Advancing the Science of Sustainability

The College of Natural Resources and Environment prepares the future generation of leaders to deal with the complex natural resources issues facing our planet. World-class faculty lead transformational research that complements the student learning experience and impacts citizens and communities across the state and around the world on issues of sustainability, natural resources management, and the environment.
College of Natural Resources and Environment
Annual Awards Recognition Celebration
April 7, 2015
6:00 p.m., The Inn at Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, Virginia

Welcoming Remarks
Paul M. Winistorfer, Dean
College of Natural Resources and Environment

Dinner

Introductions
Paul M. Winistorfer, Dean

Presentation of Awards
Dean F. Stauffer, Associate Dean

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Closing Remarks
OUTSTANDING STUDENT ORGANIZATION MEMBER RECOGNITIONS

The College of Natural Resources and Environment has 23 student clubs and organizations that span our four departments. The awards recognize members of these clubs and organizations who have made outstanding contributions as members. Each outstanding member is selected by club officers and other members through a nomination and voting process.

American Fisheries Society
Jason Emmel, graduate program in fisheries – A longtime VT AFS member, Jason stepped up into a leadership role in the chapter this year. He served as chapter secretary, and when something needed done at the last minute he was always willing to help out. Most noticeably, he donated his time and woodworking skills to make cornhole boards and custom knives for our chapter’s raffle fundraiser at the tri-state AFS meeting this January, which raised money for chapter activities.

CNRE Student Ambassadors
Sierra Steffen, senior majoring in Geography – Sierra has demonstrated a strong commitment to the ambassador team and has represented the college at many events. She goes above and beyond to share her excitement with others and ensure that prospective students and families receive a warm welcome.

Brendan Little, senior majoring in Natural Resources Conservation – This is Brendan’s first year as an ambassador, but he has been a major contributor to the ambassador team. Brendan’s willingness to participate and help out with many of the events makes him well deserving of this award.

Fish and Wildlife Graduate Student Association
Amanda Hyman, graduate program in wildlife – Amanda’s fellow association members have said she “has shown excellent leadership as GSA president over the past year. She runs efficient meetings, communicates effectively and has a positive attitude all the time,” and that she “has gone above and beyond this year as president, working to increase attendance and participation at meetings, leading fundraising efforts, and improving communication with the new department head, faculty, and other student groups.”

Forest Products Club
Gemma Whaley, senior majoring in Sustainable Biomaterials – Gemma has been a member for about two and a half years and has made a big impact. She is always on time and dependable for the meetings and activities. She has voluntarily led activities such as river clean-up and helped organize the Habitat for Humanity fundraiser the club did last year. She has been an over and beyond member of the Forest Products Club, and is deserving of the honor.

Forestry Club
Tyler Sims, junior majoring in Forestry – Tyler has shown great leadership potential
as firewood chair and has consistently proved that he is willing to help with anything the club needs. He has sacrificed countless hours for the forestry club and always has a good attitude and a smile on his face. He had strong performances at conclave, finishing 1st in log roll and 4th in underhand chop. Tyler has proven that he is a leader in the club and a hard worker.

**Forestry Graduate Student Association (FGSA)**

Keith O’Herrin, doctoral student in forestry, treasurer of FGSA – Keith has been an active member of the FGSA since he arrived here at Virginia Tech. He frequently organizes graduate student activities in town, has served as treasurer to the organization for the past year, and has taken the lead organizing the FREC graduate research symposium. As Keith continues working towards his PhD, he will no doubt continue to be an outstanding community member to the FGSA, FREC, and the CNRE.

**Geographic Society**

Mario Garza, graduate program in geography – Mario really helped the Geographic Society get back on its feet this year. It was not a very active student organization last year, and many of the new and current members were underclassmen who didn’t really know what to expect from the club. Having been at Virginia Tech for much longer, Mario played a big role in generating ideas and coordinating events for the Geographic Society to really help it be much more successful this year. Big thanks to Mario!

**Institute of Packaging Professionals**

Megan Stallings, senior majoring in Packaging Systems and Design – Megan has contributed greatly to the success of IoPP and to the Packaging program here at Virginia Tech. She has led recruitment events such as GobblerFest, Majors Fair, and Interest sessions. She also works diligently to ensure that the club, packaging program, and students are reaching their fullest potential. Lastly, she shows passion for sustainability in packaging and has a desire to make a difference in the industry. She has been a huge asset to the club and will continue to make an impact wherever she may go. She is well deserving of this year’s outstanding student member award for IoPP.

**Meteorology Club**

Alex Thornton, senior majoring in Meteorology – Alex is a very involved member of the Meteorology Club here at Virginia Tech. He participates in club sports, attends all club meetings, and volunteers his time to help out with club activities. If anyone ever needs a hand, you know Alex will be there.

**Natural Resources Recreation Society**

Anna McAuley, senior majoring in Forestry – Anna is as diligent in her recreation as she is in her studies. As president of the Natural Resources Recreation Society, she plans alternative activities for her fellow recreators, including local hikes, camping and cabin trips, backpacking adventures, and potlucks. Her positive attitude and commitment to the club for the past three years has helped the club grow and expand throughout not only the college but also the university.
Society of American Foresters
Sara Vial, senior majoring in Forestry – Sara has been an active member this year, participating in all events and showing an overall love for forestry. She attended the APSAF conference and attended as many lectures as possible, using the event to its full potential. She is always showing an interest in anything forestry-related and will make a difference in any field she chooses.

Southwest Virginia American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing
Margaret Carolan, junior majoring in Geography – Margaret is pursuing a BA in Geography and a BS in Water Resources and is in the University Honors Class of 2018. She is the undergraduate representative officer for ASPRS and is very enthusiastic about GIS and remote sensing. She is also the project leader for the 2015 ASPRS GeoLeague Challenge, where she and two other students will create a report and YouTube video reviewing how remote sensing can be used to manage hiking trails.

The Wildlife Society
Emily Ronis, senior majoring in Wildlife Conservation and minoring in Environmental Policy & Planning – Emily has been an active member within The Wildlife Society. She attends conferences related to the field, participates in events such as Relay for Life and The Big Event, and has attended nearly every meeting. This year, Emily has taken on the gigantic role of Conclave Chair – this has required organizing an event that none of the officers have ever planned before, communicating with a plethora of people, and delegating tasks while keeping a sharp eye on what still needs to be done. For this tremendous feat, and for her continual involvement with the Society, Emily is well deserving of this award.

MEMBERS OF XI SIGMA PI
NATIONAL FORESTRY HONOR SOCIETY

Undergraduate Members
Ethan Barker
Levi Callahan
Robert Crowther
Graham Deapen
Daniel Franz
Stuart Hupp
Will Kennerley
Haena Lee
Melissa Letosky
Brendan Little
Ashley Lohr
Anna McCauley

Graduate Members
Zoe Carroll
Elham Zadeh

Elizabeth Mills
Hannah Nyquist
Ben Poling
Taylor Richmond
Emily Ronis
Kelsey Schoenemann
Andrew “AJ” Shilling
Brianne Varnerin
Natalie Yates
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT RECOGNITIONS

College of Natural Resources and Environment Outstanding Senior
The outstanding senior award honors a graduating senior from each department in the college who has demonstrated exceptional academic, extracurricular, and professional leadership. The Alumni Award for Outstanding Senior is chosen from among each department’s outstanding senior awardees and recognized by Virginia Tech at the university’s awards banquet.

Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation – Ashley Lohr
Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation – Sara Vial
Department of Geography – Daniel Katuzienski
Department of Sustainable Biomaterials – Alyssa Lopez

Ashley Lohr, Alumni Award for Outstanding Senior – While at Virginia Tech, Ashley has been actively involved in the college, university, and community while maintaining a 3.87 GPA in Wildlife Conservation. She serves as a CNRE Ambassador and has been very involved in the student chapter of The Wildlife Society, serving as the president of the group for the current academic year. She is in the University Honors program, a member of Xi Sigma Pi, and the recipient of seven scholarships and grants. She conducted undergraduate research on the brown marmorated stink bug under a Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship, which she presented as a poster and orally, and has been published in a Virginia Cooperative Extension publication. Ashley has had internships in Shenandoah National Park and in Belize. In addition, Ashley has been active in the community through the Relay for Life, The Big Event, as a substitute teacher, and as a volleyball referee. Ashley’s accomplishments will also be recognized at the Student Recognition Banquet on April 11.

David Wm. Smith Leadership Award
This award is presented to the graduating senior who, while engaged in productive scholarship, best demonstrates the traits of leadership, college and community service, and professionalism that have characterized David Smith’s service to the college and the profession. This leadership award is chosen from among these department nominees.

Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation – Emily Ronis
Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation – Hannah Goldsmith
Department of Geography – Rachel Atkins
Department of Sustainable Biomaterials – Alyssa Lopez

Rachel Atkins, Dave Wm. Smith Leadership Award – Rachel Atkins, a Geography major, is the recipient of the Dave Smith Leadership Award. Rachel has been involved in a diversity of activities in the college and communities. She has served as a Student Leader for the YMCA Alternative Service Breaks Program, she was a Relay for Life team captain two years, and a Big Event team captain for three years. Rachel is also a CNRE Ambassador and was a peer mentor for the CNRE First Year Experience
course. In addition, she has worked with the SERVE Living Learning Community associated with VT Engage. Rachel’s dedication to participation and leadership in activities on and off campus is commendable and worthy of recognition.

Xi Sigma Pi Outstanding Sophomore Award
The Chi Chapter of Xi Sigma Pi (the National Forestry Honor Society) established this award in 1966 to recognize the sophomore with the highest grade point average after three semesters in the college.

Rachel White, majoring in Geography – Rachel has maintained a 4.0 GPA since arriving in Fall 2013.

College of Natural Resources and Environment Student Ambassadors
The college’s Academic Programs Office selects a new group of ambassadors annually each spring through an application process. This year, we have nineteen student ambassadors. Our student ambassadors represent the college at multiple activities throughout the year. They assist with open houses, alumni activities, homecoming, recruitment of students, the awards recognition celebration, the majors fair, career fair, and a number of other college and university activities. They also serve as mentors and assist in teaching segments of the college’s first year experience class.

Student Ambassadors for 2014-2015:
Erica Ascani – 2016, Marine Fisheries Conservation
Rachel Atkins – 2015, Geography
Sarah Bayless – 2017, Wildlife Conservation
Emma Boltz – 2016, Natural Resources Conservation
Chandler Eaglestone – 2015, Wildlife Conservation
Jason Hoepker – 2015, Packaging Systems and Design
Caleb Hopler – 2015, Environmental Resource Management
Catherine Kim – 2016, Environmental Resource Management
Fred Lancaster – 2014, Forestry
Haena Lee – 2016, Marine Fisheries Conservation
Brendan Little – 2015, Natural Resources Conservation
Ashley Lohr – 2015, Wildlife Conservation
Alyssa Lopez – 2015, Packaging Systems and Design
Christine Lovas – 2015, Geography
Caitlin Pennington – 2015, Meteorology, Geography
Sterling Pino-DeGale – 2015, Wildlife Conservation
Emily Ronis – 2015, Wildlife Conservation
Katie Starr – 2016, Meteorology
Sierra Steffen – 2015, Geography

Leadership Institute
The generous support of our donors funds the College of Natural Resources and Environment Leadership Institute. The leadership institute is a nine-month experience for twelve students representing the entire college that focuses on the study and application of leadership principles. The current and future challenges and
opportunities across the landscape of natural resources and the environment will require a unique blend of technical knowledge and leadership, and we want to equip our students with the skills and tools needed to solve critical problems facing society in the management and sustainable use of our natural resources.

Fall semester was spent studying leadership styles, leadership profiles, and assessing each student’s own personality type. Between semesters, the group traveled to Charlottesville and Richmond, Virginia to meet with representatives of private, state government and non-governmental organizations. Travel continued to Washington, D.C. to meet with federal agencies, leaders of professional societies, and staff members for Virginia Senators Warner and Kaine. In a very busy week of travel, our students experienced organizational, political and agency processes, and leadership at all levels. Spring semester is spent continuing the study of leadership and working on a project that incorporates leadership lessons learned.

Leadership Institute Members for 2014-2015:
- Charles Aquilina – 2016, Geography, Environmental Science
- Page Clayton – 2015, Packaging Systems and Design
- Matthew Cunningham – 2015, Geography
- Eliza Demeré – 2016, Natural Resources Conservation
- Ilia Donner – 2015, Forestry
- Kaylyn Duda – 2016, Meteorology, Geography
- Chandler Eaglestone – 2015, Wildlife Conservation
- Samantha Hannabass – 2016, Wildlife Conservation
- Brendan Little – 2015, Natural Resources Conservation
- Sterling Pino-DeGale – 2015, Wildlife Conservation
- Benjamin T. Poling – 2015, Forestry
- Ashley Weston – 2015, Fisheries Science, Biology

GRADUATE STUDENT RECOGNITIONS

The A. B. Massey Outstanding Doctoral Student Award
Alumni and friends established this award in 1965 to honor the outstanding contributions of Professor A. B. Massey. The award is presented to four doctoral program students, one in each of the academic departments of the college, who have displayed outstanding academic, scientific, and professional leadership. From among these four students, an overall award is presented at the college level. This recipient was recognized at the Graduate Education Week awards banquet on March 26, 2015.

Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation – Kanchan Thapa
Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation – A.J. Lang
Department of Geography – Allison LeBlanc
Department of Sustainable Biomaterials – Wei Zhang
College of Natural Resources and Environment Outstanding Doctoral Student
Wei Zhang – Wei is an interdisciplinary program graduate of the Macromolecular Science and Engineering, who studied the advanced characterization of the molecular structure of wood after processing it on polymer extrusion equipment. Her dissertation provided significant depth in understanding how thermal energy combined with a “protectant” solvent changes molecular connections while preserving the backbone structure of the molecules of the biomass. Her results indicated that biomass can be quickly transformed into sustainable feedstocks, like glucose for biofuel production, as well as used to isolate high purity fiber avoiding typical chemical processes used in the pulp and paper industry. Wei has many outstanding qualities; however, the best quality about Wei is that she can deliver on anything that she is asked to do, even if she has never done it before. Of course when a student can deliver on anything asked to do, she is asked to do a lot. These contributions are reflected in four peer-review publications. Additionally, she has one publication under review, with three more in preparation (as they are completed, chapters are being edited). She has shared her research at multiple on-campus events, winning the best poster award for the Eastman Chemical Company–Sustainable Biomaterials Research Day event at Virginia Tech, as well as delivered talks at international conferences such as the American Chemical Society Spring Meetings in 2013 and 2014. She has mentored more than 7 undergraduate students and has been a true pleasure to work with. Her technical expertise is unmatched, her potential to be a leader in the field is tremendous, and her relentless drive to work harder and smarter are outstanding qualities that make her the prototypical candidate for the Outstanding Graduate Student in CNRE.

The H. E. Burkhart Outstanding Masters Student Award
This award honors years of dedicated graduate student research and mentoring by Dr. Harold E. Burkhart in the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation. The award is presented to four masters’ program students, one in each of the academic departments of the college. This award is based on academic, scientific, and professional achievement. From among these four students, an overall award is presented at the college level. This recipient was recognized at the Graduate Education Week awards banquet on March 26, 2015.

Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation – Beatrix Mogollon
Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation – Anna Santo
Department of Geography – Ashley Athey
Department of Sustainable Biomaterials – Kyle Mirabile

College of Natural Resources and Environment Outstanding Masters Student
Ashley Athey – Ashley will earn a Master of Science degree in Geography in May. A native Virginian and a Hokie alum, Ashley is a meteorologist with a focus on applied science. Her thesis research is born from her practical experience as a weather analyst with Meteorological Connections, LLC where she provides federal agencies and private companies with weather maps, data, forecasts, and analytics for regions across the globe. For her thesis research, Ashley has assessed the accuracy of satellite-derived daily precipitation estimates across the complex topography of Nepal in southern Asia. The work will aid in the refinement of precipitation estimates for remote, mountainous
areas that serve as key water supply regions but are also susceptible to flooding. Ashley has also excelled as an instructor, assisting in meteorology courses across all levels and teaching within VT’s Summer Bridge program. Her diligence in this area of university scholarship led one course instructor to proclaim “Ashley is about the best TA on the planet for this class!” An enthusiastic promoter of meteorology and VT, Ashley has tirelessly mentored undergraduate meteorology students on campus, leading to active and award-winning local student chapters of national meteorological organizations.

Outstanding Teaching Assistants
This award is presented to recognize the graduate student within each department who has demonstrated excellence as a teaching assistant and significantly contributed to the instructional program within the department.

Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation – Zach Farris
Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation – A.J. Lang
Department of Geography – Mario Garza

ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS ADMINISTERED BY THE COLLEGE

Alumni Foundation Student Ambassador Scholarship:
Established by the college Alumni Board to recognize and honor the dedication and hard work of a college student ambassador.

Emily Ronis

Thomas M. Brooks Scholarship:
Established by Thomas M. Brooks, whose life was devoted to the proper utilization of Virginia’s forest resources. He was a strong advocate of sound management practices and a leader in the industry. Funds from this scholarship supported 2014-2015 VT Scholars in the CNRE.

The Dean’s International Study Scholarship:
Established by J. Michael Kelly, Dean of the College of Natural Resources, and his wife, Candi, in recognition of the value of international experiences for young people.

Emily Huth Katie Starr
Eleanor Helton Kirsten White
Camron Robertson

Champion International:
Established to be awarded to a student in the College of Natural Resources and Environment.

Michaela Wenger

William M. Carter Memorial Scholarship:
Established by family and friends of William Melvin Carter, a 1952 graduate in Forestry and Wildlife. Awarded to students in the Forestry and Wildlife Sciences program.
Gina Li

A. E. “Jim” Evans Scholarship:
Established through a bequest from Mr. A. E. “Jim” Evans, Class of 1941.
  David Alger          Mussie Kebede
  Andrew Paskiewicz    Chris Stickle
  Carina Ucciferri

Charles J. Gose, Jr., Scholarship:
Established by Charles J. Gose, Jr., to fulfill the need for endowed scholarship to
benefit students in the College of Natural Resources and Environment.
  Jessica Kirkland

Chesapeake Foundation Scholarship:
Established to be awarded to a student in the College of Natural Resources and
Environment.
  Kelsey Schoenemann

Gray Lumber Company Scholarship:
Established by Senator Elmon T. Gray in memory of his father, the Honorable Garland
Gray, state senator and founder of the Gray Land & Timber Company. Funds from this
scholarship supported 2014-2015 VT Scholars in the CNRE.

Jack Sheldon Scholarship:
Established by the Sheldon Lumber Company to honor its founder, Jack Sheldon.
  Erica Peyton

Thomas H. Jones Scholarship:
Established by Thomas H. Jones, a 1938 Virginia Tech alumnus and great friend of
the College of Natural Resources and Environment.
  Alex Pelletier       Cody Snyder

William O. Ross Scholarship:
Established by William Ross, friend of the College of Natural Resources and
Environment.
  Joseph Montemayor   Katherine Tweedy
  Jordan Williams

The Honorable and Mrs. Shelton Hardaway Short Jr. Memorial Scholarship:
Established by Dr. Shelton Short, III as a memorial to his parents, recognizing their
strong and keen interest in the well-being of Virginia’s forest lands. This scholarship is
awarded to rising sophomores in the College of Natural Resources and Environment.
  Rachel Atkins       Megan Sirbaugh
  Hans VanBenschoten   Paige Crane

John D. Smith Scholarship:
Established by Barbara B. Smith in memory of John David Smith.
  Marilyn Labadie
Union Camp Scholarship:
Established by the Union Camp Charitable Trust and awarded to students in the College of Natural Resources and Environment.
Alex Pelletier

The Richard B. Vasey Scholarship:
Established by students, friends, and colleagues of Dr. Richard Vasey, retired faculty member, to honor their friend, advisor, and mentor. Awarded to a junior or senior enrolled in the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation.
Cody Edwards

Scholarships Administered by the
Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation

Dwight Chamberlain Wildlife Fellowship:
Established to award students in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation.
Paige Crane

Class of ’52 Scholarship:
Established by Dr. Lewis Lancaster, a 1952 graduate in Forestry and Wildlife, in support of undergraduate studies in the field of fish and wildlife conservation.
Jennifer Holub    Tess Pangle

Robert H. Giles Jr. Scholarship:
Established by his family and friends to honor Dr. Robert Giles Jr., retired professor in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation. Awarded to undergraduate students in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation.
Tanner Sparkman

Burd S. McGinnes Fellowship:
Established in honor of Dr. Burd S. McGinnes, who earned his Ph.D. from Virginia Tech in 1958 and became the leader of the federal Wildlife Cooperative Research Unit, where he served and directed graduate students until his retirement in the early 1980s. Burd was instrumental in the education of numerous graduate and undergraduate students during his time in the department.
Allison Moser    Zachary Sheldon

Henry S. Mosby Scholarship:
Established to honor Dr. Henry S. Mosby's long career in and dedication to wildlife education. Dr. Mosby was involved with graduate and undergraduate wildlife students from the mid-1940’s until the early 1980’s. He served as the Wildlife Research Unit Leader and also as the first Department Head when the Fish and Wildlife Department was established in 1972.
Patrick Roden-Reynolds

Martha Pennington Orth Memorial Scholarship:
Established by Dr. Donald J. Orth in memory of his wife, Martha. Awarded to students in
the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation.

Ashley Lohr

**Michael B. Wagner Memorial Scholarship:**
Established in memory of the 1996 graduate from Fisheries and Wildlife by his parents, Barry and Donna Wagner, his family and his many friends. Awarded to students in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation.

Samantha Cubbage

**Scholarships Administered by the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation**

**Bartlett Tree Foundation Annual Scholarship:**
Awarded to students in the urban forestry program.

Stuart Hupp Michael Webb

**John M. and Janet H. Doughty Endowed Scholarship:**
Established by John M. (Forestry & Wildlife, 1970) and Janet M. Doughty to support an undergraduate student in Forestry.

Heather Harcum

**Peter P. Feret Memorial Scholarship:**
Established by family and friends in memory of Dr. Peter P. Feret, Sr., faculty member and advisor. Awarded to a sophomore, junior or senior enrolled in the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation.

Samantha Malone

**Richard Foster Urban Forestry Scholarship:**
Established by Richard Foster, friend of the College of Natural Resources and Environment, the Virginia Urban Forest Council, and friends. Awarded to a student who has an avid interest in urban forestry.

Anna McAuley

**Jeffrey Andrew Fuerst Memorial Scholarship:**
Established by his father, Frank Fuerst, his family and friends in memory of Jeffrey Fuerst, undergraduate student in forestry. Awarded to a sophomore, junior, or senior in general forest management with academic merit.

Breanna Anderson

**Herman William Gabriel Scholarship:**
Established by Dr. Herman Gabriel, a 1956 graduate of the College of Natural Resources and Environment. Awarded to undergraduate forestry students.

Jessica Lord

**Mr. and Mrs. Thomas C. Newbill Scholarship:**
Established by Thomas C. Newbill, a 1957 College of Natural Resources and Environment graduate, and his wife, Sallie.
Hannah Goldsmith

George and Mary Ragsdale Scholarship:
Awarded to undergraduate and graduate students based upon potential in, and interest in, contributing to the forest industry.

Jessica Lord

Gretchen and Clyde Smith Memorial Scholarship:
Established by Professor Emeritus David William Smith, family, and friends in honor of his mother and father.

Katherine Aylett Lipford

J. Russell Smith Scholarship:
Established by Miles Merwin in memory of his friend, J. Russell Smith. Awarded to students interested in research and education in the fields of forestry and agriculture, particularly in the areas of agroforestry and tree crops.

Sara Vial

Thomas A. Walbridge Scholarship:
Established by colleagues, students, and friends of Thomas A. “Doc” Walbridge, professor emeritus of the College of Natural Resources and Environment. Awarded to students enrolled in the forest operations business program.

Andrew Downs

Scholarship Administered by the Department of Geography

Sidman P. Poole Scholarship:
Established by Rachel Poole in memory of her husband, Sidman P. Poole, professor of Geography. Awarded to graduate and undergraduate students in the Department of Geography.

Margaret Carolan

Scholarships Administered by the Department of Sustainable Biomaterials

Bryan W. Graeser Memorial Scholarship:
Bryan Wingate Graeser was a student studying Wood Science and Forest Products when he died in 1998 from bone cancer. Hank and Peggy Graeser and family of Chester, Va., founded this scholarship in memory of Bryan. This scholarship was started in 1999 to assist other students in the department to realize their dreams. The Graesers hope that recipients will, in their own way, develop the qualities of perseverance, hope, and thankfulness that Bryan showed in his short time at Virginia Tech.

Alyssa Lopez

Center for Forest Products Business and
Lora L. and Martin N. Kelley Family Scholarship:
This scholarship was established by the Lora and Martin Kelley family and center to
support undergraduate students in the Department of Sustainable Biomaterials who have demonstrated high academic achievement, a record of professional activities, and engagement in the university community.

Cyrus Adibpour          Gloria Alvarez

Danzer Group Scholarship:
The Danzer Group Scholarship is intended to recognize, encourage, and provide financial assistance to outstanding students enrolled in the Department of Sustainable Biomaterials who plan a career within the forest products industry. Recipients can be selected from junior or senior students in the Department of Sustainable Biomaterials based on academic achievement and/or potential for superior academic achievement and the desire to pursue a career in the forest products industry.

Elicia Huggins

E. George and Marianne Stern and Jean Stern Fromberg Memorial Scholarship:
This scholarship is in memory of E. George and Marianne Stern and Jean Stern Fromberg. Dr. Stern was the former director of the Sardo Pallet and Container Research Laboratory at Virginia Tech. The late Jean Fromberg was the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Marianne Stern. The scholarship was endowed by Mrs. Stern, the Stern family, and friends of the family. The scholarship is awarded to a deserving student in the department based on academic performance, financial need, and professional promise.

Garrett Treaster

Frank Miller Lumber Company Freshman Scholarship:
Established by the Frank Miller Lumber Company to support students in the Department of Sustainable Biomaterials, with a preference given to freshmen.

Landon Holbert

G. Scott Francis Scholarship:
G. Scott Francis was the founder and president of the Carolina Paper Board Company. He was a 1936 graduate of Virginia Tech from the Department of Dairy Science. The scholarship provides support in the areas of paper, fiber, recycling, packaging, and unit load research and education.

Cyrus Adibpour          Gloria Alvarez
Zachary Burns          Shifeng Chen
Megan Stallings

George and Mary Ragsdale Scholarship:
Awarded to undergraduate and graduate students based upon potential and interest in contributing to the forest industry.

Garrett Treaster

Geza Ifju Scholarship:
Dr. Geza Ifju was the founding department head of the Department of Wood Science and Forest Products. Family, friends, and alumni have provided contributions for this endowed scholarship in honor of Geza.

Elicia Huggins
Hardwood Manufacturers Association Scholarship:
The Hardwood Manufacturers Association Scholarship is intended to recognize, encourage, and provide financial assistance to an incoming freshman or sophomore majoring in forest products marketing.  

Anthony Clayton

Morgan Lumber Company Scholarship:
Morgan Lumber Company is a privately held manufacturer of southern yellow pine lumber. The scholarship assists with the cost of tuition to an outstanding student in the Department of Sustainable Biomaterials. The recipient must have prior work experience through a previous job, summer internship, or co-op. Preference will be given to students with experience in softwoods and solid wood products.  

Frank Gerloff

Morgan Lumber Company Management Team Scholarship:
Morgan Lumber Company is a privately held manufacturer of southern yellow pine lumber. The scholarship was endowed by the management team of Morgan Lumber Company to assist with the cost of tuition to an outstanding student in the Department of Sustainable Biomaterials. The recipient must have prior work experience through a previous job, summer internship, or co-op. Preference will be given to students with experience in softwoods and solid wood products. The Morgan Lumber Company Management Team Scholarship is the second Morgan Lumber Company scholarship to be endowed within the department.  

Anthony Clayton

Steven A. Sinclair Scholarship:
Steven A. Sinclair was a professor with the Department of Wood Science and Forest Products and an internationally recognized leader in the field of Forest Products Marketing. Dr. Sinclair started the Forest Products Marketing Program at Virginia Tech in the early 1980s. Also, he initiated the Center for Forest Products Marketing and Management and served as its first director. Because of Dr. Sinclair’s interest in forest products marketing research, this scholarship is awarded to an outstanding graduate student studying the area, or to an outstanding undergraduate who plans to attend graduate school to study forest products marketing.  

Christa Weaver

Victor Clay Barringer Endowed Scholarship:
This scholarship is in honor of Victor Clay Barringer and given by Coastal Lumber Company, Inc., which he founded in 1937. Today it is one of the largest privately held forest products companies in the United States. Victor Barringer’s father, Paul B. Barringer, was president of Virginia Tech from 1907 to 1913. Coastal Lumber Company is now guided by Victor Barringer’s grandson, Victor C. Barringer II, president and CEO. This scholarship provides support to outstanding students in the department and was the first to be endowed with the Center for Forest Products Marketing and Management.

Cyrus Adibpour  Gloria Alvarez  
Steven Brown  Zachary Burns  
Shifeng Chen  Frank Gerloff  
Megan Stallings  Garrett Treaster
Virginia Forest Products Association Scholarship:
This scholarship is presented by the Virginia Forest Products Association, an industry
group that supports forest products enterprises in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The
scholarship supports a promising wood science and forest products student who has an
interest in working with the Virginia forest products industry.

Christopher Boulton

Scholarships Provided Through
The Virginia Forestry Educational Foundation

Georgia-Pacific Corporation Scholarship:
Established by the Georgia-Pacific Corporation and administered by the Virginia Forestry
Educational Foundation. Awarded to students in a Society of American Foresters accredited curriculum.

Andrew Downs

Morgan Lumber Company Scholarship:
Established with an endowment from the Morgan Lumber Company. Awarded to a
student in the Department of Sustainable Biomaterials.

Frank Gerloff

John D. Farmer Scholarship:
Established by the Virginia Forestry Educational Foundation to honor the contributions
of John D. Farmer and his role in forestry in Virginia, and contributions to the foundation
in his service as President. Awarded to students in a SAF accredited curriculum.

Cody Edwards

John F. Hosner Scholarship:
Established by the Virginia Forestry Educational Foundation to honor the contributions
of Dr. John F. Hosner to forestry in Virginia and his role at Virginia Tech. Dr. Hosner
became the head of a fledgling Department of Forestry and Wildlife in 1961 with
four faculty members. With his vision and drive, he was instrumental in growing the
department to a School of Forest and Wildlife Resources, which ultimately became
the College of Forestry and Wildlife Resources, now known as the College of Natural
Resources and Environment.

Josh Yost

Victor W. Stewart Scholarship:
Established by the Virginia Forestry Educational Foundation in recognition of the
contributions of Victor W. Stewart to forestry in Virginia. Awarded to students in a Society
of American Foresters accredited curriculum.

Ilia Donner  Sara Vial

Mable Beard Stuermann Scholarship Fund:
Established by the Virginia Forestry Educational Foundation to honor Mrs. Mable
B. Stuermann. Awarded to students in a Society of American Foresters accredited
curriculum.

Eli Podyma
William August Stuermann and Mable Beard Stuermann Scholarship Fund:
Established to support rising sophomores who have demonstrated a sincere interest
in the management of the forest land base in the Commonwealth of Virginia. These
scholarships are for three years. In order to be considered for this scholarship,
recipients must be enrolled in Virginia Tech’s Department of Forest Resources and
Environmental Conservation, in a Society of American Foresters accredited curriculum.
Selection is based on academic achievement or potential for superior academic
achievement, leadership qualities, and desire to pursue a career within the forestry
profession.

Louise Cohn-Still
Fred Lancaster
Joel Sisson
Sara Vial

Cody Edwards
Anna McAuley
Ben Tolton

ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIPS ADMINISTERED BY THE COLLEGE

In addition to the endowed funds that support scholarships that are provided from the
earnings from the endowments, many generous donors support annual scholarships
that are funded on a yearly basis to the benefit of the students who receive them.
Annual scholarships and their recipients for 2014-2015 are:

Brent Keefer Annual Scholarship
Established by Mr. Brent Keefer to support the CNRE Leadership Institute and provide
a scholarship to a student in the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental
Conservation.

Emily Newburg

Camp Ottari Nature Instructor Scholarship
Established by Robert Garst to encourage involvement of CNRE students with the Boy
Scouts of America Program and provide opportunities for internships. Recipients must
have successfully served as a Nature Instructor at the Camp Ottari BSA Scout Reserva-
tion. Upon successful completion of the summer experience, the student then receives
the Camp Ottari Nature Instructor Scholarship.

Brad Fleming

ITA, Inc. Annual Scholarship
Established by alumnus Mike Melo to support a student in the college.

Phoebe Bredin

Jack Raybourne Annual Scholarship
Established by alumnus Jack Raybourne to contribute to the support of the Leadership
Institute and provide scholarship assistance to a student in the college.

Andrew Sodergren

Jacob B. Huffman Annual Scholarship
Established to honor VT alumnus Jacob B. Huffman and supports students in the De-
partment of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation.

Cameron Owens

John A. Stegman Annual Scholarship
Established by John A. Stegman to support a student in the college.

Eleanor Conis

Mike Hincher Annual Scholarship
Established by Michael Hincher to support students in the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation.

Hannah Nyquist

National Wild Turkey Federation - Richmond Chapter Scholarship
Established by the Richmond Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation to support a student in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation.

Patrick Roden-Reynolds

Timberland Management and Investment Scholarship
This scholarship was established by alumnus John E. Green III to support a student in the college.

Casey Borklund

CNRE ALUMNI RECOGNITIONS

Recent Alumni Award - Graduate Degree

The recipient of this award is chosen by the Virginia Tech Alumni Association and presented annually to a recent masters or doctoral graduate student of the college, recognizing early career accomplishments.

Matthew D. Brinckman (M.S. Forestry: Forest Economics, Policy, and Management, 2010) is this year’s recipient of the Outstanding Recent Alumni Award. Matt is the Mid-Atlantic Regional Science Coordinator for the American Chestnut Foundation.

In the four years since graduating with a M.S. from the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation (FREC), Matt has made remarkable strides highly worthy of recognition. After graduating, Matt joined FREC as an Extension project associate and carried out a statewide Extension project focused on reducing the barriers to participation in forest certification among private forest landowners. His leadership in the formative stages of the project led to an additional $50,000 in funding to build on his own accomplishments.

Matt was soon hired to his current position with the American Chestnut Foundation, and has been blazing a trail of success ever since. He is a leader in the organization and is critical to the success of efforts to repopulate eastern forests with healthy and viable chestnut trees.
It is common to hear recognition and respect for Matt’s work from forestry colleagues near and far. He is a remarkable testament to the benefits of a Virginia Tech graduate education and is deserving of this award.

**FACULTY RECOGNITIONS**

*(Nominations submitted by students and college clubs and organizations)*

**Outstanding Advisor Award for 2014-2015**

Advising is an important component of the multiple duties that faculty members undertake. Advisors need to know the layout of campus and where students can go for assistance with different academic, emotional, and health issues. Advisors need to be familiar with courses taught not only within their department and college, but university courses as well. Advisors need to be familiar with the timetable and course registration, and they need to care for the well-being of their students, among many other things. The recipient of this year’s award is:

**Maureen Deisinger, Department of Geography**

Maureen is a dedicated and knowledgeable advisor in the Department of Geography. Students nominating Maureen for this award have praised her patience, her helpfulness, her kind and encouraging attitude, and her enthusiasm for supporting students throughout their college careers and beyond. Comments from student nominations include: “Her responses to my questions are always prompt, accurate, and encouraging in tone.” “She has helped me so much in my first semester of college. She helped with picking my classes, giving me information on potential plans in the future, and just all around great advice.” “Always has a great attitude, always available for walk-in advising for students, patient, kind, and genuinely interested in helping students advance personally and academically.” “She is very helpful in setting up class schedules and discussing what classes need to be taken during which semester!” “Whenever I need to go to her office, I feel like I can come to her with any problem I have.” “She is a great ambassador for VT, for CNRE, and for Meteorology.”

**Outstanding Teaching Awards for 2014-2015**

The college curriculum clubs annually honor a teacher from each department in recognition of dynamic teaching ability, excellent professional attitude to teaching, and outstanding student relationships. These recognitions are determined by students within the college clubs and organizations. The recipients of these awards for each department are:

**Vic DiCenzo, Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation**

Vic DiCenzo’s teaching approach was praised by student nominations. He has taught Fisheries Techniques, Fisheries Management, and Human Dimensions of Fisheries and Wildlife. He has also been commended for his efforts outside the classroom in connecting students with faculty and staff within CNRE, as well as potential employers.
One student commented that Vic “always offers additional guidance and instruction even when class ends. He has been my greatest influence since my transfer into the CNRE and I cannot thank him enough for all his efforts.”

**Brian Strahm, Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation**

Dr. Brian Strahm teaches Forest Ecosystems; Forest Soil and Watershed Management; and Advanced Forest Soils. Dr. Strahm was described in his student nominations as “a great teacher on multiple levels.” Students commented that “I absorbed and understood all of the information that was presented, and it is still useful,” and “not only knowledgeable, but entertaining, personal, and always there to help you in any way.” One nominator put it very simply: “Best teacher I’ve ever had.”

**David Carroll, Department of Geography**

David Carroll’s major classes taught are the weather forecasting sequence (Weather Analysis I & II); mesoscale meteorology (Severe Weather); senior-level large-scale weather systems (Synoptic Meteorology); and meteorology field-methods (the annual Storm Chase). Students said that “he is always helpful to the students in a time of need.” Another commented that David is “a phenomenal professor and I thank him for everything he has done for the university, because without him, I wouldn’t be able to major in meteorology.”

**Charles Frazier, Department of Sustainable Biomaterials**

Dr. Chip Frazier teaches Sustainable Biomaterials & Bioenergy; and Sustainable Biomaterial Composites. Students have described Dr. Frazier as an enjoyable, patient, and helpful teacher. Students commented that “he relates the material to us in a way that we will understand,” and “he is probably the most enjoyable teacher I have had at Virginia Tech.”

**Certificate of Teaching Excellence for 2014-2015**

Certificates of teaching excellence are awarded annually by the university to faculty members selected by the individual colleges. This award recognizes faculty who excel in the classroom, creating an innovative and welcoming environment where students can learn and reach their potential.

**Robert Oliver, Department of Geography**, is the recipient of this year’s award from the College of Natural Resources and Environment. Bob Oliver epitomizes Ut Prosim (That I May Serve) at Virginia Tech. In every sense of the motto he relates to the students who come through both his office and his classes. Dr. Oliver always has time for students and takes an interest in them beyond their studies to an individual level. He displays a passion in his teaching that spreads through his students who then reflect that passion throughout their careers.

Regarding Bob, students have said: “Bob is one of those rare professors that can excite an entire room of students getting them to close Facebook, put down their smart phones, and engage in the learning process. Simply put he brings his passion to the
classroom,” “He is always genuinely interested in what you have to offer and how you are doing. Bob is one of those people who seem to have endless stores of hope and inspiration designed specifically for you,” and “out of all the professors I’ve had, he is the only one who I believe to truly value and treat his students as equals.”

Dr. Oliver clearly brings energy, caring and excellence to his teaching that is deserving of recognition.

### STUDENT CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS FOR 2014-2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Club Name</th>
<th>President</th>
<th>Vice President</th>
<th>Treasurer</th>
<th>Secretary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>American Fisheries Society</strong></td>
<td>Michael Moore, President</td>
<td>Ashley Weston, Vice President</td>
<td>Hunter Hatcher, Treasurer</td>
<td>Jason Emmel, Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing</strong></td>
<td>Adam Oliphant, President</td>
<td>Won Hwang, Treasurer</td>
<td>Beth Rachel Stein, Secretary</td>
<td>Ranjith Gopalakrishnan, Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>American Water Resources Association</strong></td>
<td>Julia Sherry, Min Moschopoulos, Co-Presidents</td>
<td>Charleigh Larson, Vice President</td>
<td>Kylie Campbell, Treasurer</td>
<td>Tori Nelson, Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bass Fishing Team</strong></td>
<td>Ricky Kassebaum, President</td>
<td>Andrew Jackson, Vice President</td>
<td>Clay Ross, Secretary</td>
<td>Dylan Cooper, Sponsor Rep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Collegiate National Wild Turkey Federation at Virginia Tech</strong></td>
<td>Nick Lancaster, President</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fisheries and Wildlife Graduate Student Association</strong></td>
<td>Amanda Hyman, President</td>
<td>Cordie Diggins, Vice President</td>
<td>Cathy Jachowski, Treasurer</td>
<td>Asia Murphy, Joe Buckwalter, GSA Representatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Forest Products Club</strong></td>
<td>Christa Weaver, President</td>
<td>Gemma Whaley, Vice President</td>
<td>Frank Gerloff, Secretary</td>
<td>Cloe Traylor, Treasurer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Forestry Club</strong></td>
<td>John Peake, President</td>
<td>Alyssa Hamill, Vice President</td>
<td>Clara Theimer, Secretary</td>
<td>John Hardin, Treasurer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Forestry Graduate Student Association</strong></td>
<td>Nate Hanzelka, Ben Ahlswede, Co-Presidents</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Keith O’Herrin, Treasurer
Kim Coleman, Secretary
Warren Reed, Trisha Sanwal, GSA Representatives
Carolyn Copenheaver, Steve Prisley, Faculty Co-Advisors

Geographic Society
Gina Li, President
Zach Monroe, Vice President
Rachel Atkins, Treasurer
Rachel White, Historian/Secretary
Mario Garza, Graduate Student Rep.
Robert Oliver, Faculty Advisor

Geography Graduate Student Assembly
Ashley Athey, President
Mario Garza, Treasurer
Ashley Lewis, Academic Chair
Kyle Bailey, Social Chair
Korine Kolivras, Faculty Advisor

Kayak Fishing Club at VT
Evan Shearer, President
Tyler Meighan, Vice President

Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences
Rodney Johns, President
Sade Moore, Vice President
Byron Hayes, Treasurer
Tommy Amal, Graduate Representative
Jody Thompson, Faculty Advisor

Natural Resources Recreation Society
Elizabeth Mills, President
Anna McAuley, Vice President
Jane Schafer, Secretary
Connie Henshaw, Treasurer
Michael Sorice, Faculty Advisor

Packaging Systems and Design Club at Virginia Tech
Trey Good, President
Page Clayton, Vice President
Kile Chapman, Secretary
Andrew Smith, Treasurer
Stephanie Betzel, Fundraising Chair

Samantha Phanthanousy, Outreach/Public Relations
Kristine Roupas, Scholarship Chair
Young Kim, Faculty Advisor

Society of American Foresters
John Peake, President
John Munsell, Faculty Advisor

Student Society of Urban Forestry and Arboriculture
Anna McAuley, President/Membership Coordinator
Eric Wiseman, Faculty Advisor

Trot Unlimited
Sean Lusk, President
Vic DiCenzo, Faculty Advisor

The Blue Ridge Chapter of the NWA and AMS (National Weather Association and American Meteorology Society)
Elliot Shiben, President
Mayss Saadoon, Treasurer
Hans Van Benschoten, Third Officer
Jordan Pegram, Media Chair
Ashley Athey, Graduate Student Representative
David Carroll, Faculty Advisor

The National Forestry Honor Society, Xi Sigma Pi
Brendan Little, President
A.J. Shilling, Vice President
Melissa Letosky, Secretary/Treasurer
Kevin McGuire, Faculty Advisor
Brian Strahm, Faculty Advisor

The Wildlife Society
Ashley Lohr, President
Caitlin Greene, Vice President
Emma Boltz, Secretary
Baron Lin, Treasurer and Fundraising/Advertising Chair
Emily Ronis, Conclave Chair
Zachary Sheldon, Social Chair
Chandler Eaglestone, Camera Trapping Chair
Kery Jefferies, Animal Care Chair
Marcella Kelly, Faculty Advisor

Wildland Fire Crew at VT
Nick Perkins, President/FMO

Conner Kauffman, Vice President/AFMO
Kerry Jeffries, Secretary
Rand Pearson, Treasurer
Janaki Alavalapati, Faculty Advisor
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Department of Geography
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Department of Sustainable Biomaterials
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sbio.vt.edu

Conservation Management Institute
Phone: 540-231-7348
cmi.vt.edu

Virginia Water Resources Research Center
Phone: 540-231-5624
vwrcc.vt.edu

Center for Leadership in Global Sustainability
National Capital Region
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cligs.vt.edu

• Center for Environmental Applications of Remote Sensing • Center for Forest Products Business •
• Center for Leadership in Global Sustainability • Center for Natural Resources Assessment and Decision Support •
• Center for Packaging and Unit Load Design • Conservation Management Institute • Forest Modeling Research Cooperative •
• Forest Productivity Cooperative • Forest Operations and Business Research Cooperative • Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Center •
• Horseshoe Crab Research Center • National Science Foundation Center for Advanced Forestry Systems •
• Reynolds Homestead Forest Resources Research Center • USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station: Center for Aquatic Technology Transfer, Forest Watershed Science Research Work Unit, Utilization of Southern Forest Resources Research Work Unit •
• USDA National Agroforestry Center • USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center • USGS Virginia Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit •
• Virginia Water Resources Research Center • Wood-Based Composites Center •