



2003

SPOTLIGHT

On Student Research and Outreach

April 10, Moon Library

Poster Abstracts

**State University of New York
College of Environmental Science and Forestry**



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SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENT RESEARCH AND OUTREACH

April 10, 2003
Syracuse, NY



State University of New York
College of Environmental Science and Forestry

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SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENT RESEARCH AND OUTREACH

Poster Session

10:00 – 3:00 p.m., Moon Library

GSA Shifting Paradigms Conference

3:00 p.m., Alumni Lounge, Marshall Hall

DR. CHAD OLIVER

Director, Global Institute of Sustainable Forestry, Yale University

Speaking on:

Paradigm Shifts, Changing Generations and Global Forest Sustainability

4:00 p.m., Alumni Lounge, Marshall Hall

PANEL DISCUSSION

Dr. Oliver will be joined by:

Kent Gilges

Director, Forest Conservation for Canada & Midwest
The Nature Conservancy

Greg Comatas

Coordinator - Procurement, Forest Resources, NE Region
International Paper

Tom Wolfe

Director, Bureau of Public Lands, Division of Lands & Forests
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Paradigm Shifts, Changing Generations, and Global Forest Sustainability¹

Dr. Chad Oliver, Yale University

Paradigms—similar to “mental models”—allow people to process large amounts of information rapidly. They are valuable for organizing, communicating, and accomplishing complex tasks. New paradigms are commonly proposed and are sometimes more accurate than the old ones. Making the transition in paradigms is an important consideration. A common issue is whether more problems are created by changing a paradigm or by accepting the imperfections of a commonly accepted paradigm. New paradigms are commonly resisted at first, with younger generations and those less advantaged by the present paradigm often most readily accepting the shift to a new paradigm. Consequently, acceptance of new paradigms often parallels generations in various fields; and new paradigms can be disliked and resisted both because they threaten a person’s way of thinking and because they are often introduced with an attention-getting flair. Some cultures accept new paradigms more readily than others. Several paradigm changes relative to forests are occurring—in the biology, economics, resource perceptions, ways of life, education, and ways we think about the future. The concept of Global Forest Sustainability will be discussed relative to the paradigm shifts.

¹Abstract of Invited Presentation, GSA Shifting Paradigms Conference, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, NY April 10th, 2003.