to the University to fill the Mensuration–

Measurements–Biometrics position. This position is of special importance as the Society of American Foresters accreditation program for forestry schools requires this post. The SAF audit for the Department is approaching next year and the Forestry Alumni are helping out however they can to ensure everything is prepared. Ken Fulgham, Department Chair, is now a National Director on the Society for Range Management Board of Directors, and has been working hard to keep the Department in order, and keep HSU as a front running institute for Forestry and Wildland Resources.

Humboldt State Forester, an adventure of a lifetime

By Megan Parker

Forestry, as well all know, is full of amazing experiences. Whether it be viewing a majestic landscape from an exposed ridge top, a stand-off with a black bear, or falling an old dry snag that just happened to spark off next to your burn, there are some incredible adventures to be had. Sharing those adventures with others is half the fun. If you have an adventure that needs to be told we would love to hear about it. Alumni Colin Chambers and Ryan Bellanca have already shared their adventures, read on...

*To see more adventure photos
see us in Facebook or visit
www.humboldt.edu/fwr/alumni*

A picture says a thousand words. This fantastic photograph taken by Colin Chambers in Alaska last year doesn't need many more words. Working with a Columbia helicopter crew, Chambers has been able to work in 7 different states in just one year!



Photo taken by Colin Chambers (Class of '07) while Bull Bucking on Prince of Wales Island in Alaska for Columbia Helicopters.

Please see *Adventure* on page 5

A Life Celebrated and Remembered, Joan Pierson

Joan Margaret Howell Pierson passed away peacefully at her home in Arcata on February 4th, at the age of 86. Joan was born on February 28, 1925, in Grants Pass, Oregon, to Herbert and Margaret Howell. As a youngster, Joan was a Girl Scout and excelled in 4-H, winning many blue ribbons for her cooking, sewing and leadership projects. Growing up during the 1930s Depression Era helped shape her life. As a result, she cherished the opportunity to obtain a college degree and have a professional career. Joan attended Oregon State College (now University), in Corvallis, Oregon, and graduated in 1947 with a bachelor's degree in Home Economics. In 1950 she moved to Corvallis, Oregon to work for the Oregon Cooperative Extension Service. Her supervisor and mentor was Miss Esther Taskerud, who strongly encouraged Joan to apply for a national 4-H fellowship to attend graduate school. Joan was the recipient of this national honor and earned a master's degree in education in 1952 from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. On July 5, 1953, Joan married Edwin Walter Pierson, at the John Jacob Astor Experiment Station just outside Astoria. The Pierson family moved to Arcata, California, in August 1953 as Ed was hired to start a two-year forestry program at Humboldt State College (now University). Joan became a local celebrity doing television commercials and hosting her own cooking show. She enjoyed trying out different recipes with her family first before sharing with her television viewers, and her enthusiasm and professionalism made her a natural in the early days of television. Her media pursuits continued when the Pierson family moved to Corvallis for one-year stints on two separate occasions so Ed could pursue a Ph.D. in forestry at OSU. During

one of those sabbaticals Joan hosted her own radio program on KOAC Public Radio at Oregon State University. Joan was a professor of home economics at Humboldt State University from 1969 through 1983 where she inspired countless students to achieve their dreams. She took great joy in learning of her students' successes and always encouraged them to find their passion so they could create a healthy and happy life for themselves. In their later years, Joan and Ed enjoyed international travel, and fishing trips to favorite sites like Flaming Gorge in Utah, and many spots in Canada. Together they created a beautiful summer retreat for their family that included an A-frame cabin in the Trinity Alps of northern California, and spent many summers there enjoying the wilderness. Joan and Ed were also thrilled to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on July 5, 2003. Ed passed away on December 9, 2003 at the age of 86. A celebration of Joan's life was held on February 10th and was well attended by those who had known Joan in any one of her many capacities through her long and rich life. Her daughter Kim provided an insightful summary of Joan's life as a mother and wife. She shared a story of her mother attending a Grateful Dead concert to better understand why one of her children was always following the Dead. The wife of another faculty member that came to HSU about the same time as the Pierson's shared stories of the early days when the departments were just being organized. Joan was a true partner to Ed as he built the foundation for the Forestry Department. The Edwin and Joan Pierson Forestry Endowment at Humboldt State University is receiving memorial contributions to enable future students the opportunity to learn and succeed.

Alumni in the News

**Diane Rubiaco (Class of '90)
Named Deputy Forest Supervisor
in North Carolina for the USDA
Forest Service**

As deputy forest supervisor, Rubiaco will assist in overseeing and managing all Forest Service operations of the National Forest System in North Carolina, which include the Croatan, Nantahala, Pisgah, and Uwharrie National Forests. Holding more than 30 years of experience with the Forest Service, Rubiaco will be an asset to the forest leadership team. Additionally she is the first Native American to be posted on the North Carolina National Forests leadership team.

**William Lansing (Class of '67)
Named Oregon Bay Area
Chamber of Commerce's Citizen
of the Year**

Each year, the Oregon Bay Area Chamber of Commerce chooses a citizen who has made the Bay Area a better place to live by consistently giving their time, energy and resources. Lansing was named this year's recipient at its annual awards dinner.

After growing up a farm boy in California, Lansing earned good grades at Humboldt State University studying forestry management and was recruited to Yale University's graduate program on a full scholarship. He has been on countless community-shaping boards and committees, and he has volunteered with local organizations. But Lansing is most proud of the work he has done throughout his life promoting relevancy in education.

**Mary Farnsworth (Class of '89)
New supervisor for the Idaho
Panhandle National Forests in
Coeur d'Alene**

A native of San Diego, Farnsworth earned a forestry management degree from Humboldt State University. She has worked in wildfire management on several forests and had an assignment with the National Fire Plan coordinator in Washington, D.C. Prior to moving into her new position in the Idaho Panhandle, she held the deputy forest supervisor post on the Deschutes National Forest in Oregon.

Alum Issues Challenge

Robert "Bob" Archibald received his diploma in 1959 as part of the first class of four-year graduates from HSU's Forestry program. From his home in Arizona he has made an incredible pledge. Archibald is making a five year commitment to donate \$1,000 annually to the HSU Forestry Alumni Scholarship Endowment. Each year he donates will be a "matching challenge" for other alumni to contribute to the endowment. Gifts like this and matching donations don't just provide opportunities for students through scholarships, they send a message to the administration that there is a huge amount of support for the forestry program and people are willing to give some of their hard earned cash to keep it a strong part of the University. Accept Archibald's challenge, follow his lead and donate today.

Please send donates to : HSU Forestry Alumni Scholarship Endowment, Dept. of Forestry and Wildland Resources, 1 Harpst St., Arcata CA 95521

Adventure from page 2

*"...they came up to me
shook my hand and said,
'you do good work here!'"*

Hit hard by the economic downturn, forestry alum Ryan Bellanca chose to turn things around by starting his own business. Bella Forestry Services was born in 2009 to provide fire prevention planning and implementation to landowners of every size. Little did he know he would quickly become a traveling gypsy forester roaming the west with a drip torch, chainsaw, and Type 7 engine.

In April last year Bellanca received a phone call for a 'soon to be memorable' job in Trinity County. "When I arrived it was dusk, and I was greeted with semi cold beers and venison stew which may have been on the stove a couple of days already. The kicker was there was only a small generator to power the home, running water some of the time but a view from the deck that was worth a million dollars." Bellanca settled into a tipi in back of the house. "I ended up staying in the Tipi, for what started out as a couple of days then quickly turned into 3 weeks." He cut and prepped piles for next burn window. By the end of May he had finished 5 acres and was looking at approximately 50 burn piles of thick manzanita, Ponderosa pine and mixed oak. "We were at 3500 foot elevation and the weather was holding at about 85 degrees. We were out of prescription and there was not going to be any change in the weather which we figured would be November." He packed up and made the long drive home, planning to return later in the year to start burning. After just two days it happened, "Rain in June. I called the landowner and let him know I would be back sooner than expected." He was able to burn through most of June setting

every pile alight. "The weather was just wet enough to let each pile creep out and stay within a manageable under burn. What was accomplished turned out to be one of the most beautiful projects I have ever been a part of." During the burn he also had some unexpected and well-traveled visitors. A band of Tuvan throat singers stopped in for a weekend. "They were amazingly talented and played all day in the tipi and around the property." This style of music comes from the Tuva people in Siberia. Bellanca recounts that, "they liked staying there because it reminded them of their grandparents ranch and a more simple way of living back home." Though they didn't speak much English they managed to compliment Bellanca before leaving, "...they came up to me shook my hand and said, 'you do good work here!'"

This won't be the last adventure for Bellanca as he states, "We aren't making millions of dollars at Bella Forestry, but we are putting fire back on the landscape, having epic adventures and gaining countless experiences never imagined, and meeting new people who love and value the forest. For me, that's what forestry and fire management is all about."

...Recruiter from page 1

presentation or activity ideas. Please also feel free to contact me or distribute my contact information if you know of an opportunity to "spread the word." I'll be traveling statewide this Spring, and again in the Fall, and would love an excuse to work in your area, or talk to any interested students or teachers.

Contact the CNRS Recruiter:

Lisa Perry

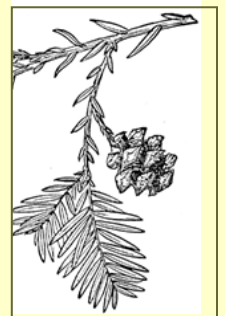
Direct line:

(707) 826-3273

Toll Free:

(866) 850-9556

lap36@humboldt.edu



Yes, I'd like to join...

**THE FORESTRY ALUMNI
CHAPTER OF THE HSU
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION!**

*Please make checks payable to:
HSU Alumni Association
c/o Forestry and Wildland
Resources Department,*

*Humboldt State University
1 Harpst Street
Arcata, CA 95521
(707)826-3935*

Follow us on Facebook



Visit us at:

www.humboldt.edu/fwr/alumni

- Annual Individual (HSUAA and Forestry Chapter): \$45
- 3-Year Individual (HSUAA and Forestry Chapter): \$105
- Lifetime Individual (HSUAA and Forestry Chapter): \$550

HSUAA Life Members may choose:

- Forestry Chapter Annual: \$10
- Forestry Chapter Life: \$150

*Spousal rates available, please contact Alumni Relations 707.826.3132

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Major & Year graduated HSU: _____

Tell us what you've been up to: _____

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.



HSU Forestry Alumni
1 Harpst Street
Arcata, CA 95521

