DEAN’S STATEMENT

The dawn of a new year invites us to take stock of our accomplishments and set sights on new opportunities. This report provides a glimpse of a few of the significant contributions in 2014 of our College’s people – be they students, faculty, alumni, or staff. You’ll find innovative ways we have approached field-based education to prepare the next generation of conservation leaders. You’ll recognize how our supporters have fostered the means to launch our students toward successful careers. You’ll learn of some of the remarkable research projects undertaken by our faculty to fulfill our mission to cultivate science that makes a difference. You’ll see how all of us become energized by the excitement of discovery and the joy of learning.

The College will not stand still in 2015, but advance toward that hopeful horizon where human society works in harmony with the natural world. We will attract those students whose curiosity and drive fuel our common aspiration to apply knowledge to solve problems. We will act with both boldness and humility to tackle our most pressing challenges. We will devote ourselves to the union of science and caring so we might jointly embrace the solemn responsibility to leave the world a better place. Come and join us on this journey. We invite you to visit us here in Missoula or on our web site to see how you might participate in this uplifting pursuit.

Jim Burchfield
Dec. 31, 2014

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Highlights of 100 years of forestry

1913: Montana Legislature passes bill to establish School of Forestry and includes $6,000 for set up costs

1914: Forestry Club established

1922: First forestry classes held in the new Forestry building - where we still reside today

1928: Josephine Darlington is first female graduate of the school

1935: School of Forestry accredited by Society of American Foresters; accreditation maintained continuously since

1936: Wild Life Management program established (now known as Wildlife Biology)

1937: Montana Forest and Conservation Experiment Station founded by Montana Legislature

1937: Anaconda Copper Mining Company gives land to the school; combined with later gift from Pacific Northern Railway, this ecomes Lubrecht Experimental Forest

1947: Jean Hamre is the second female graduate of the school

1964: Forestry PhD program started

1970: Dean of the school Arnold Bolle wrote “A University View of the Forest Service” for Senator Lee Metcalf

1974: The Wilderness Institute and the Wilderness & Civilization program established

1987: Ed Bandy gives the Bandy Ranch to the school

2003: School of Forestry becomes College of Forestry and Conservation

Centennial festivities included:
Top row: Singing forestry songs on the steps of Main Hall
Middle row: Left- Banquet attendees Ken & Patti Bullman, Dave Wandelaaas, Larry & Sandra Nelson and Deen Boe; Middle - eldest alumni in attendance Zane Smith, Jean Hamre (one of the earliest women graduates in 1947), Vern Hamre and Howie Hunter; Right - crosscut saw competition at Lubrecht
Bottom row: Left - The fun group from the 80s - Deb Bond, Dennis Riley, Jocelyn; Sandy Mack, Zimmerman, Frank, Mau, Mindi Federman, Lisa Lane Navarro, Hank Gostz, Dean Marsh, Nancy Ross, Margaret Gimmy, lan, Dennis Middle - watching the Woodsmans Team demonstration at Ft. Missoula; Right - catching up with old friends at our BBQ

Celebrating our centennial
In the fall of 2013 more than 200 alumni came back to campus to celebrate 100 years of forestry. Listen to history recordings on our web site.
### ALUMNI NEWS

The Centennial celebration kept us busy last fall with fun events, including a lecture by renowned environmental historian Char Miller and the events you read about on the previous page. The Montana Legislature approved the Forestry School in 1913, the first classes started in Sept. 1914. To learn more about the Centennial festivities or to read our two official school histories, visit our web site. One history was prepared by the Mansfield Library Archives & Special Collections to go along with the great display they hosted in the library last year (you can also view part of the exhibit online). Minnie Smith compiled more of the school’s history in her booklet “Montana’s School of Forestry: Highlights of 100 Years.”

We also honored four distinguished alumni this year during UM’s Homecoming Week. Join us in congratulating Jim, Russ, Peter and Zane for this honor. More complete biographies are also on our web site.

### Distinguished alumni 2014

**Jim Durglo**  
1987 Forestry  
Jim was selected as the Distinguished Native American Alumni this year. He is a member of the Confederated Salish, Pend d’Oreille and Kootenai tribes with over 30 years of experience in wildland fire, forest planning and management. He is the forest manager for CSKT.

**Russ Graham**  
1972 Forestry  
Russ has over 39 years of experience with the Rocky Mountain Research Station and for 38 years has been in charge of the Priest River and Deception Creek Experimental Forests in Idaho. He’s published more than 210 scholarly articles on forest productivity and landscape processes.

**Peter Leech**  
1965 Forestry  
Peter is retired from Weyerhauser where he worked since 1979. There he created the Environmental Management System for the company’s Mississippi/Alabama tree farm. He also served for 14 years in Vietnam and Korea and was awarded a Bronze Star for valor.

**Zane Smith**  
1955 Forestry  
Zane is retired from the U.S. Forest Service (34 years of service) and the U.S. Air Force Ready Reserve. In his long career he was a district ranger, forest supervisor, national director of recreation and wilderness, and the regional forest for California, Hawaii and Micronesia.

**Sue Vap**  
1972 forestry grad and one of our distinguished alumni this year, met up with Helen Bolle during the Centennial celebration last fall. Helen is the widow of legendary dean Arnold Bolle. Bolle served as dean from 1962 to 1972 and authored the influential report “A University View of the Forest Service,” better known as the Bolle Report. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the college’s Bolle Center for People and Forests, founded in 1994 by a gift from the Art Ortenburg and Liz Claiborne Foundation to honor Bolle and support education and research on sustainable livelihoods, communities and forests. Learn more about the Bolle Center.

**Alum Dave Fauss**  
shared this photo from senior spring camp in 1963. Does anyone know where this quarter-long camp was held? Send us a note at connect@cfc.umt.edu with the correct answer and we’ll send you a prize. Dave notes that the cooks, at the front left in photo, provided great food.
DONOR SUPPORT

In fiscal year 2014, the University of Montana raised a record amount of support from private donors: nearly $54 million.

Earle Layser, ’65 forestry alumnus, and his late wife Pattie established a professorship earlier this year with a generous bequest of $1.5 million. The Earle and Pattie Layser Endowed Distinguished Professorship in Conservation Biology and Policy will support a professor in conservation biology, ecosystems restoration, threatened and endangered species and wildland conservation.

Earle and Pattie - writers, naturalists and conservationists - loved the Greater Yellowstone area and its rich natural resources. “We were exceptionally fortunate to visit and write about some of Earth’s beautiful, wild and biologically unique places,” says Layser. “But in the process, we also witnessed firsthand humankind’s sobering worldwide assault on natural places and wildlife.”

With this gift the Laysers ensured that the College of Forestry and Conservation will continue working to preserve the land and wildlife they love.

“We already have a strong foundation of scholarship and research in natural resource policy and land conservation,” Dean of the college Jim Burchfield said. “This generous gift will help future students better understand the connections between people, wildlife and landscapes in the West.” Read more in the UM Foundation newsletter.

This past summer Stephen and Jane Baldock (’72, ’72) committed $500,000 of their estate to the UM College of Forestry and Conservation. The gift creates the University of Montana Native American Natural Resources Program Fund and will focus on the greatest needs facing Native American students enrolled in the College of Forestry and Conservation. We’re excited to continue offering support, academic advising, internship and job placement and other services for the college’s native students.

The family of legendary conservationist William “Bud” Moore is continuing Bud’s passion for protecting wild places. They’ve established the William R. (Bud) and Jane Buckhouse Moore Graduate Research Endowment to support research projects by graduate or post-graduate students studying the Northern Rocky Mountain Crown of the Continent Bioregion. Read more about Bud in the UM Foundation newsletter.

Photo: Donna Hulsey, Earle Layser, Gaia Layser, Gavan Layser. Donna is the sister of Pattie Layser; Gaia is the Layser’s niece and Gavan is her son, a UM student.

Plum Creek made a gift to the college in 1994 to support the Plum Creek Distinguished Lecture Series and a Plum Creek fellow. This year’s Plum Creek Distinguished Lecture will take place in October, 2015, during Montana Forest Products Week and will focus on forest certification. Check out the Plum Creek website this spring for details.
Thank you to everyone who supported us in FY2014.
Interns Charlie Hopkins (foreground) and Mike Wentz at Lubrecht.

Ecological restoration students raised $22,500 in competitive grants this year to support their research projects.

75 incoming freshmen spent three nights in the wilderness before school started in a new program run by the Wilderness Institute.

Professor Libby Metcalf and the UM Outdoor Program started the university’s first Outdoor Recreation Living Learning Community. Students took over a floor of Aber Hall and took an introductory Parks, Tourism & Recreation Management course together, learning about recreation benefits and impacts.

The first round of our International Sustainability Fellows program kicks off in January with trips to Vietnam and Chile. We’re building leaders through international experiences that connect students to local natural resource issues in India, Chile, Vietnam and Zambia.

Interns at Lubrecht Forest

Charlie Hopkins and Mike Wentz supported forest management operations at Lubrecht and Bryan Rameriz helped with marketing of recreational facilities. Mike, from New Jersey, and Charlie, from Georgia, are both forestry majors. They worked closely with professor Alex Metcalf and forest planner Tom Perry to support the CFC’s forest management goals for Lubrecht.

During last year’s centennial celebration, alumni of the College of Forestry and Conservation donated to the Centennial Fund to support student field work and classes - like the Lubrecht internships.

The Student chapter of The Wildlife Society had a busy semester this fall. Club members conducted mountain goat surveys, wrote grants for the Be Bear Aware Program, practiced telemetry and gave presentations to local schoolkids about bear awareness. They also spent a weekend removing barbed wire fence from the Blackfoot-Clearwater Game Range — 42 club members took down 3.25 miles of hazardous fencing. Students partnered with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks and Backcountry Horsemen of Montana on this project.

The U.S. Forest Service employs 29% of our grads; other federal agencies employ an additional 22% and 9% of grads work at state agencies. Our recent survey found that ten years post-graduation, 82% of alumni work full-time in their field. Most alums live in Montana, California, Idaho or Oregon, but there are CFC alumni in every other U.S. state plus countries like Bhutan, Canada, Botswana and Afghanistan.

Thanks to all of you who completed the survey!
UM’s wildlife biology professor Mark Hebblewhite helped solve the mystery of declining numbers of elk in the West Fork of the Bitterroot. Hebblewhite and his graduate students worked with MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks over the past three years to collar elk, study vegetation in the area and document calf mortality to figure out what’s killing the elk.

Local residents and wildlife biologists became concerned when elk numbers dropped by more than half from 2005 to 2009. Many residents figured wolves were to blame. Researchers found otherwise.

The researchers found that 36% of the elk calf mortalities were caused by mountain lions. Wolves killed just five percent of the calves.

“When we look at the number of elk calves that we can document were killed by wolves, the number is fairly insignificant,” says project co-leader Hebblewhite. “For instance, we didn’t have even one confirmed wolf kill this past year. Not to have even one out of 36 confirmed elk calf fatalities is shocking to me.” Read the full story in the Nov.-Dec. 2014 issue of Montana Outdoors.
Professor Ron Wakimoto was awarded the Biswell Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association for Fire Ecology in May. The award, named for fire ecologist Harold Biswell, was given during AFE’s Large Fire Conference in Missoula. Wakimoto was one of three PhD students who studied under Biswell at the University of California-Berkeley to receive this honor. Wakimoto has taught at UM since 1982.

Photo: Wakimoto teaching prescribed burning in Bhutan in 2006.