

InsideESF

The Magazine of the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry

On the Trail of the Snow Leopard

Amid sweeping vistas in Siberia,
ESF researchers search for one elusive cat



ESF senior Tina Elliott helps supervise the Loon Drive that was part of the Adirondack Interpretive Center's celebration of its first year under ESF leadership. The Loon Drive, a race featuring specially designed rubber loons, raised funds for educational programs at the AIC. It was part of a daylong event called Loons and Logs that focused on two iconic symbols of human and natural history in the Adirondacks.

Photo by Kristin Pasquino



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Dean of Students Anne Lombard shares her love of water and baking in a Q&A.



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ESF researchers are working to save the endangered snow leopards in Siberia.



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Musical talent abounds within the hallways of ESF – all you have to do is listen.



On the cover: Taking a break for lunch during fieldwork in Siberia are from left, James Gibbs, Jabi Zabala, Meredith Atwood, Jacqueline Frair, Sergei Abramov, Elizabeth Hunter and Sergei Spitsyn.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We invite letters to the editor.* You can email your comments to InsideESF@esf.edu or mail them to us at:

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13210-2778.

*Inside ESF reserves the right to edit letters for content or length.



Members of the ESF community work year round to keep alumni and friends informed about what's going on. To keep current with specific areas of interest, check out these regularly updated blogs:

Department of Environmental Resources Engineering
<http://engineering.wordpress.com/>

Adirondack Interpretive Center
<http://esfaic.wordpress.com/>

Green Campus Initiative
<http://greencampusinitiative.wordpress.com/>

SU-ESF Food Co-op
<http://greencampusinitiative.wordpress.com/>

Outreach <http://esfoutreach.wordpress.com/>

InsideESF

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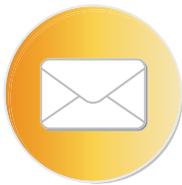
Dee Klees

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ESF Centennial issue an 'outstanding' job

To the Editor,

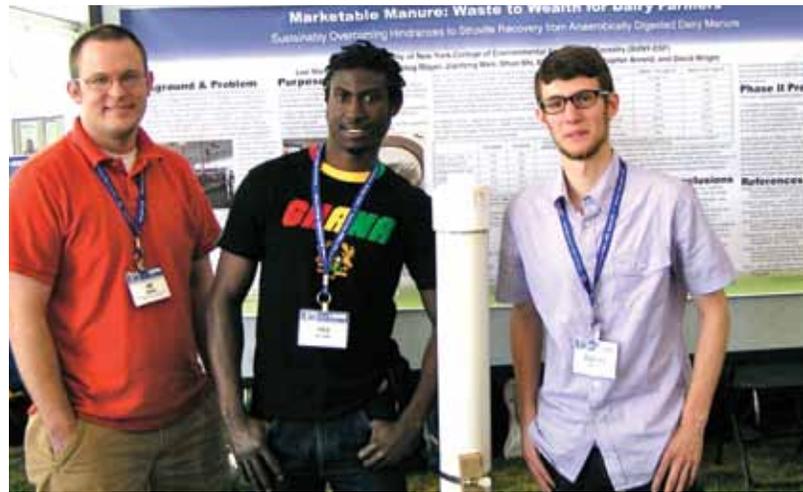
Congratulations to all your staff for compiling an outstanding publication celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of ESF. I received my copy shortly before the Christmas holiday and immediately took the opportunity to spend some time reviewing the history of our great college.

Like many alumni I expected to see photos and segments that I could relate to my years at the College of Forestry. My greatest surprise was the very first photo, on Page 2. The young man at the extreme left in the photo is a very familiar face. It is my father, Milton R. Hick, class of 1920. Needless to say, I then went to an old photo album and spent the remainder of the afternoon reviewing old pictures of his time at the College and reading the various segments of the Centennial issue. As I reflect on my father's career and my life since attending ESF, I realize that our family has been a part of 95 years of the 100-year story of ESF. It has been a great relationship and I know neither he nor I ever had any regrets regarding our opportunity to be members of the ESF family.

I'm certain that my experience when reading the Centennial issue is not unique. The many photos and write-ups will be instant recall to anyone who has ever attended ESF, regardless of the time period. You have done a great job of presenting a century of evolution in environmental practice from a small state school with a handful of students to a world-class institution.

Best regards,
Robert M. Hick
ESF 1954/58

ERE team earns \$90,000 from EPA



From left, Lee Martin, Fred Agyeman and Doug Mayer.

A team of ESF students has been awarded \$90,000 in funding to assess the marketability of a fertilizer that could be recovered from animal manure.

The ESF team was chosen to receive the grant through its participation in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's People, Prosperity and the Planet (P3) Student Design Competition for Sustainability.

The team members, all students in ESF's Department of Environmental Resources Engineering, are graduate students Doug Mayer and Fred Agyeman and Lee Martin, who earned his M.P.S. degree from ESF in December. The teams were chosen for the awards after their participation in the 8th Annual National Sustainable Design Expo on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. The P3 award competition was held at the expo, providing an opportunity for the students to

showcase their sustainable projects designed to protect the environment, encourage economic growth and use natural resources more efficiently.

The ESF students focused their attention on dairy manure, which is often used as a liquid fertilizer that can contaminate surface water and groundwater.

The students' advisor, Dr. Wendong Tao of the ESF Department of Environmental Resources Engineering, said he and the students are developing a low-cost technology to recover the rich phosphorus and nitrogen in dairy manure and produce a solid fertilizer called struvite. The process uses a waste product, electric arc furnace slag, in the production. The resulting struvite pellets constitute a slow-release fertilizer that can be marketed for crop production, aquaculture, and horticulture.

ESF Woodsmen claim wins in spring meet

The ESF Woodsmen's Team won both the men's and women's championships in the final timber sports competition of the academic year, topping a large field at the annual northeastern spring meet.

Team President David Andrews won the northeast Stihl Timbersports Collegiate Challenge and qualified to compete in the national collegiate championship in June.

"We both came out on top, both the men and the women," Andrews said. "We're just incredibly happy, ecstatic."

Members of the men's team were Ian Freeburg, Pat Craner, Alex Jacobson, Max Weisner, Jason Schenck and Andrews. Paul Scannapieco was the alternate; team member Mike Eveland was injured and unable to compete at Dartmouth. Competing for the women were Natalie Scheibel,

Alexandra von Bieberstein, Jess Nicholas, Shannon Hennessey, Cassandra Pinkoski and Mariah Taylor. Miranda Nunn was the alternate.

After the team competition, attention focused on the Stihl Timbersports Series event for individual competitors. Scheibel, who graduated in May, represented ESF and placed third overall. Andrews, also a member of the Class of 2012, took the men's title, earning a spot in the national championship in June. The event is expected to be televised at 7:30 p.m. July 20 on ESPNU. In addition, Stihl, a manufacturer of handheld outdoor power equipment, will make a \$1,000 donation to the ESF Woodsmen's Team.

The team is coached by alumnus Matthew Marks '07, who competes professionally in the Mid-Atlantic Stihl Timbersports Series.

Turner's team gets grant for termite research

ESF Professor J. Scott Turner is the lead scientist on an international team of researchers that has received a \$1.35 million grant to explore the basic science of the structure and function of termite mounds.

The funding from the Human Frontiers Science Program (HFSP) builds on Turner's pioneering research on the famous mound-building termites of southern Africa.

These termites have long been an inspiration for biomimetic architecture, which seeks to harness wind to control climate in buildings by emulating these termites' mounds. Architects are currently hampered in these goals by a lack of basic knowledge of how these mounds actually work and how termites work together in swarms to build the complex architecture that underlies the mound's function.

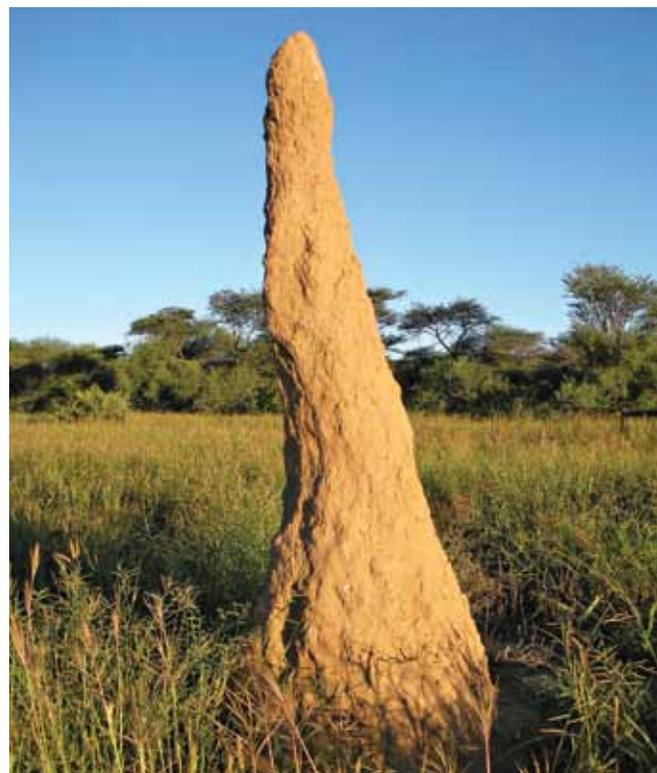
The current project is titled "From swarm intelligence to living buildings: Novel concepts of managing internal climates."

It will explore the basic science of termite mound structure and function, including advanced fluid mechanics, robotics, engineering and robotic construction methods, the neurobiology of insect swarms, and ecology and natural history of termites.

The team of scientists and engineers includes Dr. L. Mahadevan of Harvard University's Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering (fluid mechanics and robotics), Dr. Rupert Soar of Greenwich University in England (engineering and robotic construction), Dr. Sanjay Sane of the National Centre for Biological Sciences in Bangalore, India (insect swarms); and Dr. Eugene Marais of the National Museum of Namibia (ecology and natural history of termites).

The HFSP is a European Union initiative that promotes innovative, collaborative research at the forefront of science and engineering.

To learn more about Turner's research go to www.esf.edu/efb/turner/termitePages/termiteMain.html.



Termite mounds like this one are the focus of a \$1.35 million project funded by the Human Frontiers Science Program. Dr. J. Scott Turner of ESF is the lead scientist on the project, which will study the basic science of the structure and function of termite mounds.



Time capsule includes students' hopes for Earth

What kind of place will Earth be in another 25 years? The answers offered by ESF students as part of an Earth Week 2012 project reflect their hopes for balance, education and sustainability.

The students' comments were incorporated into a video that was placed in a time capsule and sealed shut April 17 during Earth Week. In 25 years, when the capsule is opened, those same students will be invited back to campus to see how many of their concerns were addressed.

Among 25 students interviewed by fellow students, three main

themes emerged: balancing human need with the environment, educating people about environmental concerns, and finding environmentally sustainable solutions to fossil fuel usage. Concerns about clean water, clean food, clean fuel and protection of wildlife and natural resources rounded out the comments.

The idea for the time capsule came from ESF students. It will be placed in a special glass-enclosed setting planned for ESF's new Gateway Center, where it will remain until ESF's Alumni and Family Fall Barbecue Weekend and Reunion in October 2037.



'Century in the Forest' tells Ranger School's story

Tales of building a school in the wilderness, working through hard times to meet the needs of each new era, fill the 200-plus pages of "The Ranger School: A Century in the Forest." The book, due out in July, is part of the preparation for the centennial celebration at SUNY-ESF's Ranger School at Wanakena, said Brad Woodward, chairman of the centennial committee and an editor of the book.

This compilation of 100 years of writing about the school in the Adirondacks was pulled together by three editors: Jim Coufal, class of 1957; Arnie Lankton, class of 1953; and Woodward, said Ranger School Director and Professor Christopher Westbrook, speaking from his office overlooking the Oswegatchie River inlet to Cranberry Lake.

Selections were primarily drawn from the alumni newsletter and previous histories plus a few new pieces written to fill gaps, said Coufal, a retired professor and former director of the school. It includes accounts written by the first female and African-American students.

Reading selections for the book provided an opportunity to share the adventures of his predecessors, said Woodward, a relative newcomer to the Ranger School, who serves as food service director.

"The one that sticks out in my mind is the piece by Harold Colburn written in the 1930s," he said.

Colburn was a member of the Ranger School's first class. He describes coming up the Oswegatchie River in 1912 looking for the Ranger School and then realizing there was absolutely nothing to find but trees. The class of 1912-13 raised the first structure for the school, and each class has built upon that to claim bragging rights for surviving tougher conditions than their successors.

The book's more than 70 photos document how the school has grown from that first shed, and later tent dormitories, to its current groomed grounds and masonry structure housing classrooms and living space for up to 100 students, staff and faculty. While facilities improve, the work is still rigorous, Coufal said.

"It's 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m. seven days in all kinds of weather from snow in the winter into the black flies and punkies (no-see-ums) of spring and summer," he said.

The 2012 class of 58 students is the largest in Westbrook's 23 years at the school, he said. They join a tight-knit community of between 4,000 and 5,000 graduates who have lived and worked in all 50 states and several foreign countries.

The book is expected to be available through Amazon.com, at the SUNY-ESF campus in Syracuse and at the Wanakena General Store, Woodward said.

—By Dee Klees

Internships with DEC benefit ESF students

ESF undergraduate Gennaro Falco spent last summer scrutinizing the undersides of hemlock needles for evidence of the invasive hemlock woolly adelgid. At the same time, classmate Lauren Stevens was busy developing marketing ideas for a state tree nursery that was established in Saratoga a century ago. And Patrick Hulle was on the front lines of New York's battle against an invasive pest that has already destroyed more than 50 million ash trees in the United States.

The common thread running through their experiences is a successful internship program that pairs ESF undergraduates and graduate students with summer internships offered by the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

"I enjoyed the program," said Falco, a senior forest health major from Oneonta, whose internship was based in the Catskills. "It gave me a new outlook on job opportunities and a new perspective on forest health beyond the academic work we do here at ESF. It was definitely a good experience. I'd recommend it to anyone."

This summer, up to 42 graduate and undergraduate students were to be hired to work with the DEC's Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources. Approximately 18 more internships were available for students to work in the area of forest health through the DEC's Division of Lands and Forests.

"The DEC gets a lot of help from us. Part of it is the agency's recognition of the value our students bring to these projects, and part of it is the cost-effectiveness for the DEC to have students on the staff for the summer," said Dr. James P. Gibbs, an ESF conservation biologist who is one of three faculty members leading the partnership with the DEC.

The fish and wildlife internships were created through a program that began in 2008, when the College and the DEC acknowledged their mutual interest in developing expertise and conducting research in the field. The forest health internships were launched last year.

From the top, Gennaro Falco, Lauren Stevens and Patrick Hulle.



ESF returns American chestnut to New York City



The once-mighty American chestnut tree, which was virtually wiped out by a pathogenic fungus that arrived in New York City more than 100 years ago, returned this spring to the area where the blight was first discovered in the Bronx.

ESF researchers, with supporters from The American Chestnut Foundation, planted 10 transgenic American chestnut trees at a test site in The New York Botanical Garden April 18. The scientists say there is reason to believe this field trial will reveal a variety of American chestnut that can survive a blight attack.

Dozens of people gathered at the Botanical Garden for the event, including ESF alumni, staff members who have worked with Powell

and Maynard, and those affiliated with companies and organizations that have helped support the research.

"We've been working on this for a long time and are looking at many genes. One particular gene has become my favorite," said Dr. William Powell, a plant biotechnology expert at ESF. "And over the years it has convinced me that this gene is going to do the trick."

Powell and his colleague, Dr. Charles Maynard, a tree improvement specialist, are enthusiastic about a gene derived from wheat that they have shown to increase resistance to a fungal pathogen in hybrid poplar. Powell and Maynard believe this gene will also be effective in the American chestnut because it detoxifies the oxalic acid produced by the blight pathogen. Oxalic acid kills the trees

by attacking the cambium, the part of the tree that allows it to continue reproducing cells. A canker forms and everything above the canker dies. The roots can remain healthy and continue to send up shoots but the trees die back to ground level within a few years.

"If we can eliminate the oxalic acid, we probably will get a resistant tree," Powell said.

The American chestnut was once a dominant species in the forests of the eastern United States; it accounted for 25 percent of the trees in the forest. A healthy one can grow more than 100 feet tall and measure 10 feet in diameter.

"This was a key species in the eastern forest. It was super at producing nuts for wildlife; very important for agriculture for human consumption of the nuts; very important for the lumber industry, making a rot-resistant, fast-growing wood product; and it was an important part of our history," Powell said. "We really want to bring it back. The only way it can come back is to make a resistant tree because no one has been able to control the blight any other way."

The location of the planting is significant.

"We're very excited to go back to The New York Botanical Garden because that's a stone's throw, literally across the street, from where the blight was discovered in 1904," Maynard said.

Powell and Maynard, who describe themselves as the third generation of scientists searching for a solution, have conducted their research through the American Chestnut Research and Restoration Program at ESF, with support from the New York chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation, the Forest Health Initiative, ArborGen and many others. They were the first research team to run field trials of transgenic varieties.

The trees planted at the Botanical Garden are among more than 100 varieties of transgenic American chestnuts that are being tested in field trials or waiting to be tested for blight resistance.



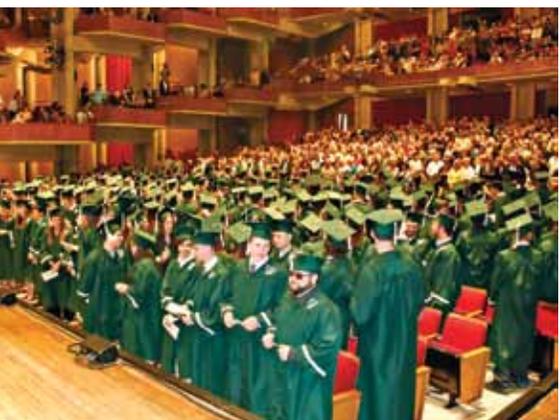
At top, Dr. Charles Maynard takes matters into his own hands as chestnuts are planted.

Dr. William Powell, far left, and Dr. Charles Maynard, left of tree, gather at the planting site with people who have worked on the American chestnut restoration research at ESF.



"Life's Good."

That sentiment, expressed on a mortarboard at ESF's convocation ceremony held at the Mulroy Civic Center May 12, summed up the emotions of the day. Students, family, faculty and staff gathered to recognize the achievements of the class of 2012 and wish them well in the future. For more, go to www.esf.edu/convocation.





Students, Seasons Impress New Dean, Anne Lombard

Before coming to ESF as dean of student affairs in 2011, Dr. Anne Lombard honed her skills at institutions such as Alma College, Tulane University, Loyola University and Ohio University. And while working with students is her vocation, her off-campus interests lie somewhere between baking and the deep blue sea. Inside ESF writer Karen B. Moore chatted with Lombard as her first year at ESF drew to a close.

What made you decide to come to ESF?

I heard about ESF through the job posting. I didn't know anything about ESF, having grown up in the Midwest, but the more I dug and more I learned about it — and definitely very early into my first visit here — I realized what a special place this is. My daughter, Lucy, was starting kindergarten, so it was a good time for us to look and we fell in love with it here.

What was your first impression of ESF?

I would say my first impression was how helpful and friendly people were. The campus was pretty. The people and students I met really impressed me.

What makes ESF a special place?

First and foremost, the students. They're just so passionate about wanting to do good in the world, and it's a pleasure to work on behalf of those students. I've also enjoyed the collegiality and support of faculty and staff colleagues across campus. People have been very welcoming. People in the city of Syracuse have been very friendly, too.

What's your favorite part of living in Central New York?

I'm still exploring Central New York because I came in the early part of July and jumped right into work. What has struck me is how beautiful it is in all the seasons I've seen so far. I'm looking forward to this summer and being able to explore. It's beautiful up here with the mountains, the water and the landscapes. It's a gorgeous part of our country. But I would say probably my most favorite thing so far is the Regional Market.

What would you do with 24 hours of free time?

I'd head toward some water. I love being by the water. I'd probably go see Lake Ontario because it's the only Great Lake that I haven't seen yet. When I lived in Chicago I was lucky enough to live on the water.

Any hobbies?

I love to bake. I have a retirement fantasy of pastry school. I love to read, but I don't find a lot of time for that. And I would say I dabble in gardening but I'm not very good. And I hang out with a 5-year-old.

What's your favorite thing to bake?

Cupcakes. I want to take some cake-decorating classes. I think they're so festive and make people happy. Even if you don't want to eat a big piece of cake, you'll always indulge in a little cupcake. Plus you can be creative.

Will we see you on "Cupcake Wars" on the Food Network?

I don't know that I want to compete. I just want to bake. I want to go to pastry school, but I don't want to own a bakery. I want the knowledge that would come along with that. On a side note, I think owning a bakery would be a really hard way to earn a living. You would be working when everyone else was having fun. I used to have this fantasy about owning a bed-and-breakfast, but then I had the same realization that you'd be working your tail off while everyone was having a good time.

We've talked about music at ESF in this issue; what is on your playlists?

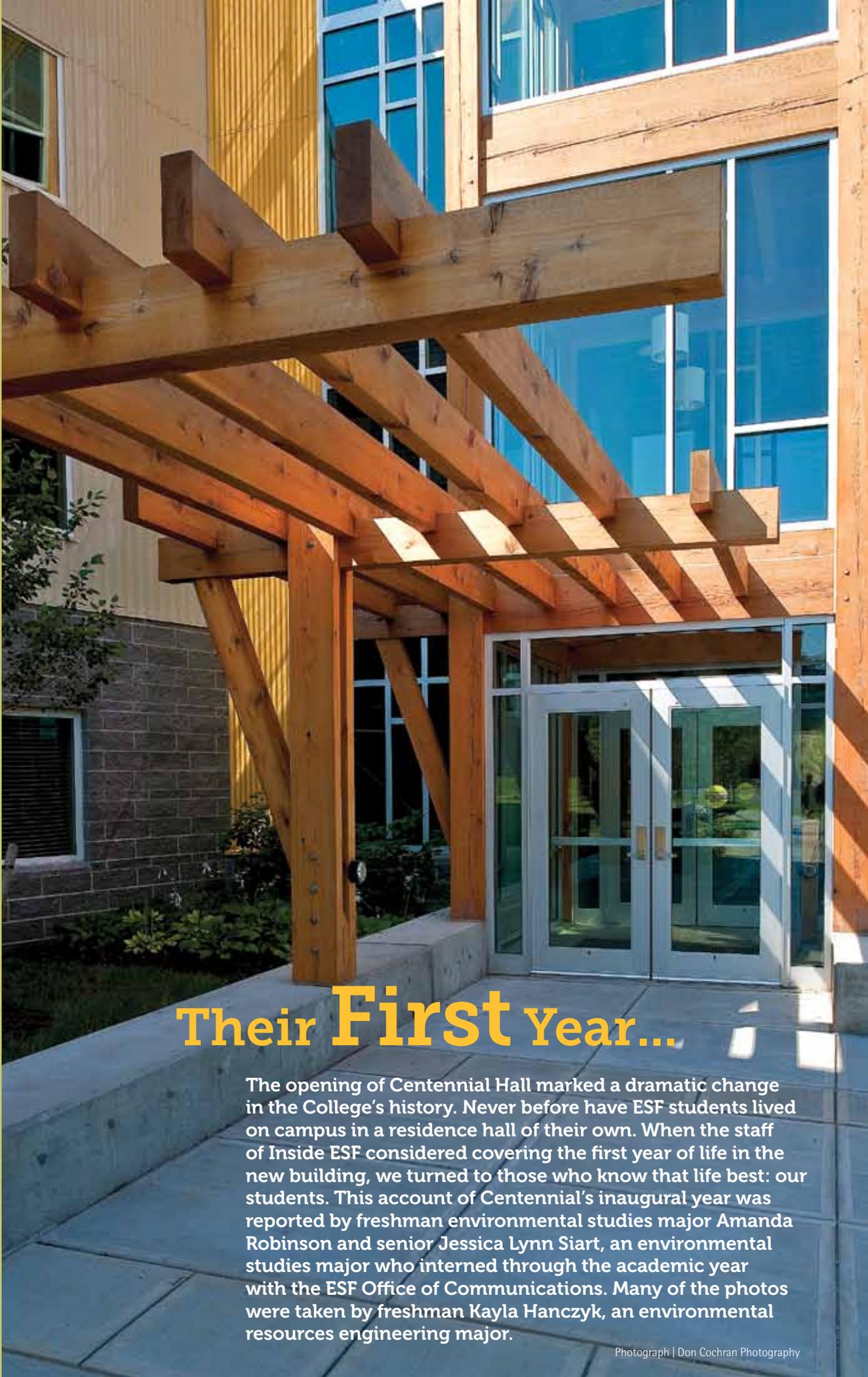
Right now I'm listening to "Dog Days of Summer" by Florence and the Machine. Also the BoDeans. I'm always listening to U2. I like the older U2 — "War," "Vertigo." There's a little Bob Seger in there. That's my nod to my hometown Michigan.

And usually something I sing to at the top of my lungs — and this will date me a little right now — but Whitney Houston takes me back to my college and high school days.

I've got Lucy listening to a little bit of Adele. I'm wondering if she's going to end up in therapy as a 5-year-old singing along to Adele.

If you could do anything on this campus, what would it be?

If we could do anything we would find a way to help each student reach his or her best potential — to assist with that. I think that's realistic on a small campus. That's part of what draws me to a small campus. I want all the students to leave ESF feeling that they've squeezed everything they can out of this experience.



Their **First Year...**

The opening of Centennial Hall marked a dramatic change in the College's history. Never before have ESF students lived on campus in a residence hall of their own. When the staff of Inside ESF considered covering the first year of life in the new building, we turned to those who know that life best: our students. This account of Centennial's inaugural year was reported by freshman environmental studies major Amanda Robinson and senior Jessica Lynn Siart, an environmental studies major who interned through the academic year with the ESF Office of Communications. Many of the photos were taken by freshman Kayla Hanczyk, an environmental resources engineering major.



Students, from left, Emma Oakes, Kevin Williams and Tim Phillips wait in line upon arrival at Centennial Hall.

Students study in a well-lit spot within Centennial Hall's timber-frame tower.

New arrivals busy

By the time Armando Villa-Ignacio arrived at Centennial Hall from his hometown of Ronkonkoma on a sunny August day, he had settled into a feeling that was equal parts happiness and nerves.

"I was excited for ESF way before the summer, even," he said. "When I got my acceptance letter, I literally freaked out."

Eager to meet his roommates, neighbors and classmates, he made connections by plunging into college life through orientation.

"Orientation was phenomenal; I can't even choose a favorite part," he said. "Orientation was just another reason why I love it here."

During orientation week, marked by small-group sessions, games on the Quad and social programs, he made friends with people he was still close to a semester later.

"Orientation really taught us how to be ourselves, not to be afraid to meet new people and be excited for ESF," he said.

Fellow freshman Jake O'Connell said orientation helped make new students happy by keeping them busy.

"I think the purpose of orientation, aside from introducing people to ESF, is to help people adjust to the drastic change from home to here by keeping them very occupied," he said. "You're busy all day, you're meeting new people, having a great time and there's no time to think about missing home, and then by the time it's over you've just accepted you're here and you're ready for class."



Marcus Rosten, left, and Renee Halloran work on making their floor feel like home.

RAs 'feel their way'

There were people working behind the scenes during Centennial Hall's first year, watching, planning and plotting. It might sound sinister, but it worked out well.

As the first ESF students to serve as resident assistants, or RAs, in an ESF residence hall, the RAs in Centennial Hall had to "feel their way" through their first year on the job, said Ellen Czajkowski, a senior conservation biology major. That job is to build community, maintain communications between the management staff and the students and help out with administrative tasks. So why do they do it?

"I enjoy everyone's energy and how quirky everyone is," said Funmi Afelumo, a senior environmental biology major.

Afelumo started the year off with a trip to Rosamond Gifford Zoo in Syracuse. Then came the Stress-Free Jamboree in December, Art Happy Hour in January and a Secret Valentine's Day event.

"It usually starts with an idea from one of the residents and it takes off from there. That's something that happens, you have an evolution. It all really boils down to getting students to come to the events and having everyone connect. It takes passion, interest and contributions from students and staff alike," he said.

Czajkowski got satisfaction from seeing younger students succeed.

"I enjoyed when the freshmen come to share moments of success with me, such as when they did well on tests or succeeded at something they've been working toward. When they rely on us, it's really rewarding," she said.

Tough road to finals

Like many freshmen, Villa-Ignacio dived into ESF's basic foundation courses, taking Chemistry I, General Biology, Calculus and Writing and the Environment.

"I definitely expected them to be difficult, and I was right," he said. "At first I thought to myself, 'I can handle this work, it won't be too bad.' But then I started getting more and more work, so that thinking drastically changed."

Villa-Ignacio and some friends found a unique way to ensure they had a quiet place to study uninterrupted: They would

sign out all the equipment to play a game of pool, then use the game room as a private study space. As the semester progressed, he learned to use the academic resources on campus, and by midterms he was participating in study groups, seeking out tutors and attending workshops held by teaching assistants. Despite the preparation, when it was time for his first finals, Villa-Ignacio was nervous.

"Finals were definitely a scary thought," he said. "It was a little easier studying in Centennial because everyone in the dorm was basically taking the same classes, which meant it was very easy to find people to study with."



Logan Dirk, at left in stripes, watches as Daryl Harper makes his picks on Super Bowl Sunday in Centennial Hall.

Super Bowl brings super unity

Centennial Hall turned into Football Central one Sunday in February.

Freshman resident Luke Hansen said the night of the Super Bowl was one of his most memorable experiences in the residence hall. "Centennial Hall was alive, and everyone was watching it on any television that was around," Hansen said.

Residents coordinated an impromptu gathering to watch the game and enjoyed food and refreshments, including traditional Super Bowl party staples: pizza and chicken wings.

Hansen said most residents at the gathering were rooting for the almost-hometown New York Giants. That meant the atmosphere was tense in the last minute of the game when the New England Patriots' Tom Brady had a minute to



Students enjoying the Super Bowl are, back row from left, Ashley Miller, Bridget Cuddihy, Eli Wildey and Ian Kenney. In front are Katie Mott, left, and Teagan Dolan.

play the ball down the field and possibly send the Giants to defeat, Hansen said.

"Everyone got scared when he threw that long pass into the end zone," Hansen said. "But when it was dropped, people were very excited and relieved that the game ended with a Giants win."

What's not to like?

Dylan Hunt, a freshman forest resources management major, said living in Centennial Hall is like living in a hotel. He was especially thankful for his private bathroom and shower.

Eli Craig, a freshman environmental science major, said the building was the nicest residence hall he had been in.

"I really like that we have our own bathrooms in our rooms," he said.

Nicholas Grieco, a freshman environmental resources engineering major, said he was lucky to live in there.

"I feel like I'm living in a hotel sometimes," he said. "It's almost too nice."

An outdoor break

Freshmen living in Centennial Hall had recurring themes in their plans for spring break: camping and community service.

Teagan Dolan, an environmental studies major, headed home to Kentucky to aid cleanup efforts after a tornado devastated West Liberty, a town near her home, March 2. With students leaving for spring break on March 9, the relief effort was only days old when Dolan decided to participate.



Students in Centennial Hall had fun in the winter weather but they also welcomed a change of scene during spring break.

"It was really last minute. The tornado happened just last Friday," she said shortly before leaving for the break.

Another first-year student, wildlife science major Brian Busby, had plans to participate in Operation Southern Comfort with 25 other ESF students and alumni. Operation Southern Comfort is a continuing volunteer effort to help New Orleans-area residents rebuild their lives after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

"I didn't have any other plans for spring break, so why not?" Busby said.

In keeping with ESF students' outdoorsy reputation, Elizabeth Bourguet, a conservation biology major; Katrina Cornish, an environmental science major;

Malcolm Moncheur, a bioprocess engineering major; and Kayla Hanczyk, a freshman environmental resource engineering major, were heading out for a camping trip to West Virginia through the Syracuse University Outing Club (SUOC).

"We're going caving, white-water kayaking, mountain biking and hiking. And sleeping; most definitely sleeping," Bourguet said.

Many freshmen, however, might have opted for the plan described by Eric Stevens, an environmental science major.

"I just want to go home," he said.

Teammates closer

Angela Noviasky, a sophomore natural resources management major who met most of her friends through her participation on the ESF Woodsmen's team, said she and many of her teammates bonded through living close to each other.

"We all come back here after Monday and Thursday night practices and track mud inside," Noviasky said. "The building smells like wood chips whenever we come back from practice."

Those practices led to success this year. The women's team won ESF's home meet, the East Coast Lumberjack Roundup, in March.

While only the 10 freshmen members lived in Centennial Hall, many of the other team members lived off campus in a nearby house, which allowed the team members to spend time together often, Noviasky said.

Recycled support for Relay for Life

The "ESF Green Team," based in Centennial Hall, got crafty to support the American Cancer Society and Relay for Life.

The team, organized by freshman environmental biology major Amy Dries, made recycled crafts, such as flowers from plastic bottles, to raise money for the cause.

Dries' involvement was inspired by the experience of a family friend.

"My mom's best friend was diagnosed with cancer and she wanted us to participate in Relay for Life but she passed away before the event," Dries said. So when I found out I could help organize it, that's how I got started in all of it. I've done it in my hometown, this is my seventh year being a team captain. My entire family back home was on the committee, and my mom ran the event back home, so I wanted to continue it here."

Freshman Victoria Ray, who is also an environmental biology major, also participated because of her family's experience.

"My grandmother died of liver cancer. We had her at home through hospice, and my dad and I took care of her. I watched cancer take her from us," Ray said. "It's wonderful seeing all the people who came to Relay, even if they've never been affected by cancer personally," said Ray.



Maxwell Woelk, left, and Greg Kronisch point the way to the Stress-Free Jamboree.

At year's end: stress, relief, grief

When May came, life in Centennial Hall was all about finals-related stress.

"I hated them. I passed all of mine, but that's not saying much," said freshman Caitlin Muller, a forest health major. "At times friends and I would go out into the lobbies and study together to get away from distractions in our rooms, but we were always studying."

Some students opted for solitary confinement.

"I pretty much locked myself up in my room restudying everything we had gone over throughout the semester," said Zack Longo, a freshman environmental resources engineering major.

Others left the building. Catherine Stallings, a sophomore forest and natural resources management major, could not study in Centennial Hall.

"I can't study in my room or even the building as I get really distracted," she said. "I usually go to Moon Library and study in one of the little cubicles behind the bookshelves."

The stress melted into a bittersweet mix of relief that the academics were over, eagerness to be home and sadness over parting with friends.

"I'll miss everyone, but I'm thrilled to go home," said Michelle McDonough, a freshman environmental science major.

It all felt kind of weird to freshman environmental biology major Matthew Pecora: "Packing up things feels strange, like I'm getting ready to leave a place that has become a home to me. Leaving feels worse knowing I won't get to see some of the friends that have become like family to me for the whole summer. This year has been extremely mentally trying, but every step of the way has been worth it."



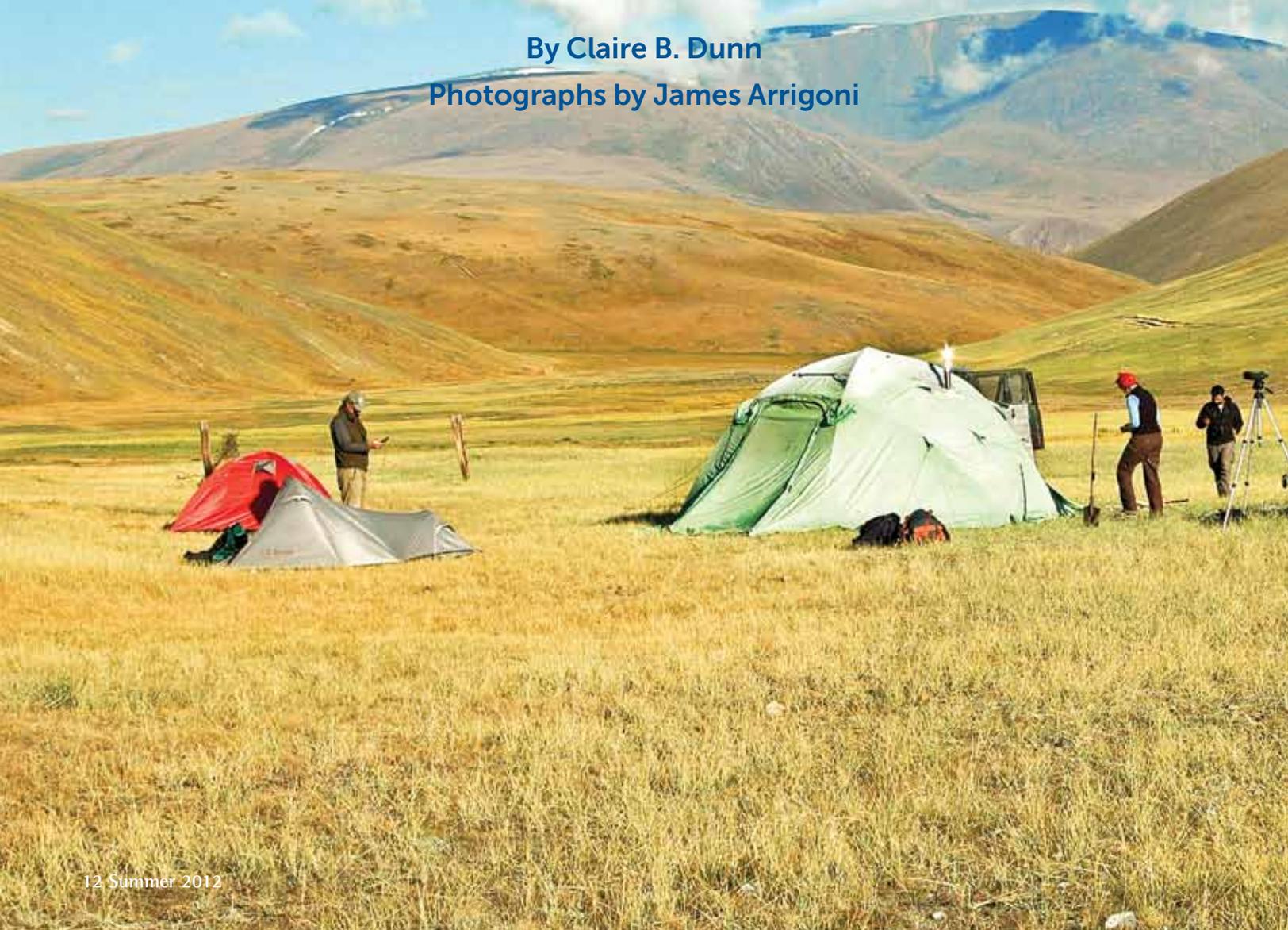
Students gather for a pizza party and game of Apples to Apples.

There's Still Hope For Snow Leopards

In Siberia, ESF and international partners try to save endangered cats



By Claire B. Dunn
Photographs by James Arrigoni





Just 10 years ago, Dr. James P. Gibbs was pessimistic about the likelihood that the global conservation community could make a difference for Russia's dwindling population of snow leopards, cats so elusive a biologist who spends a career studying them might never see one in the wild.

But after several expeditions to a remote section of southern Siberia in collaboration with partners in Russia, Canada and the United States, Gibbs has a less gloomy perspective on attempts to protect the endangered species.

"Even a decade ago, I'd have said conservation of snow leopards was a hopeless task," said Gibbs, a conservation biologist at ESF. "Now I can say, 'If we want things like snow leopards to turn around, we can turn them around.' But all the pieces have to be in place."

The pieces present a challenging puzzle.

The international partnership is focused on the Altai Republic, a sparsely populated mountainous area in Siberia, just north of where China's northwest corner juts in a triangle between Kazakhstan to the west and Mongolia to the east. Arid and rugged, Altai is about the size of Indiana but populated by only about 200,000 people. It is marked by temperatures that plunge to 40 degrees below zero and treacherous rivers fueled by melting glaciers.

"Most of Altai is quite remote; just imagine the state of Montana 100 years ago," Gibbs said.

ESF provides technical and scientific expertise within a partnership that includes snow leopard specialist Sergei Spitsyn, director of conservation with the Altaisky State Biosphere reserve; Mikhail Paltsyn, who works in Russia with the World Wildlife Fund; and Jennifer Castner, director of The Altai Project, a conservation organization working to protect the region's resources, who oversees logistical aspects of a project that is complicated both politically and culturally.

Castner said the Altai-Sayan Ecoregion, of which Altai Republic is a part, is "a globally important

Continued on next page

The researchers camped in wide open spaces, surrounded by the sprawling countryside they surveyed.

The photo at top right, obtained last year by ESF cameras, captured the first images of snow leopards in the Altai Mountains.



Above, the researchers believe these could be snow leopard tracks.

Page 15, Elizabeth Hunter and Sergei Spitsyn prepare lunch shortly after the group was resupplied with fresh fruits and vegetables.

ecological hotspot.” The partners work in part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site known as the Golden Mountains of Altai.

“Altai is a pearl in the necklace of world conservation areas,” Castner said. “Verdant forests and valleys, many, many wild and undammed rivers, open steppe, tundra, and tundra-steppe plains are all critical habitat for wildlife and humans. The semi-nomadic Altaian indigenous people have a rich history of animal husbandry, hunting, and other traditional lifeways, and much of their culture is still intact. The landscape is also liberally sprinkled with prehistoric, Stone and Bronze Age archeological sites, petroglyphs and sites even now held sacred by the local indigenous peoples.”

Castner, who has traveled extensively through Siberia and the Russian Far East, said: “Altai is where my heart sings. The landscape and wildlife is stunningly rich and varied, many local people are committed to living in harmony with the land, and the culture is fascinating and steeped in history.”

The partnership’s work extends beyond snow leopard conservation to include endangered Argali sheep, the world’s largest wild sheep.

Snow leopards are considered endangered across Central Asia, and less than 100 are believed to remain in Russia. Their distinctive spotted fur makes them the target of poachers during the winter, when their coats are most luxurious.

Argali sheep are faring only slightly better. Scientists believe no more than 350 of them remain in the wild in Russia. They are threatened by poachers because their long, twisting horns are valued by trophy collectors.

Poaching is the biggest threat to both species.

“These are not the typical problems that are causing animals to disappear,” Gibbs said. “There’s no habitat loss, no urbanization, no contamination. It’s all about indiscriminate killing of these animals. If we can stop it, they can come back.”

Gibbs first explored parts of the Argut River Basin, where Russia’s largest snow leopard population was thought to live, in 2009. Follow-up surveys in the area

“There’s no habitat loss, no urbanization, no contamination. It’s all about indiscriminate killing of these animals. If we can stop it, they can come back.”

— James Gibbs

throughout the fall and winter of 2010, using motion-activated cameras installed on rocky, remote trails, recorded photos of other wildlife including ibexes, the leopards’ preferred prey, but there were no photos of snow leopards.

In July 2011, Gibbs traveled back to the Altaisky area to test anti-poaching devices that had been developed for him by a company in British Columbia. The following month, he was joined by another faculty member in ESF’s Department of Environmental and Forest Biology, Dr. Jacqueline Frair, and graduate students Jim Arrigoni, Meredith Atwood and Elizabeth Hunter to survey the population of Argali sheep and look for signs of snow leopards. That expedition turned up enough evidence of snow leopards that the cameras were reinstalled at a particularly promising site near the Altaisky reserve, where photos of the cats were obtained late last year.

Arrigoni, a doctoral student in conservation biology, remembers the moment during that expedition when he spotted his first Argali sheep.

“It was pretty thrilling,” he said. “It was up on a high slope and there was a valley down below. I’d spent two days without seeing anything and I was thinking, ‘Where are they?’ And suddenly, there they were in a valley.”

Arrigoni had spotted two males grazing together, typical behavior for the summer, when the females remain in a unit with the yearlings and new lambs, and the males travel alone or in small groups. His discovery came a few days into a monthlong trip in which the group, accompanied by Spitsyn and a few other colleagues, traveled through the mountains in a van, stopping each day to hike in a cloverleaf pattern and scour the scenery for sheep and other wildlife.

Gibbs plans to return to the Argut River Basin this summer to work on the installation of high-tech anti-poaching instruments. After the cameras were moved back to Argut early this spring they captured images of snow leopards in a nearby valley. This fuels hope, given the large populations of ibexes present in the

Argut valley, that the snow leopards are “on the door step,” as Gibbs puts it, and could recolonize quickly if poaching is controlled.

So far, the Altai work has been funded by about \$80,000 in grants from Panthera, a conservation organization focused on wild cats; the Weeden Foundation, whose mission is to protect biodiversity; and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Gibbs and two Canadian colleagues (see story, at right) were recently awarded \$20,000 from the Weeden Foundation to support anti-poaching efforts.

The first component of the project will be the installation of electronic technology to detect the presence of poachers who use remote cabins in the Argut River valley. Gibbs and his colleagues plan to collaborate with Spitsyn and his anti-poaching patrols to install a covert, field-based sensor system. The high-tech devices, hidden in cabins used by poachers, detect changes in temperatures. When poachers light fires during frigid Siberian winters, the devices send a satellite signal that reaches rangers’ headquarters in near real time. Rangers at headquarters then coordinate with field patrols via satellite phone.

“The technology enables a dramatic increase in effectiveness of park guards relative to the current approach of haphazard searches over vast areas,” the researchers wrote in the grant application. The devices were developed with support of the Weeden Foundation which previously supported Gibbs and his team as they evaluated and installed anti-poaching devices in the Altai region in 2011.

The Weeden grant will also fund the researchers in providing technical assistance in planning anti-poaching campaigns in Shavlinsky Zakaznik/Argut Nature Park. The anti-poaching campaigns would build on a snare-removal project funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and a previous Panthera camera-trap installation project. Many kilograms of snares have now been removed and the presence of poachers has

Continued on next page



Greg Carney, left, conducts tests on a metal sensor before installation. Sean Burnett holds a weather-proofed sensor coil that will be buried in a roadway.

When James Gibbs needed technical assistance developing anti-poaching devices to hide along roadsides and in cabins in Siberia, he was on a break from his fieldwork in Russia, so he started Googling.

“And I came across these two guys in British Columbia who were doing all sorts of interesting things with electronics,” he said. “We corresponded for a while before we actually met. For all we knew at first, the person on the other side of the email conversation could have been a 15-year-old hacker. But it worked out.”

The people Gibbs connected with were a pair of Canadian electronics hobbyists, Sean Burnett and Greg Carney. The two are employed full time — Burnett in economic analysis for health care systems and Carney as a university research manager — but they are also longtime collaborators who run a weekly Geek Night club for those who share their interest in electronics.

Together, they had designed a solar-powered boat equipped with a commonly used SPOT satellite GPS device that transmitted information about time, latitude and longitude.

“James emailed us from Russia looking for a way to use this SPOT technology in a drastically different way that would help park rangers with anti-poaching devices,” Carney said.

Developing a useful anti-poaching device requires not only that it detect the presence of humans but that it also immediately transmit information about their location to law enforcement authorities.

Burnett and Carney, through a company they call Wildlife Intel, are developing sensors that detect suddenly rising temperatures in cabins when poachers light fires and others that detect metal, indicating the presence of vehicles on little-used roads.

The three collaborators have received several grants to support the development of the detection devices and to install more of the units in Siberia this summer. So far, Wildlife Intel’s costs have been covered by funding, but Burnett and Carney are not profiting from their participation in the conservation project.

“We volunteered our time. Our costs were covered,” Burnett said. “Working with James has been a really great part of this project.”

Said Carney: “A lot of the reason we’re doing this is that it’s a good cause. The other reason is I’m motivated by the electronics of it. It’s great to be able to find a way to help James and his colleagues.”



dropped substantially. Data collected previously will be used to build models of where certain wildlife species occur, where poachers are most likely to be active and where patrol efforts would be most effective.

ESF is also a partner in a grant proposal that seeks about \$25,000 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in a project led by Castner. That effort has provided for an anti-poaching team from Altai Republic's Game Management Committee, the non-governmental conservation organization Arkhar, of which Spitsyn is executive director, and local residents to regularly visit remote snow leopard habitats, search for and remove snares that capture musk deer and other species in addition to snow leopards, and detain and fine poachers. The team works with local communities to develop economic alternatives to poaching and uses societal pressure to stop the practice. The anti-poaching team is led by Spitsyn.

"The fate of Russia's remaining snow leopards depends on immediate action through this collaborative effort to clear the Argut area of snares and find alternative livelihoods for poachers," the grant application states.

Gibbs approaches the work patiently.

"You have to have the survey data; if you don't know where these animals are, you can't protect them. Then you have to deal with the immediate threat. In this case it's removing snares and doing anti-poaching work. Then you have to come up with long-term solutions, including working with the local people to develop education and alternative livelihoods. All the anti-poaching devices in the world aren't going to work if people are dirt poor." The larger project as overseen by Paltsyn just secured a major grant from Citi

Foundation to provide micro-loans for local people to develop small enterprises as an alternative to poaching.

"We just take it one year at a time," Gibbs said. "There is evidence that shows snow leopards are on the doorstep of the Argut River Valley and there is plenty of prey for them. They will come back if people leave them alone."

Castner said Gibbs "brings a creative and thoughtful approach to balancing science and hands-on conservation."

"James is an incredibly well-rounded, globally minded person who works tirelessly in partnership with me to find creative approaches to our work. We both share a philosophy of listening closely to our local partners' needs and then finding the best ways to collaborate strategically and fund the work," she said.

Right, a female ibex goat was photographed by a camera trap.

Below, the team came across the skeleton of a male argali sheep that was probably about 10 years old. It might have died of natural causes as there were no signs of poaching.



CULTIVATING their gift for

MUSIC

By Karen B. Moore



Gina Ryan

Typically at ESF, when people talk about “notes” or “staff” they’re discussing information from class or the people who assist them in tasks involving registration, financial matters or the navigation of paperwork for an internship or program. But for a number of people at the College, notes and staff take on a different, musical connotation.

Gina Ryan: Staying in tune with her own rock band

“LVS 2 SNG” reads Gina Ryan’s license plate. Depending on what vowel you add, it can either read “lives to sing” or “loves to sing.” Both, she said, would be accurate.

Ryan, a member of the support staff in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, sang with bands for years before her son was born in 1994. After that her singing engagements were limited to church, but she had a hankering to get back into the band scene.

“I wanted to sing in bands again,” she said.

So with a son ready to go off to college, she began to study voice with a widely known Syracuse-area jazz singer, Nancy Kelly. On her own, Ryan eventually gathered a group of musicians that evolved into the Gina Rose Band, a classic rock and blues band. In the two years since it formed, the

band has played numerous area clubs and events, including the New York State Fair on the Special Events Stage.

“Sometimes people are surprised to learn I head a classic rock band,” said Ryan, “because most people my age can’t imagine working full time, raising a family, and still having the time and energy to pursue this. But I love it!”

People might also be surprised to learn Ryan auditioned for “The Voice,” the televised singing competition, in 2011 at the Izod Center in East Rutherford, N.J.

“It was kind of a whirlwind – fun and exciting,” she said. “There were tons of people and you have 30 seconds to wow a judge singing a capella. It’s very nerve-racking and hard. I don’t know if I’d do it again, but I’m glad I went.” Although she didn’t make it past the first audition, Ryan came away with a positive feeling about the experience. “If you don’t try, you never know.”

Ryan said her contact with students in the admissions office keeps her in tune with today’s music scene. “I definitely get music tips from students,” she said. “We’ve had kids who worked for us who are musicians, and we always talk a lot about music. It’s neat to hear some of the newer stuff through them.”

Although ESF is home to a healthy music community, Ryan has yet to connect with her fellow campus musicians. She does, however, have a goal for the campus. “I would love to have an ESF band for the annual Rockin’ the Red Cross battle of the bands. It has to be a company band,” she said. “I would love to do that.”

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Mark Storrings

Mark Storrings:

Playing where winds (and brass) take him

Big bands, wind ensembles, community bands, marching bands: Mark Storrings plays in them all.

An instructional support specialist for the Department of Environmental Resources Engineering, Storrings started out as a trombone major in college, but a soft job market for music teachers was one factor that led him to alter his career path.

"I switched to computer science because music became too much like work and not much fun," he said. "Also, job prospects for music teachers weren't good. With computer technology up and coming in the early '80s, it made more sense to go with my second interest."

The first interest was never far. Storrings continued to study trombone independently and today plays with numerous ensembles including Central Winds, the Onondaga Civic Symphony, Jazz Kats Big Band, the Phoenix Community Band and the Island Band. Add to this a smattering of pickup groups, pit orchestras, church gigs and time spent instructing the Phoenix High School marching band, and you've got an intense "hobby."

Central Winds is a wind ensemble comprising music educators. "It's about as professional as a semipro group could be," he said. "They're primarily music teachers, professional or semipro musicians who play three to four concerts a year. It's pretty intense band music. The most difficult stuff there is out there for bands."

In 2009, Central Winds was invited to play at the Midwest Clinic in Chicago, the largest music educators' conference in the country. The group performed in front of 2,000 people. "That was probably the biggest thrill of my musical career to perform there. It was a thrill to experience performing at that venue and at that level," he said.

The brass ensemble that plays at ESF convocations was started by Storrings. He had attended a number of ESF Convocations after being hired in 2001. After one such convocation, Storrings approached Dr. Julie White, who was then associate dean for student life and experiential learning, about the "coldness" of using prerecorded music.

"I mentioned to Julie that live brass music can have a greater sense of pomp and add dynamics and a vigor that only live music can," Storrings said. He submitted a proposal to form a brass quintet for the occasion and the College accepted it.

"I still feel live music adds to the celebration," he said. "Having now participated on thesis committees and having had personal friends graduate

"When I was in high school it was a lot different than now. It was all bands. It was all live music. Now you go to parties and it's all DJs and it's awful."

—Russ Briggs

from ESF, I feel directly participating in the ceremony adds to the handshake and congratulatory statements I make to those I know. For those graduates whom I don't know, I hope live music has contributed to the lasting memories and experiences they encountered while at ESF."

Music, Storrings said, is "probably the only lifelong hobby someone could do that they learn at the earliest ages. I know people who still play in ensembles who are in their 80s. You could do that with athletics, but not usually with the extent or performance at the same level."

Dr. Russell Briggs:

His students get a surprise.

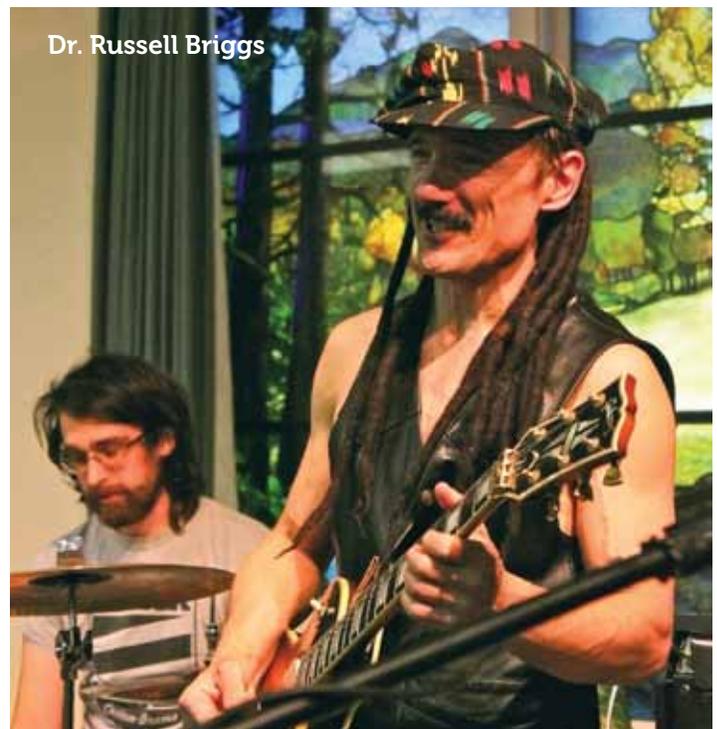
A musical campus tradition might have its roots in a Catholic elementary school in Albany, N.Y.: That's where a nun asked a fourth-grade Russ Briggs if he wanted to play the guitar.

From those humble beginnings, Briggs continued playing and formed a couple of rock bands along the way.

"The bands played out a few times," he said. When I was in high school it was a lot different than now. It was all bands. It was all live music. Now you go to parties and it's all DJs and it's awful. It's reprehensible to go out and have a DJ play a party instead of a live band."

Live music is the order of the day for the concert Briggs and his bandmates present at the end of the semester for his Introduction to Soils class. His band, Acid Reign, has become as much a part of ESF as bringing your own mug to an on-campus event.

Briggs, who directs the Division of Environmental Science and teaches in the Department of Forest and Natural Resources Management, began his concerts when he came to ESF in 1995.



Dr. Russell Briggs

"The first year it was just one student in the class and me doing one tune on the last day," he said. As the years went by, he added a revolving group of musicians to the band, including his son Dan, now 25, on guitar, and daughter Ariel, 22, on saxophone.

The band's been playing under the moniker Acid Reign for 14 years. "I thought it was a neat play on words. Acid deposition has always been a big research factor for me," Briggs said.

Briggs has served as the adviser to the ESF Music Society since its founding in 2009. "I was a little bit of a devil's advocate. I didn't think there was enough interest for a club. Turns out there is," he said. Briggs plans to continue staging Acid Reign concerts to celebrate the semester's end. "It's kind of neat because the concert is usually quite a surprise for 70 to 80 percent of the students. There's a small portion who know about the concert beforehand, but most are surprised."

"I remember being told that music is at SU and if you wanted to be involved in music, do it there. It's great now that we have this here. It's pride in our own school."

—Kristy Northrup

Music Society/ECOTONES: With and without instruments

A common interest in music — playing it, practicing it, enjoying it — is the tie that binds the ESF Music Society. Formed in 2009, the society provides a venue for student musicians to get together and practice their craft.

"Joining the Music Society was a way for me to continue to be involved in music after high school," said society President Tina Elliott, a junior environmental and forest biology major who plays the violin and sings. After joining the Music Society, Elliott began playing more folk and country music, which led to the forming of an "old-timey" music group that is now known as Spruced Up.

Members of the Music Society perform at campus events such as TGs (Thank Goodness It's Friday) and coffee-houses, and they host concerts each semester. "Hopefully the addition of the Music Society has given students the ability to meet and play with other musicians and perform

for more campus events. I probably never would have become involved in playing at campus events without the Music Society," she said.

"I think the biggest success of the Music Society has been the a cappella group, the Ecotones. Since the Music Society started, we had tried to get a singing group together at ESF," she said. "This year, it finally worked out with the determination of senior Derek Corbett."

Said Corbett, a senior bioprocessing major, "I've always sung in choirs. I love a cappella. I almost auditioned for some of the groups at SU but never got my guts up to do it. But I figured ESF kind of needs our own a cappella group."

Ecotones member and freshman Kristy Northrup, an environmental science major, agreed. "I remember being told that music is at SU and if you wanted to be involved in music, do it there. It's great now that we have this here. It's pride in our own school."

Corbett went to the Music Society and learned that other like-minded people had had the same idea about an a cappella group. He worked with Elliott and got in touch with the a cappella council at SU, he said. The SU group assisted Corbett with auditions for the ESF group.

The auditions led to a 16-member ensemble that practices twice a week and, like many student groups, performs at on-campus events. The Ecotones also performed at What the Funk, Katrina, a benefit for Operation Southern Comfort at Funk 'n Waffles restaurant in the spring.

For many of the members of the Ecotones, the ensemble provides a respite from their course work.

"I see it as my break from real life," said Kimi Worrell, a senior majoring in forest ecosystems science.

With their signature look — bare feet, shorts and tie-dyed T-shirts in the warm weather; plaid flannel and hiking boots in the cold — and their theme song, "Big Yellow Taxi," the members of the group have embraced their inner Stumpies.

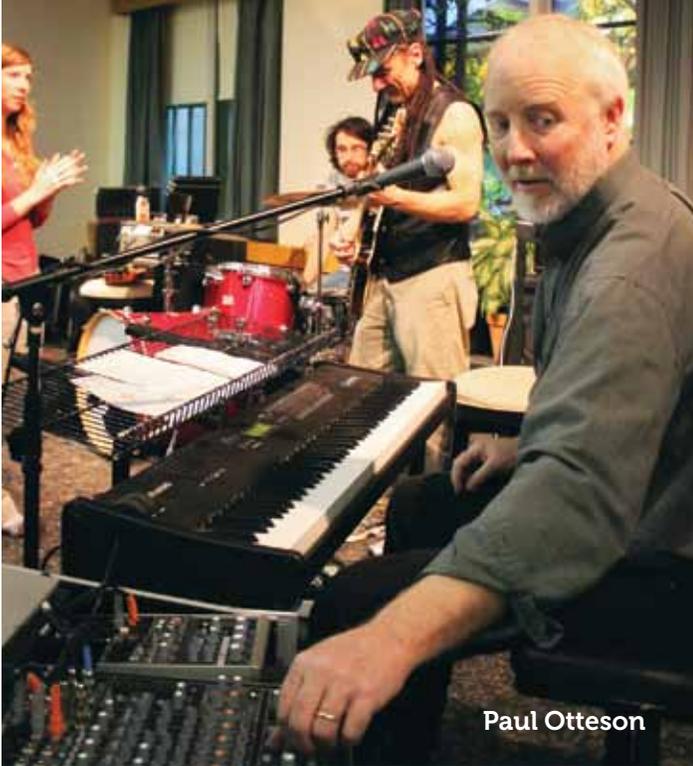
"All a cappella groups have that signature look and theme. And we didn't have too far to look," said Corbett. "We said, 'Let's be as stereotypical as we can be and have fun!'"

Corbett graduated from ESF in May but had no worries about the future of the group he helped found. "We already have in place people to take over the leadership in September." He does have dreams for the group: "I want the Ecotones to have fun while making music in the spirit of ESF. My dream is to come back for a reunion and hear the Ecotones and sing with them."

Continued on next page



To hear the musical talent that abounds at ESF and read the web exclusive story about the Cranberry Lake Pickin' 'n' Singin' Society, go to www.esf.edu/insideesf.



Paul Otteson

Paul Otteson: The key ingredient of Earth Jam

Formed in 2009 as a custom band for an Earth Week celebration on the ESF Quad, Earth Jam has morphed into a band that can often be seen in the Syracuse area.

Fronted by keyboardist Paul Otteson, assistant director and web coordinator in the Office of Communications, Earth Jam, is a jam band with a funk edge.

"I wanted to play but hadn't had a regular chance to play music, so I thought putting a band together to play for Earth Week would be a good idea," said Otteson. The Earth Jam members liked playing together and continued to book gigs.

Along with a staple of Earth Week festivities, Earth Jam plays at the New York State Fair as part of the local band rock series, and last summer it opened for Rusted Root at the Paper Mill Island Amphitheater in Baldwinsville, N.Y. Otteson is also a member of Briggs' Acid Reign.

Otteson thinks there needs to be more music at ESF.

"With no arts program it's not a big part of the culture. It's kind of an underground phenomenon. Music thrives below the surface. You see guitarists out on the Quad. Local bands with ESF students in them play at the TGs, and there's some cross-pollination with SU." Music provides that rare and brief experience: "I'm playing well, the band's playing well, people are dancing," Otteson said. "These blocks of time are just extraordinary."

Jamie Savage: Adirondacks inspire professor's music

An affinity for the Adirondacks colors the lyrics of Jamie Savage's songs.

Savage, a professor at ESF's Ranger School in Wanakena, has been playing guitar since he was 16 but it wasn't until about 10 years ago that he began focusing on writing songs that depict life in the Adirondack Park.

When the town of Wanakena celebrated its centennial in 2002, Savage wrote a song about the town. "That kicked off my writing about the Adirondacks," he said. "People were receptive to it and I found myself writing more songs."

"There is music out there about the Adirondacks," Savage said, "but not much available about this, the northwest section of the park."

Many of his songs focus on the natural and cultural history of the Adirondacks — where he has spent summers since he was 9 and lived year-round for the last 20 years — and on his concern for the environment in an era of exponential human population growth, according to his website bio.

"I've written songs about experiences I've had in the Adirondacks ... A lot of other people are doing that stuff too and they can relate to the songs," he said.

But Savage doesn't limit himself to music about the Adirondacks. In 2011, at the request of the ESF Centennial Committee co-chaired by Bob French, vice president for enrollment management and marketing, Savage wrote a piece called the "ESF Centennial Song" to celebrate the College's 100-year anniversary.

"It was actually Bob French's idea for me to write a song that might someday be used as an alma mater-type song for the College," said Savage.

While the Centennial Celebration was being planned, Savage and French discussed the fact that the College had no official alma mater. The song that came closest was the "Song of the Frosh Forester."

"That song seemed somewhat outdated and particular to a specific program (forestry), not the College as a whole, or as we know it today," said Savage.

French thinks the song could have some staying power.

"Everyone who heard the song seems to like it so maybe our students and alumni will embrace it as ESF's unofficial alma mater," he said.

Cultural songs take longer to write and Savage said he researches the topic first. Even though he has been associated with ESF for more than 20 years, first as a graduate student then as a professor, Savage wanted to know more before he wrote the song. He attended the Centennial Convocation in January 2011 to "hear what's important to people, what they reflected on and what they want to remember." But mostly, he said, the song "came from the heart."

The song made its debut at the Centennial Celebration July 28, 2011. Afterwards, he worked with nationally known musician Dan Duggan to add piano and bass to the song and tighten up the lyrics. "I've never worked so hard on lyrics before," said Savage. "Trying to think about 100 years of the institution and the future, it's challenging to get the right words."



Jamie Savage

Awards and Honors

Kaley Donovan and **Thaddeus Holland**, SUNY Chancellor's Scholar-Athlete Award in recognition of outstanding academic excellence and superior athletic achievement, May 2012

Dr. William Shields, 2012 Foundation Award for Excellence in Teaching, bestowed by the ESF College Foundation, Inc., May 2012

Dr. Kimberly Schulz ESF Exemplary Researcher Award for 2011-2012. The award recognizes a successful, currently active researcher with exemplary research activity, publication record and a graduate/undergraduate student mentorship program, April 2012

Dr. Gary Scott, named Fellow of TAPPI the pulp and paper industry's technical association, March 2012

Xiaoliang Yang, a Ph.D. student in environmental science, 2011-12 Excellence in Teaching award from ESF's Graduate Student Association. May 2012

Publications

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SUNY Honors ESF Student Excellence

Two ESF seniors were honored this spring with the Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence.

Colby Fisher of Endicott and David Andrews of Long Lake were presented with their awards during a ceremony at the Empire State Convention Center.

Chancellor Award honorees excel both in academic achievement and in at least one of the following areas: leadership, athletics, community service, creative and performing arts or career achievement.

Fisher majored in environmental resources engineering. He founded the SUNY-ESF Student Chapter of the New York Water Environment Association and was treasurer for the Environmental Resources Engineering Club and a member of the Provost's Student Advisory Council.

Andrews majored in aquatics and fisheries science. He was president of the Woodsmen's Team, ESF's timber sports team; and a member of the Provost's Student Advisory Council and the Intercollegiate Athletics Board. He was a Cranberry Lake Biological Station Undergraduate Research Fellow and a member of the Boy Scouts of America.



LEARNING LIVING LEADING

Environmental Leadership for a Second Century

Centennial Campaign tops \$12.5M as academic year ends

Gifts to the Centennial Campaign for ESF, the College's first comprehensive fundraising campaign, totaled more than \$12.5 million at the end of the 2011-2012 academic year.

Individuals contributing leadership gifts include Ray L. Smith '52, ESF Distinguished Teaching Professor Emeritus and Endowed Kennedy Chair George W. Curry, Lew and Dawn Allyn, Betsy '79 and Jesse '79 Fink, E. Scott Kasprowicz '78 and Frank D. Cean '71. Corporate and foundation leaders include the Edna Bailey Sussman Fund, The Walbridge Fund, SRC, O'Brien & Gere Engineers, L. & J.G. Stickley and the Hueber-Breuer Construction Company.

With another four years remaining in the campaign's five-year public phase, the Centennial Campaign has a goal of \$20 million. The campaign, built around the theme of "Environmental Leadership for a Second Century," was designed to provide the financial resources essential to the continued success of the College in producing the environmental leaders of tomorrow.

"We have made significant progress with the capital campaign," said Brenda Greenfield, executive director of the ESF College Foundation, Inc. "The tremendous support we received from our many donors even before the campaign was announced publicly has given us a strong foundation as we continue to build our resources."

The campaign is built around four major goals: supporting and encouraging academic innovation, enhancing and supporting students in new campus facilities, expanding undergraduate student scholarships and building overall financial strength for the College.

More than \$7.5 million has already been donated to support the Fund for Academic Innovation, creating graduate student fellowships, expanding undergraduate and graduate student internship opportunities, creating an endowed academic chair/professorship, and enabling a significant expansion of the ESF Honors Program. More than \$3 million has been provided by alumni and friends to create or grow undergraduate scholarship endowments that will support ESF students long into the future. And with the help of ESF students who call alumni and ask for their support through the Annual Fund and the 1911 Society, more than \$1.7 million has been raised toward building flexible financial strength for ESF's future.

In keeping with current construction projects that are transforming the main campus, the Centennial Campaign gives donors an opportunity to name spaces in Centennial Hall, the College's first residence hall which opened in 2011, and the Gateway Center which will serve as a campus hub and model of sustainability when it opens later this year. In return for gifts starting at \$5,000, alumni and friends of the College can name spaces ranging from individual student rooms to major gathering spaces.

Those wishing to learn more about the Centennial Campaign for ESF are invited to visit www.esf.edu/giving.



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Name That Room!



Gateway Center

Centennial Hall

As the transformation of our campus continues with the anticipated opening of the Gateway Center this fall, those who support ESF have an opportunity to give the College a very special gift. We are offering alumni, staff members and friends an opportunity to name spaces in Centennial Hall and the Gateway Center for as little as \$5,000.

Your gift could put your name on a residential room, a gathering space for students or a conference room used by people from across the campus community.

For more information, please visit www.esf.edu/development or contact Campaign Manager Dana Piwinski at dpiwinski@esf.edu or (315) 470-6683.