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On The Cover
Jeffrey G. Hopson, Environmental Studies graduate student, captured New York Governor George Pataki’s Earth Day visit to the ESF campus. Pataki is flanked by ESF President Ross Whaley, left, and Syracuse Mayor Roy Bernardi and New York Senator Alfonse D’Amato, right.

Errata:
The list of individuals assisting in the production of the 1996 Honor Roll of Donors should have included Robert W. Arseneau and Gail M. Simmons.

The State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry offers a diverse range of accredited programs and degree options in environmental and forest biology, environmental studies, chemistry, environmental resources and forest engineering, forest technology, landscape architecture, paper science and engineering, resources management, and construction management and wood products engineering.

The College’s mission is to be a world leader in instruction, research and public service related to understanding the structure and function of the world’s ecosystems; developing, managing and use of renewable natural resources, improving outdoor environments ranging from wilderness to managed forests, to urban landscapes; and maintaining and enhancing biological diversity, environmental quality and resource options. As such, ESF has maintained its unique status within SUNY’s 64-school system as one of four specialized colleges and one of only eight doctoral granting institutions.

ESF takes affirmative action to provide equal opportunity for all people and to build a campus community that reflects a wealth of diversity.
In March, the College hosted a SUNY Conversation in the Discipline, Educating for the Environment to explore developments in university-level programs in environmental science, studies and natural resources.

Although the 60 participants from throughout SUNY listened and interacted with a variety of speakers with interest and debate, as the day wore on, my mind wandered.

As host and organizer of the Conversation, I was worn out. And having just witnessed my 20th anniversary at ESF, I was thinking back on the College and what it was like my first day on the job. In particular, I was thinking about the people who were here at the time, what our programs were, and what issues were driving campus discussions (the main one was the implementation of the decision to become an upper-division institution, depending solely on transfer students at the undergraduate level).

It suddenly occurred to me that 1997 marks the 25th anniversary of the rechartering in 1972 of the College and the change of its original name from the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse University to our current name of the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. What must it have been like to contemplate something as significant as changing the name of a college that for over 65 years had been a world leader in forestry? And what would the leaders at the College in those days think about what we are doing today as we educate for the environment?

My curiosity sent me to the 1972-73 General Catalog, which stated, as the College’s first goal, that “through broad, general education, and through deep specialization,” our graduates would be “citizens of broad outlook, and as dedicated professionals combining technical competence, social awareness, discipline, and sense of purpose, they can assure society of the deep understanding and careful planning which underlie capable and efficient use of forest inheritance.”

I went back another 25 years and found in the 1947-48 Announcement of Courses “a statement that read “the College of Forestry has for its objects and purposes among others: the teaching and instruction of students in the science and practice of forestry and its several branches.”

What do we say today? A quick review of our current Catalog or, if you wish, a click of the mouse on our Internet homepage at http://www.esf.edu reveals our contemporary missions: “to be a world leader in instruction, research, and public service related to: understanding the structure and function of the world’s ecosystems; developing, managing, and use of renewable natural resources; improving outdoor environments ranging from wilderness to managed urban landscapes; and maintaining and enhancing biological diversity, environmental quality, and resource options.”

Are we moving in the right direction? What are other colleges and universities doing to educate for the environment?

Through the early 1970s there weren’t more than about 50 environmental studies programs in all of American higher education. Has that changed? Using a search engine on the World Wide Web, I discovered there are reported 10,388 undergraduate programs in some area of the environment and, at the graduate level, there are 3,292.

Even within the four-year campuses of SUNY there has been significant growth of programs directed towards the environment. At last count there were six campuses offering either majors or minors in environmental science, another seven with developed proposals, and every campus offering a multitude of courses relating to environmental issues.

Well, what does all of this mean? Are we doing the right things? Have we made the correct navigational changes over the years? Are we being overrun by our friends and competitors?

One assessment seems indisputable: whereas for the College’s first 60 to 65 years there was comparatively little competition from other colleges or universities, the last 15 to 20 years has seen a geometric increase in environmental programs. Today, virtually every college makes a claim to having an environmental something-or-other as a way to attract students in an increasingly competitive market.

Some of these claims are legitimate and some are not. Some campuses have invested extensively and wisely in a faculty that can support a claim to a strong program in the environmental area (many with faculty who earned a degree from ESF). Others have put “old wine in new skins” and simply shuffled a few courses around. The problem for the consumer is to ascertain which campuses have done what.

The challenge for this generation of leaders at ESF is both to maintain and enhance the quality of programs and then represent what we do in a more competitive marketplace. Many institutions have broader name recognition, but less robust programs.

Will we be successful? So far we still attract very high quality students who complete our programs and secure professional opportunities. Other institutions are clearly invading what had been for ESF a largely uncontested arena. The test of how good we are will be judged in the competition with dozens of other colleges who attempt to look more and more like ESF.

The final answer probably won’t be known until another dean 25 years from now looks back and wonders if she is doing the right kind of things, and if the pioneers of the late 20th century would be proud of what the College has achieved as she muses over the 1997-98 Catalog and speculates what was in the minds of her administrative ancestors.

And, for me? Has it really been 20 years?

Robert H. Frey is dean of Instruction and Graduate Studies.
LA Grad A Finalist In Oklahoma Bombing Memorial

Susan L. Herrington, a 1986 Landscape Architecture graduate, is one of five finalists in an international competition to design a memorial to the victims of the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City.

The design finalists were announced April 19, the second anniversary of the bombing by competition organizers, the Oklahoma City Memorial Foundation.

Herrington is a principal in Land Studio of Ames, Iowa, and assistant professor in the College of Design at Iowa State University. She worked with architect Mark Stankard, an adjunct assistant professor at ISU, to create their design for the competition “Footfalls Echo the Memory.”

“Footfalls Echo the Memory” creates multiple experiences throughout the site, ranging from an “echo wall” recognizing the victims to an amphitheater of steps “echoing footfalls.” The design reclaims Fifth Street as a simple, elegant lawn. A circle of 19 trees forms a clearing for a special place for children. The Survivor Tree stands in a clearing as a resilient stage of hope.

Other finalists were from Berlin, Germany; Dallas, Texas; New York, New York; and Chicago, Illinois. The Oklahoma City Memorial Foundation received 624 designs from 23 countries and all 50 states. The final design will be selected July 3.

Every Little Bit Helps

It would be expected that an institution devoted to environmental science would have an active and innovative recycling program. ESF meets those expectations.

From last July to this March, the College collected 44,000 pounds of scrap metal, 12,000 pounds of cardboard, 5,000 pounds of clear glass, and 90,000 pounds of mixed office paper, according to Christine Langlois, senior staff assistant in ESF’s Physical Plant.

ESF also recycles old motors and lab equipment, working with the Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency.

“We take the time to take each piece apart and look at it to see what can be reused again,” said Langlois.

Students play an active role in the College’s recycling efforts. The 12-member ESF Recycling Club goes from building to building on the ESF campus to collect recyclable items. It also operates an innovative compost system that uses worms to break down food waste produced at the College.

The club also tries to spread recycling knowledge through community outreach programs such as educational sessions at area schools. This year, for instance, the group helped students at Syracuse’s Fowler High School.

“Education is one of our main goals as a group,” said ESF senior and Recycling Club President Stephanie Gomon.

ESF Career Services Gets ‘Wired’

A remodeled and expanded Office of Career and Counseling Services “networked” this spring semester to bring more services to employers and student and alumni job seekers.

An expanded physical space allows for additional room for the career services library of reference books as well as two new computer workstations. Director Thomas O. Slocum said students use the workstations to prepare resumes and cover letters as well as to search the Internet for job leads, data on internships, and other career information.

The Office has a new World Wide Web homepage in the works [http://www.esf.edu/career/homepage.htm] with special interest items for students, employers and alumni related to employment issues. “The page contains links to just about every known jobs source and search engine,” said Slocum.

Prospective employers also may list jobs with Slocum over the Internet—or by the more traditional methods of telephone,
ESF, DEC Researchers Find 450-Year-Old White Pine
by Jennifer Post

An ESF researcher working with the state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) discovered an eastern white pine tree estimated at 450 years old. It is the oldest living tree of its species on record.

The tree, discovered by Donald J. Leopold, professor of Environmental and Forest Biology, is part of a stand of centuries-old trees at the DEC’s Nelson Swamp Unique Area in Madison County, NY.

Leopold has conducted ecological research in the Unique Area for more than a decade. More recently, with graduate students and DEC Senior Forester Greg Owens, he investigated the age of forest stands within the area.

Core samples extracted from select trees at the site found other white pine, hemlock, and white cedar that are at least 300 years old.

Owens said the trees are part of approximately 12 acres of forest wetland dominated by eastern white pine, northern white cedar and balsam fir that is a remnant of the pre-settlement forest.

“Nelson Swamp is very significant because the information we gather there can serve as a baseline for research on natural disturbance regimes in old-growth forests,” Leopold said.

The state owns 574 acres of Nelson Swamp, which covers 1,500 acres in the towns of Nelson, Fenner, and Cazenovia. The DEC is responsible for managing the state land and has drafted a stewardship management plan that provides guidelines for protecting the unique qualities of Nelson Swamp while providing opportunities for public access.

The draft plan will be distributed to public comment later this year.

Post is a deputy press officer with the DEC in Albany.

Huntington Lecture Series Kicks Off July 10

The popular Huntington Lecture Series begins July 10 with the program, “Bats of the Adirondacks,” by Al Hicks, senior wildlife biologist with the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

The annual lecture series features free weekly programs for the general public on wildlife and the Adirondack ecology. Lectures are held Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Rich Lake Visitor Interpretive Center in Newcomb, the unique campus that serves as a model for protecting the unique qualities of the pre-settlement forest.

Other lectures scheduled this summer are:
- July 17: Trekking and Climbing in the Himalayas of Nepal, by ESF Ranger School Assistant Professor Jamie Savage
- July 24: Mushrooms of the Adirondacks by Alan Bessette

Almost 70 percent of incoming freshmen rank in the top 20 percent of their high school graduating class, according to a pre-view of entering students.

As of April, some 145 freshman applicants had committed to enrolling in ESF for Fall 1997, reported Dennis O. Stratton, director of Admissions. ESF has a rolling admissions policy—meaning the College
Students and researchers from opposite sides of ESF’s Quad are combining their expertise to help government leaders and environmental groups on the Yucatan Peninsula find a balance between encouraging tourism and protecting the area’s ecosystem. Faculty members say the work demonstrates the advantages of melding different academic disciplines, particularly biology and landscape architecture.

“Diversity is a real thing if they let it work, if it’s not just rhetoric,” said Guy A. Baldassare, a professor in the Faculty of Environmental and Forest Biology who specializes in wetlands and wetland birds. “When it all comes together, that’s when you get synergy. That’s when the college does good stuff.”

“The connection between landscape architecture and biology is a great match,” said Cheryl Doble, an assistant professor in the Faculty of Landscape Architecture.

Much of the current work occurs at the Celestun Special Biosphere Reserve, which is in a small Mexican fishing village on the Gulf Coast of the Yucatan Peninsula. The reserve, which was declared a protected area in 1979, is a major wintering area for greater flamingos, which draw tourists. The reserve’s 146,000 acres contain coastal dunes, mangrove forests, marshes and estuaries. In addition to hosting flamingos, the reserve serves as a nesting ground for endangered sea turtles and provides habitat for migratory birds and two endangered crocodile species.

The connection between ESF and the Yucatan Peninsula had a two-pronged start. Baldassare began his research there in 1985, when he was a faculty member at Auburn University. When he came to ESF a few years later, he brought his work with him.

The tie became official after Richard C. Smardon, now chairman of the Faculty of Environmental Studies, attended an international ecotourism conference in Merida, the capital city of the Mexican state of Yucatan, in 1989. The contacts he made there led to cooperative agreements between ESF and two Mexican educational institutions: the University of Yucatan and a field research university called CINVESTAV.

Since then, the project has brought several undergraduates from the Faculty of Landscape Architecture to Celestun. Graduate student Leigh Gartner Jones spent last fall in another part of the Yucatan, in Campeche, Mexico, doing a community plan for tourism in the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve, where ancient Mayan ruins remain largely untouched in the jungle. Baldassare and other researchers from Illick Hall have studied the habits of Celestun’s flamingos. And a couple of forestry graduate students and one from the Faculty of Environmental Studies have done ecotourism projects in the region.

The undergraduate landscape architecture students, completing a requirement that they do a semester of off-campus design work, collaborated with representatives of Pronatura Peninsula de Yucatan, a private, non-profit organization whose mission is to conserve the biological diversity of the Yucatan Peninsula.

In developing countries, work by landscape architects is generally restricted to urban parks, said ESF alumnus Brian Houseal, who directs the Nature Conservancy’s Mexico program. There is little large-scale land-use planning done.

The Nature Conservancy and Pronatura are partner organizations, and Houseal serves as a link between ESF and the two groups. He earned his bachelor’s degree in landscape architecture at ESF in 1976.

“We actually get some pretty decent technical assistance from the school to help our organization solve some problems,” Houseal said.

The students have made suggestions that could help serve a growing tourist trade: Put a visitors’ center here, build a bike trail over there, develop an interpretive trail in this spot. But the suggestions have remained just that.

Doble said Pronatura lacks the expertise to put the plans into action. So in March, she and Associate Professor Scott Shannon went to Celestun with Jones and researcher continued next page.
accepts applicants and admits students throughout the year—and several places offers outstanding so the freshman class could grow by a few more students before classes begin August 25. Last year, 116 freshmen were admitted to the College.

Almost half (48 percent) of committed freshmen are women and 9 percent are members of minority populations. While these figures represent growth in both those groups, Stratton said, "Our efforts to attract more talented students, particularly African- and Hispanic-American students, is limited by the availability of scholarship funds."

In a "white paper" to ESF's Board of Trustees last year, Vice President for Student Affairs and Institutional Advancement estimated that the college would need $9 million in scholarship funds to fulfill the needs of anticipated students.

Overall, 94 percent of committed freshmen scored above the national norms on the verbal section of the SAT and 96 percent scored above the national norms for math. The 145 students come from 10 different states.

**Black Clawson CEO Wins Joachim Award**

Carl C. Landegger, chairman and chief executive officer of The Black Clawson Company of New York, was awarded the 1996 Herman Louis Joachim Award for Excellence in Management.

The award is given annually by the ESF and the Syracuse Pulp and Paper Foundation (SPPF).

Landegger, 66, was a founding director of the SPPF. He has spent his entire career with Black Clawson, which manufactures machinery for the pulp and paper industry.

Landegger has managed Black Clawson facilities in the United States, Canada, Europe, and South America. Under Landegger's leadership, the company built or managed numerous plants and developed new technologies in the pulp and paper industry.

The annual Joachim award honors a senior executive from the paper industry or allied fields whose career reflects management principles, entrepreneurial skills, and exemplary leadership. The late Herman Louis Joachim, for whom the award is named, was an native of France who had a long career in the paper industry in the United States.

**Six Firms Join ESPRA**

Six new members have recently joined Empire State Paper Research Associates Inc., ESF.

The new members comprise two pulp and paper companies, MacMillan Bloedel of Canada and Kimberly Clark of Ohio; a chemical supply company, ZeoFlinn Oy, based in Finland; and three paper machinery companies, Beloit of Wisconsin, Valmet of Finland and Voith-Sulzer of Germany.

The associates are a worldwide organization of pulp, paper and supplier companies that support the research being done by the Empire State Paper Research Institute at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Its members include companies in 10 countries.

**Finding A Balance continued**

Matt Clark. Jones completed the requirements for her master's degree this spring. Clark got this master's a year ago and now does instructional support work in the Faculty of Landscape Architecture.

The four ESF representatives drew up site plans for an expansion of the organization's small office building. They showed Pronatura officials how to make an interpretive brochure for visitors who take boat tours of the estuary: "Laminate the pages, then attach the books to the boats so they're waterproof, easy to use and difficult to remove. They walked through the reserve and flagged pathways for the bike trail and interpretive walk."

"This trip helped draw up plans to implement the student's recommendations," Doble said.

While the landscape architecture students are planning improvements that could draw more visitors, Baldassare and other researchers are studying the area's biggest tourist draw: the flamingos. He's now doing telemetry work, putting radio transmitters on flamingos.

One of Baldassare's doctoral students, Felicity Arengo, has also worked in the Yucatan. Her dissertation explores how the availability of food affects the behavior of the American flamingo. Arengo won the $12,000 Wilford A. Dence Fellowship for 1997.

"What we've done is sort of the science end of this thing," Baldassare said. "Scientists say, 'Here's what you've got.' Landscape architects say, 'Here's what you do with it.' They're visual. They see pictures. Scientists see words on paper."

Houseal and Baldassare said the program serves the students well by preparing them for an international career. "For the students who have done this, it's been a huge because it's an incredible adjustment to live in rural Mexico. The students have grown tremendously through this experience," Doble said. "My interest in it has been showing students how landscape architecture can contribute to developing countries. They can think about landscape architecture from another perspective."

Baldassare says the relationship benefits both the Yucatan and ESF. The program has brought a few graduate students to ESF from Mexico.

"You have kind of a two-say street here," he said. "It's a superb thing for the college."
Governor ‘Stumps’ On Campus

Scores of attentive ESF students, accented by warm sunshine, puffy clouds and chirping birds, provided state and national political leaders with a fine backdrop for Earth Day event April 22.

The government officials came to the ESF campus to announce proposed federal legislation aimed at reducing the industrial emissions that create acid rain. Even the breeze, blowing lightly from the west, played the perfect role, giving Gov. George Pataki a chance to make a point about acid rain.

“You feel the breeze. The breeze comes from the midwest. We cannot be an island unto ourselves. We cannot say that we alone can provide clean air and clean water because too much of what we breathe, too much of the pollution that we have to tolerate in this state — and we should no longer tolerate them — come from across state lines,” Pataki said.

Pataki and D’Amato were accompanied by Syracuse Mayor Roy Bernardi and Onondaga County Executive Nicholas Pirro.

“Here at ESF, as we call ourselves, I don’t think it’s an exaggeration to say every day is Earth Day,” Whaley said.

Pataki praised ESF as “one of the finest environmental science universities in America.”

D’Amato said one plant in Ohio produces more sulphuric acid that all of New York. “We are under attack. We are under attack from areas in Ohio, in Illinois, in Indiana. As a matter of fact, it is nothing less than air-born terrorism.”

Pataki be sure “every day is Earth Day, not just here at ESF, but all across this wonderful state.”

Earth Week ‘97 featured a full schedule of events ranging from a bluegrass concert to discussions about sustaining earth’s resources.

More than 20 environmental organizations and student groups gathered on the quad with information about their activities and issues for an Earth Fair April 14.

Several issues forums and speakers included “Techniques for Assessing Sustainability and Resource Use” by Dr. Mathis Wackernagel of the Center for Sustainability Studies in Xalapa, Mexico on Thursday, “Environmental Leadership” by Kevin Lyons of Rutgers University, and “Environmental Injustices in Nigeria” by Dr. Owens Wiwa, a Nigerian environmental activist, both on Friday.

Other good fun: a Vegetarian Cook-Off on Tuesday, and a “learning tour” of campus for children 8 to 14 on Monday.

Earth Week activities were arranged by a coalition of representatives from ESF student organizations.
In a particularly quiet corner of the Adirondack Mountains, spring has nudged Dubuar Memorial Forest back into action.

Wild blueberries and pink ladies' slippers are blooming. Red-spotted newts are mating and great blue herons are incubating their eggs. And the first tiger swallowtail butterflies are flitting through the forest.

In the midst of this reawakening, 53 young students are studying forest technology at ESF's Ranger School in Wanakena, the oldest forest technology program in North America. They are finishing eight months of rigorous academics and hard physical labor at an isolated campus about 150 miles north of Syracuse.

As the Ranger School marks its 85th anniversary this year, it is enjoying an infusion of energy as invigorating as any harbinger of spring.

Enrollment is comfortably close to capacity and the endowment is growing. Students can opt for new surveying concentration that builds on a traditional Ranger School strength of professionals working with professional surveyors. There is a full complement of faculty members active in broader ESF affairs, as well as in their professional fields and in the general community.

Just a few years ago, the Ranger School's future was shaky.

The current student body is nearly double that of 1988, when a downward trend in enrollment hit bottom as the school graduated just 28 students.

Given the expense of running the Ranger School — with a main building constructed in 1928 and several smaller structures to maintain, along with the salaries of 20 employees — ESF President Ross S. Whaley considered closing the school.

He questioned the usefulness of an associate of applied science degree in a business world where advanced degrees are increasingly common. He vowed to close the school if enrollment didn't pick up. It did, over the next few years, restoring Whaley's faith in the need for a two-year technician's degree in forestry.

A few years later, the Ranger School's future was in jeopardy again. In the early 1990s, in the face of huge state budget cuts, Whaley examined every department at ESF to see if each one deserved to survive.

He considered moving the Ranger School operation to ESF's main campus. The students could live in Syracuse University dormitories and do their field work at Heiberg Forest in Tully. It made sense economically and academically, but Whaley didn't do it. In Wanakena, he saw a school that was boosting its enrollment and consistently producing graduates with solid job offers. And he was not eager to devastate the economy of tiny Wanakena, where Ranger School paraphernalia occupies a corner of the general store.

"It was an emotional thing, perhaps, more than a substantive thing," he said. "If it moved, it would not be what the Ranger School had been for 80 years. That place has mystique."
The things that set the Ranger School apart from other colleges are the intensive study and togetherness forced on the students, said Faculty of Forestry Associate Professor Russell Briggs, of the Ranger School's Class of 1975.

"It's probably the intensive field training," Briggs said. "It fosters camaraderie."

His wife, Eva, who graduated from the Ranger School the same year, is now a family physician in Marcellus. She found medical school less rigorous than her year in Wanakena, Briggs said.

Staff members give Christopher L. Westbrook, appointed director of the School in 1995, much of the credit for infusing the Ranger School with a renewed sense of purpose. His secretary, Kathleen Nevil, describes the director as "Mr. High Energy."

In 1996, Westbrook was the first Ranger School faculty member to receive a SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. He, in turn, credits his staff for what's happening on the campus overlooking the Oswegatchie River where it flows into Cranberry Lake.

"We are exhibiting enthusiasm, exuberance," he said.

At this time last year, there were three permanent, full-time faculty members: Westbrook, James M. Savage and Michael R. Bridgen. Now there are five.

Assistant Professor James M. Sahm was hired in August to teach courses including forest management, forest pathology and forest ecology. And Instructor Wayne Allen, whose association with the Ranger School dates back to his graduation in 1979, officially joined the faculty in January. He had worked as a forest properties technician and then filled in for two years as a temporary faculty member after former Director Richard Miller retired in 1995.

The five teachers gradually took over from a group of faculty members who had been associated with the Ranger School for some 30 years. Among them were Miller, Kermit Remele, and Charles E. Martin II.

ESF's provost, William P. Tully, gives the current faculty much credit for strengthening the Ranger School.

"They've found that balance between building upon and recognizing the great traditions there and keeping an eye on the future and the emerging role of the technician," Tully said. "We look forward to continuing future development and our ability to support it."

There have been major capital improvements to the facility in the last few years: a new metal roof to replace the original slate roof that was, to some older alumni, a treasured symbol of the Ranger School; improvements to the water treatment system; and new insulation and siding on the six faculty houses.

The technology is also improving. Tully said the school will receive an $8,000 multimedia projector—one of eight recently purchased by ESF—that faculty members can use to incorporate computerized images into lectures. Another $12,000 will be invested in new computers and software for the students' lab, Tully said.

Westbrook hopes to have telephone lines installed in the dorm rooms, which would give students access to the Internet. They now manage with two pay phones and if they want to use the Internet for research, they have to rely on a faculty member to share his office computer.

The school has hosted meetings in recent years that have drawn a number of visitors to the campus. The Society of American Foresters held its state meeting at the Ranger School two years ago. The New York Forest Owners' Association has met at the school, as have St. Lawrence County planning and management groups. Scout groups tour the campus, and the Council of Eastern Forest Technology Schools will meet in Wanakena in the year 2000.

The Ranger School has developed an army of loyal alumni. There are about 2,400 living alumni, 700 of whom actively support the school. They have helped build an endowment of more than $300,000—roughly half cash donations and half pledges and planned gifts—since the campaign began in 1990.

Among the first major players in the endowment campaign were the Ranger School Class of 1950 and the Surveying Friends Committee, a group of surveying professionals that gives the faculty advice about improving the new concentration.
Much of the money has come in the form of modest pledges from graduates.

"This is a major, major undertaking," Westbrook said of the endowment campaign. "We don’t have many doctors and lawyers (among the alumni). We have a lot of foresters and citizens who are very successful in their careers, but we don’t have a lot of alumni who are really well off."

Two semesters at the Ranger School provide students with a rare educational experience. The handbook includes directions to the school’s log cabin and lean-to for students looking for a place to camp. They are warned not to rig sails on school canoes and they can’t attend school without hard hats and safety boots.

Many members of the Ranger School Class of ‘97 clutched coffee mugs as they shuffled into a 9 a.m. timber harvesting class one day during the spring semester. As usual, lots of them had skipped breakfast. That way, they can sleep until 7:55 a.m. and still have five minutes to get to their first class. For most of them, there is no need to scrape an icy windshield or even reach for a coat in the middle of an Adirondack winter. With the exception of married students and those who come from nearby towns, the students live in dorm rooms down the hall from the main classroom on the second floor of the Ranger School.

The attire is unisex collegiate with a twist of woodsy: sweat shirts, jeans, hiking boots, some sneakers and the occasional pair of rugged sandals. Half the 43 men wear baseball caps. The 10 women wear little makeup.

Most days, they do classroom work in the morning, gulp lunch in the first-floor dining hall, then grab hard hats and safety boots for an afternoon on the forest.

They rack up 45 college credits in just two semesters. Perhaps the word used most frequently to describe the academic experience in Wanakena is "intense."

"It’s the most intense thing I’ve ever done," Briggs said. Christine Fennessy, a 20-year-old student from Auburn, said there’s more than enough work to keep students in class from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with an hour for lunch, and then have them study until midnight and all weekend.

"You just get this work ethic that’s amazing," she said. "You learn what stress is about."

"You also learn about isolation."

The Ranger School is about a mile from the hamlet of Wanakena, which has 65 year-round residents. Even in the summer, when tourists crowd into the Adirondacks, the population of Wanakena edges up to just 130.

"I guess it’s an ideal location if they’re going to give us so much work to do and they don’t want us to be distracted," Fennessy said. "Because there are no distractions."

Fennessy said she hasn’t watched television since September. There’s no time for it, and besides, the cable companies haven’t reached Wanakena yet, so there’s little to watch. The radio is not much of a factor. "There’s only one radio station," she says.

Her classmate, Jessica Gonya, opened her eyes wide in mock surprise. "You get a radio station? I live across the hall and I don’t get a radio station," she said.

Both Fennessy and Gonya plan to continue their education this fall in the Faculty of Forestry at the Syracuse campus.

Forestry, the mainstay of the Ranger School curriculum since 1912, was joined three years ago by a concentration in surveying. This year, seven students are enrolled. Tully said the surveying program exemplifies the Ranger School’s ability to keep pace with the modern world and its emphasis on specialties.

Surveying students go into the field with state-of-the-art equipment that is loaned or donated by several manufacturers: two $7,000 total stations from Topcon America Corp. of New Jersey, used for reading distances, and two $900 metal detectors from Schonstedt. Each student gets the use of an $1,800 piece of surveying software manufactured by Surveyors Module Int., that turns a $200 calculator into an electronic field notebook.

More expensive hardware, such as a $60,000 piece of global positioning system equipment, is brought to the campus by alumni who work in the field.

Students are not the only ones who experience the Ranger School’s unique approach to collegiate life.
It’s the same for the faculty. They live on campus. Night duty, which requires one of them to be in his office for three hours each evening, and weekend duty, which requires one of them to remain on campus all weekend, rotates among the five teachers.

Each faculty member contributes something unique to the teaching staff.

Allen is working on his master’s degree in education and brings 20 years of practical experience into the classroom.

Bridgen, who joined the staff in 1992, is the first Ph.D. to work at the Ranger School. He says the school is undergoing “a transition from just forest technology to college-level education.”

Bridgen co-chairs the ESF Faculty’s public service committee with Robin Kimmerer of the Faculty of Environmental and Forest Biology and he is member of a graduate committee for one of Kimmerer’s students. Bridgen also works with the Akwesasne Task Force on the Environment in Hogansburg. He teaches Native Americans forest management practices that will help preserve the black ash trees vital to their basket-making tradition.

Bridgen is the faculty member most involved in following the effects of the July 1995 microburst that toppled 10 percent of the trees on the 2,800-acre campus.

The violent windstorm, Bridgen said, provided a “_regeneration event” vital to the forest’s good health. Bridgen responded by doing species trials to determine which types of conifers grow best at a particular site, regeneration trials to replace old conifer stands, and gap studies to look at how the size of open spaces in the forest affect the type of species that take root there.

Bridgen is replanting the school’s arboretum and he converted an old storage garage into a plant nursery, where he’s growing several types of trees. Among the seedlings that flourish under the 1,000-watt lights that glow day and night are birch trees, which Bridgen chose because they will make the campus prettier.

The birches are part of a campus beautification project he’s working on with other staffers and members of faculty families. Some of them drove around campus one day, noting what looked nice and what needed help. They made a list of ideas and did any work they could without spending money.

Their methods were not overly scientific. “Mostly it was cutting down ugly-looking trees,” Bridgen said.

They made some wooden flower boxes and planted geraniums. They moved a large Ranger School sign to the intersection where Ranger School Road branches off from Wanakena Road and planted some lilac bushes around it.

Savage, who joined the faculty in 1991, spent half of last fall in Nepal, indulging his love for mountain climbing. Through much of the late winter and spring, he visited civic and educational groups, doing slide presentations about the trip.

Sahm is an electronics whiz who put the 16 terminals in the students’ computer lab on a network. He repaired several broken units, rebuilding some of them from parts he scrounged in the lab. He produced an “intranet,” with Ranger School pages that students can refer to for help in using the computers and doing their coursework.

Despite the grueling schedule, frigid winters and the sense of spending nine months at the end of the earth, Westbrook said, students appreciate the value of their Ranger School experience. In some cases, they have not even left campus after graduation when they urge Westbrook not to change the program.

“They say, ‘Mr. Westbrook, don’t let up. Leave it the way it is,’” he said. “They appreciate what they’ve been through.” Years later, the alumni still say the same thing.

“They learn discipline.” Whaley said. “They learn how to work. They learn that because it’s snowing, raining, freezing, or the black flies are biting, you don’t fold your hands and say, ‘There’s no work today.’ Up there, there are no excuses.”

Dunn is associate director of News and Publications at ESF.
Karen Ann Roach spent her childhood in the Valley section of Syracuse, about four miles from the ESF campus. She was a fan of Syracuse University football, basketball, and lacrosse. But although she cheered for her favorite teams in the Carrier Dome, she had never heard of the small SUNY college across the street from the Orangemen’s famous home field.

“I didn’t know it was here,” she said.

Now, four years after she first learned that the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry existed, Roach has become one of ESF’s more accomplished undergraduates.

She has netted enough scholarships to cover nearly all the cost of her education in the Faculty of Paper Science and Engineering. She heads the students’ Papyrus Club. She worked one summer with the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., and another summer with the Environmental Defense Fund in New York City. She did an eight-month co-op with Georgia-Pacific Corp. in Woodland, Maine, and the company asked her to return to work there this summer.

With a year left to complete the requirements for her bachelor’s degree, she has also made a huge impression on people who help run the academic program in Walters Hall.

Says her advisor, William Holtzman, an assistant professor in the Faculty of Paper Science Engineering: “She’s just extraordinary and she does it without thinking about it.”

Says Nancy Parsons, the administrative manager of the Syracuse Pulp and Paper Foundation, which helps fund Roach’s education: “The extraordinary thing about her for someone her age is she seems to recognize opportunity and be ready to grab that opportunity when it comes along.”

Says Lauren Blum, a senior scientist who supervised Roach’s work at the Environmental Defense Fund: “She was fantastic. She’s tremendously responsible and very energetic.”

For her part, Roach, now 21, doesn’t see her accomplishments as any big deal.

On the Smithsonian job: “I was visiting my sister in Washington and I just applied.”

On the Environmental Defense Fund: “I just asked if I could work for them.”

On Georgia-Pacific: “The paper companies come to school to interview people.”

When Roach was about to begin her senior year at Bishop Ludden High School and dreaming of studying math or science at a big-name university, her mother heard there was scholarship money available at ESF. Barbara Roach sent her reluctant youngest child, then 16, up the hill to ESF for an interview.

Karen Roach wanted to go someplace like Notre Dame or Harvard, but her mother gave her no choice about the ESF interview.

“She basically said, ‘You’re going,’” Karen Roach remembered.

Holtzman showed Roach and her father, James, around the campus. Roach was impressed.

“I liked that there was a paper machine downstairs where you could actually work on, instead of learning it all through a text book,” she said.

And the process of making paper intrigued her. She liked science and math and she was looking for an engineering-based curriculum.

“I liked the whole idea of creating something with a practical application,” she said.

Keeping in mind her three older siblings’ urgings to keep her debt to a minimum, she also liked the scholarships that were available. The Syracuse Pulp and Paper Foundation awards a $1,250 scholarship every semester to paper science engineering students who keep their grade point averages at 3.0 or better.

For Roach, that requirement has not been a problem. She has always gotten good grades, she said, spurred in large part by her parents’ decree that Karen, her brother and two sisters would not be allowed to participate in sports unless they got good grades. Karen responded to the challenge by graduating from high school...
Profile: Karen Roach

continued

as valedictorian and playing soccer, basketball and softball, and running track.

"She's a high achiever but quiet about it," her mother said. "She's always been very focused on what she wanted to do."

Barbara Roach said her daughter's success comes at least partly from the discipline instilled by 12 years of Catholic education. And Karen was among the youngest students in her grade, which spurred her to do better so she wasn't left behind by her classmates.

At ESF, in addition to the SPPF scholarships, Roach received a John P. Clark Scholarship as a junior.

This spring, she adds to her list of awards a prestigious $2,500 scholarship from the Environmental Division of the Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry (TAPPI). She received the award in May at a division conference in Minneapolis, Minn.

In a letter of reference submitted when Roach applied for the award, Holtzman wrote: "I believe she is one of the truly outstanding students we have had in the Paper Science and Engineering curriculum."

Holtzman acknowledges that any student who succeeds in the paper science and engineering program, particularly the rigorous, four-and-a-half year engineering option Roach is pursuing, is probably a well-organized achiever.

"This is not mashed potatoes. This is real sweat to get through here," he said. "This is a chemical engineering program directed at the paper industry instead of at the petrochemical industry."

But, he says, even among her capable classmates, Roach is exceptional.

"She thinks at a different level," he said. "That's why I enjoy her so much. She has a real ability to explore other options, unusual options nobody else would even think of."

That ability took Roach to the Smithsonian in the summer of 1994. Just a year after graduating from high school, she was in Washington, helping to prepare the Smithsonian's "Ocean Planet" exhibit.

Roach worked in the National Museum of Natural History, helping to select the photographs that are part of the exhibit, which is now traveling to museums around the country. It is scheduled this month to begin a seven-month stay in Honolulu. Roach's photographs are featured in part of the exhibit that highlights 14 people who have worked to protect the world's oceans.

When the exhibit opened at a gala black-tie affair in Washington in 1995, Roach was there with her parents. So were Jaws author Peter Benchley, who worked on the exhibit's script, and lots of powerful Washington people and Smithsonian contributors.

Roach recalls the occasion with a bit of awe.

"It was certainly nothing I've ever experienced before or since," she said.

Her work at the Smithsonian led her to the Environmental Defense Fund in New York for the summer of 1995. An acquaintance in Washington told her the EDF wanted interns and she applied for a position.

Roach worked for the EDF's Paper Task Force, helping to prepare technical papers on the environmental and economic issues involved in the making of paper. The goal, she said, was to encourage the use of environmentally safe paper.

After a semester back at ESF, Roach headed to Woodland, Maine, for an internship at Georgia-Pacific's pulp and paper mill. She worked in the Finished Products Department, maintaining the pulp dryer and checking for defects in the paper.

Julie White, the engineer who supervised Roach's work at Georgia-Pacific, said Roach produced a pamphlet about quality inspections.

"It was very good work," White said. "She's very mature and professional. She requires very little direction."

This summer, Roach hopes to be more involved in running trials that could change the way wood pulp is mixed with other elements to make paper.

"They're always trying to find, kind of like new recipes, so they can save money," she said. "If they can decrease their use of softwood by even one percent, it saves them millions of dollars a year."

Her immediate goal after graduation is a job at a paper mill far south of her snowy hometown. Paper science graduates typically start work as process engineers. Recent ESF graduates are earning annual salaries that average $42,000. After she settles into a job, she'll think about graduate school.

Roach will head into the work force with a mission.

"It's a very conservative industry," she said. "There's a saying that they don't want to be first but they'll die to be second. In other words, if somebody else tries it first, and it works, they'll do it. I want to make them more proactive."

She would like to see more changes in product development practices, more minority hiring and continued improvement in the industry's work to protect the environment. During the last 20 years, she noted, paper companies have made huge reductions in the amount of pollutants they produce. She wants that progress to continue.

"It's a lot better than it was," she said. "But it still leaves a lot to be desired. A lot of people don't think the industry's taking any action for the environment when in fact, it is. But there's room for improvement with anything."

She wants to help push the industry toward being more sensitive to protecting the environment and more willing to make its methods environmentally responsible.

She plans to apply a bit of the logic she uses in her own life: "I want them to think about, 'What can we do?' instead of, 'What can't we do?'"
Campus Awards

Black, Peter E., Commander’s Award for Public Service from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. For service on the Corps’ Environmental Advisory Board and as the Board’s chair from 1995-96.

Chess, Caron, Environmental Protection Agency Fellowship Award.

Hall, Charles A., Boliva something-or-other: Claire got title?

Hawks, Richard S., and S. Scott Shannon, Professional Honor Award for Communication from the American Society of Landscape Architects. Also, Award for Public Education from the American Planning Association in recognition of contributions to the ‘Your Town: Designing Its Future’ program.

Hopkins, Paul F., Certificate of Appreciation for Meritorious Service from the American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing. For service to the Society as chair of the Membership Committee.

McDonnell, Jeffrey J., named Associate Editor of the Journal of Hydrology by Elsevier Science Publishers.

Quackenbush, Lindi J., Robert E. Altenhofen Memorial Scholarship from the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing. To encourage and commend college students who display exceptional interest and ability in the theoretical aspects of photogrammetry.

Timell, Tore, 1996 Outstanding Chemist Award from the American Chemical Society, Syracuse section.

On Campus

June 1
Summer Program in Field Forestry, Ranger School. Through July 1.

June 8
Summer Program in Environmental and Forest Biology I. Cranberry Lake Biological Station. Through July 4.

July 6
Summer Program in Environmental and Forest Biology II. Cranberry Lake Biological Station. Through August 1.

July 26-29

August 2-3
Ranger School Alumni Reunion, Wanakena.

August 5-8

August 15

August 21-22
Graduate Assistant and New Faculty Colloquium on Teaching and Learning. Additional information: IDEaS, 315-470-6810.

August 21-24
New Student Orientation Program.

August 25
Classes begin.

October 3-4
Homecoming.

October 6
Society of American Foresters and Tennessee Alumni Reception, Memphis, TN.

October 6-7

October 16

October 25

November
Air Quality Forum: Adirondacks and Beyond. Major Air Quality Futures for the Northeast. Additional information: ESF Office of Continuing Education, 315-470-6891 or http://www.esf.edu/adirondacks/

November 7
American Society of Landscape Architects and Georgia Alumni Reception, Atlanta, GA.

November 13
Transfer Student Visitation Day. Additional information: Office of Undergraduate Admissions, 315-470-6600.