In This Issue

Campus Update 4
Leopold Named Distinguished Teaching Professor
Rawls Earns Chancellor’s Award; Five ESF Students Cited For Excellence
Chemistry Alum Donates $200,000 To Jahn Lab
Renowned Scientists Speak On Campus
Commencement Wrap-Up

Bridging The Scientific Gap 6
ESF’s Environmental Studies Project uses the World Wide Web to help high school teachers enhance their science classes with real-life research.

The Muskie Fishing Is Getting Better 8
ESF’s Ellis International Laboratory in the Thousand Islands has helped area residents—and the state’s economy.

Campus Profile: Kevin Reynolds 13
The Public Safety officer has more than campus safety on his mind.

On The Cover
Cover photographer Claire B. Dunn shows off the Robin Hood Oak, the number one tree on New York’s historic tree register. A very dry season in 1995 coupled with nearby construction took its toll on the tree’s health. Last year, the college brought in Cayuga Tree Service owner Chris Sandstrom ’75, a respected arborist who pruned, fertilized, and otherwise undertook to rejuvenate the campus’ favorite tree.

The State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry offers a diverse range of accredited programs and degree options in chemistry, construction management, wood products engineering, environmental and forest biology, environmental resources and forest engineering, environmental studies, forest resources management, forest technology, landscape architecture, and paper science and 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 using 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 only 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.
The ‘Alumni’ Annual Fund: Shifting A Paradigm

by Gary A. Waters

In the coming months, an organizational change will shift responsibility for the Annual Fund from ESF’s Office of Alumni Services and the Alumni Association to the college’s Office of Development. Success—not the lack of it—is the driving force behind this decision.

Several years ago, the Alumni Association undertook the challenge of soliciting ESF alumni to raise scholarship funds to assist students with their educational expenses. Whether at public or private schools, students always have had and always will have financial difficulties affording a college education.

The gap between what students can afford to pay for higher education services and the cost of a college education increases each year—often by a rate higher than inflation.

During the last 10 years, New York state funding for ESF has dropped from a high of approximately 85 percent of the college’s total budget to less than 50 percent today. Quipsters on individual State University of New York campuses have taken to calling their institutions “state assisted” instead of “state supported.” But the situation is no joke for those schools—including ESF—whose missions are unique in the state and whose reputations for excellence are worldwide.

Maintaining programs of quality and distinction and attracting talented students regardless of their ability to pay requires money. During this same 10-year period, student enrollment at ESF increased and the college’s reputation as a premier institution grew. Scientists and students continued solving “real-world” problems related to environmental issues. Credit for sustaining this momentum is due in no small part to the generous support of ESF alumni.

To date, the Alumni office, in particular Justin Culkowski ’73, the office’s director, has managed all aspects of the Annual Fund. The office has done this while carrying out the many other functions of a well-run alumni services unit.

The success of the Annual Fund, and its critical importance to the institution, required a decision to invest more resources in it. For that reason, management of the Annual Fund is shifting to the Office of Development, the primary fund-raising arm of the college.

In no uncertain terms, alumni always will be the central focus of the Annual Fund. Assisting deserving students with educational expenses always will be the core purpose of the Annual Fund. Implementing changes to build on this for the future is a challenge ESF is most fortunate to have.

Gary A. Waters is ESF’s director of Development and executive director of the ESF College Foundation. He joined the college staff in 1997.
ESF Dendrologist Named Distinguished Teaching Professor

Dr. Donald J. Leopold was named a Distinguished Teaching Professor by the SUNY Board of Trustees.

Leopold has been a member of ESF’s Faculty of Environmental and Forest Biology since 1985. He teaches dendrology, freshwater wetland ecosystems, and Adirondack ecosystems.

The nomination document submitted by the college describes Leopold as “a splendid teacher, student mentor, and learning facilitator of the highest caliber.”

Leopold’s research focuses on forest and wetland ecology. In the last five years, he has worked on research grants totaling almost $1 million.

Leopold earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Kentucky and his doctorate from Purdue University.

He is the co-author of the recently published *Trees of the Central hardwood Forest: An Identification and Cultivation Guide*, has written chapters in five other books, and published more than 30 articles in journals and technical publications.

Distinguished Teaching Professors are a prestigious tenured rank above that of full professor. Faculty members who receive the title are expected to devote time to curricular reform and to the improvement of instruction.

Rawls Honored By SUNY Chancellor; Five Students Cited For Excellence

ESF’s director of Student Activities, Julie L. Rawls, was awarded a Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Professional Service while five ESF students were among 75 SUNY-wide to be named to the list of inaugural Chancellor’s Awards for Student Excellence.

Rawls joined the Student Affairs staff in 1993. She plans programs for the college's 1,800 graduate and undergraduate students on the Syracuse campus and at the Ranger School in Wanakena. The programs include commencement, convocation, and orientation, and Rawls works extensively with student government and student organizations on campus.

A program she designed to help introduce freshmen to collegiate life earned the title of SUNY Outstanding Student Life Program for 1997. During her tenure, Rawls also has implemented leadership training seminars and recently assumed a new role as ESF’s chief student judicial affairs officer.

The Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Professional Service recognizes extraordinary professional achievement.

The Chancellor’s Awards for Student Excellence, created last year, honor students whose “academic achievements bring credit to themselves and the entire State University.”

ESF’s recipients are K. Niclas Hjerdt of Uppsala, Sweden, a graduate student majoring in forest resources management; Marcy Layman ’98 from Sanborn, NY, and

continued on next page
$200,000 Gift Helps Equip ESF’s Chemistry Lab

by Claire B. Dunn

ESF has received a $200,000 gift from an alumnus who said he wanted to give something back to the college that started him on a path to a successful career.

Walter Smith of Portola Valley, CA, a member of the Class of ‘54, donated $200,000 to the Jahn Lab Appeal, the fund-raising campaign to equip the college’s new, state-of-the-art chemistry building. Smith’s donation is the largest single gift the college has ever received from an alumnus.

The gift brings the Jahn Lab Appeal to within $50,000 of its $1.1 million goal.

“I was a chemistry student, so this fits very well with what I had been given by the school,” Smith said. “I think ESF has a sense for excellence. I look for that in people I work with. It’s a place you learn that average just isn’t good enough and I like that.”

Smith, a Kingston, NY, native, is the founder of Prognostics, a company that developed new methods for measuring consumer satisfaction and loyalty. He sold the company last year to NFO Worldwide Inc., a market research company based in Greenwich, CT, for $30.9 million in stock. NFO is traded on the New York Stock Exchange.

He said his methods take a technical approach to assessing customer satisfaction, much the way a chemist tries to solve a problem.

“You get data and do experiments over and over again,” he said. “You always have to be measuring what’s important.”

The aim is to achieve a balance between what is important to a customer and the customer’s level of satisfaction.

“Without having been at the college, I never could have developed the methodology of precise measurements,” he said.

“I’m very pleased to see a continuation of the level of excellence I remember being at the college when I was a student. It takes real dedication from a lot of people to maintain that level of excellence for so many years.”

Smith studied pulp and paper technology, and high polymer chemistry at ESF. He later earned a master’s degree from the Harvard University Graduate School of Business.

He began his career in the plastics division of Dow Chemical Co. and then worked with Longview Fibre Co., where he gained experience in the paper industry. He then moved into IBM’s paper industry marketing group in San Francisco, where he worked on marketing computer techniques for use in the paper industry.

In the 1970s, he worked with two marketing consulting companies in the high-tech sector, and founded Prognostics in 1981. During the next 16 years, Prognostics developed a client list of 250 companies in 30 countries.

Karen Roach ’98 from Syracuse, both paper science and engineering students; Suzanne P. Wechsler, a forest resources management graduate student from West Hollywood, CA; and Helga K. Zollner of Aschafenberg, Germany, a paper science and engineering graduate student.

“ESF is tremendously proud to be represented by these five students, among the first honored with Chancellor’s Awards,” said ESF President Ross S. Whaley. “That our college—whose student body represents about one-half percent of the total SUNY student body—should have almost 7 percent of the Chancellor’s Awards recipients says a great deal about the quality of ESF students.”

ESF Draws Notable Speakers To Campus For Spring Events

Carl Djerassi, listed by the American Chemical Society as among the most important chemists of the 20th century, spoke on campus as part of the Distinguished Lecturers in Chemistry series. His April 24 presentation coincided with Earth Week celebrations at ESF.

Djerassi is considered the inventor of the birth control pill. He was the first scientist to synthesize the active chemical component of the pill. He also is credited with pioneering environmentally safe methods of insect control.

The Distinguished Lecturers in Chemistry series is one activity marking ESF’s “Year in Chemistry,” a celebration tied to last October’s opening of the Edwin C. Jahn Laboratory.

continued on next page
Howard Thomas Odum, the world-famous scientist who founded systems ecology, delivered the keynote address for the Spotlight on Graduate and Undergraduate Research symposium, sponsored by ESF Faculty Governance April 14.

The University of Florida professor emeritus’ controversial 60-year career has focused on ecological economics and engineering, and environmental policy evaluation. One of his former students, Charles A. Hall, is an ESF professor who specializes in systems ecology and energy issues.

355 Receive Degrees At Commencement Ceremonies; Ranger School Graduates 44

ESF conferred more than 350 degrees during commencement celebrations May 9-10 in Syracuse.

Angela M. Blair of Harpursville, NY, an Environmental and Forest Biology student, was Class of 1998 valedictorian. Peter L. Fry of Gabriels, NY, a Landscape Architecture student, was salutatorian.

ESF’s 300 baccalaureate, 40 master’s and 15 doctoral candidates received their degrees from ESF President Ross S. Whaley and Board of Trustees Chair Curtis H. Bauer ’50 during ceremonies held jointly with Syracuse University in the Carrier Dome. Best-selling author Robert Fulghum was the 1998 commencement speaker.

Daniela J. Shebitz of Nyack, NY, and Michael W. Wichrowski of Attica, NY, were named class marshals and led the procession of college degree candidates into the Dome. Both Shebitz and Wichrowski majored in Environmental and Forest Biology.

ESF’s 1998 Faculty Honors students are Penelope J. Houston of Honeoye Falls, NY, and Amber K. King of Camillus, NY, Environmental Studies; Blair and Shebitz, Environmental and Forest Biology; and Jason A. Rodrigue of Gloversville, NY, and Jason A. Pieklik of Syracuse, dual program in Environmental and Forest Biology/Forest Resources Management.

Also, Michael R. Lippacher of Barneveld, NY, and Benjamin C. Pokon of Hancock, NY, Forestry; and William G. Palmer of Syracuse and Robert E. McBride of Rochester, NY, Paper Science and Engineering.

Also, Denise R. McCoskery of Syracuse and Thomas F. Rogers II of Monroe, CT, Construction Management and Wood Products Engineering; Frank P. Sidari III of Bath, NY, and Thomas D. Parmiter of Homer, NY, Environmental Resources and Forest Engineering; Michael P. Schramm of Syracuse and Josef W. Kaser of Marcellus, NY, Chemistry; and Fry and Jeffrey M. Uryniak of Canastota, NY, Landscape Architecture.

Forty-four students received associate in applied science degrees in Forest Technology from ESF’s Ranger School in Wanakena, NY, during graduation ceremonies held May 23.

Robert Rogers of Altamont, NY, led the class as valedictorian. Lauchlin Groff of Springville, NY, was salutatorian.

The Environmental Studies Project: Bridging The Scientific Gap

by Mary Beth Malmheimer

Recent reports on high school science education have revealed two disturbing facts. While students understand basic scientific information, they lack in-depth knowledge of how scientific inquiry can help solve everyday problems. And that may be why high school students often lose interest in science.

ESF’s dean of Nonresident Programs, Robert C. Koepper, knew that science can be both fun and intellectually stimulating, especially if it involves the environment. He was confident ESF could help promote interest in science among high school students. Assembling a group of SUNY colleagues, Koepper developed the Environmental Studies Project, a unique program that bridges the gap between secondary and higher education by linking high school teachers and their students with outstanding environmental scientists and faculty in the State University of New York.

The Environmental Studies Project (ESP) is based on a series of instructional modules, explained Brian L. Fisher ’83, senior staff assistant for Continuing Education and project coordinator, that are accessible via the World Wide Web <http://www.esf.edu/esp>. Each presents a student-centered, hands-on approach to environmental education. Written by a variety of SUNY faculty, the modules encourage students to learn by doing.

Modules include complete lesson plans with components designed to foster ideas for original continued on next page
research, laboratory and field work, classroom demonstrations, peer teaching, and group discussions. The limnology module, for example, includes a board game, “Sink or Swim.” This game can be played individually or in groups and is designed to illustrate the impact of changes humans have made to a freshwater lake. “Sink or Swim” exists in hard copy format, and the interactive computerized version of the game can be accessed via the ESP website. In addition, each module allows students to use the power of the Web to access other resources for more information on the topic.

“The basic idea is to tap the expertise resident at the college and university level and translate that for the high school audience,” Koepper said.

About 16 teachers across Central New York download the information from the Environmental Studies Project website to supplement their teaching plans. Heidi Busa ’80, a teacher at Marcellus Senior High School and new member of the ESF board of trustees, uses the modules in her environmental studies class. “It is wonderful to have access to the expertise of these research scientists who are the leaders in their fields,” she said. “The modules provide a terrific link between the people doing the research and the kids in high school. It allows my students to see what it would actually be like to be a research scientist.”

Students are able to get right down into the water and evaluate the impacts of human use on watersheds through the Environmental Quality of Watersheds module. This module provides various exercises that have students taking water samples, and then determining the biological and chemical extent of pollution that exists in a particular ecosystem. They conduct the research and analysis themselves and generate results as any professional “research scientist” would.

ESF, which developed the program under a grant from the SUNY Office of Advanced Learning and Information Services, is searching for new funds to produce additional modules, Fisher said. “We’d like to do one or two new modules every year until we reach 15 to 20 total.”

An eighth module under development at ESF focuses on Public Policy and Environmental Management: A Case Study Involving Onondaga Lake. It is the first module that enables teachers to present environmental issues from a social science, economic, and public policy perspective. It is, Fisher said, a “holistic approach toward environmental conservation that allows students to understand that conserving water or protecting the environment is an integrated process.” Students explore not only physical science but learn that people, policy making, and law are inherent in every environmental issue.

In addition to developing new modules, Koepper’s goal is to modify and refine existing modules regularly to keep them up-to-date and easy to use to meet the needs of high school teachers as well as reflective of scientific progress. To accomplish this, ESF will establish a “module development team” to refine and standardize module formats as well as keep them current. The interdisciplinary team, composed of public school, private school, and SUNY personnel, will evaluate how to make the modules more productive for the students and teachers.

The Environmental Studies Project, said Koepper, is just another way ESF fulfills its outreach mission. “We recognize that we have an important public service mission at ESF and that working with the schools is an integral part of that mission” he said. In addition, the project allows research scientists to communicate with students and teachers and enables students to discover for themselves the excitement inherent in scientific inquiry.

Mary Beth Malmsheimer is a freelance writer and desktop publisher who lives in Syracuse.
by Claire B. Dunn

A Boston Whaler cluttered with gear putted slowly across a placid bay off Grindstone Island in the St. Lawrence River. It stopped alongside a big yellow buoy.

Two young scientists reached into the 50-degree water and pulled out a heavy trap net. John Farrell, a post-doctoral associate at ESF, peered into the net and offered a quick assessment: “Nothing.” He dropped it back into the river and steered the boat toward the next bay and the next set of traps.

The second time, at Flynn Bay, they were luckier. “Got one pike in here,” Farrell yelled.

He pulled the northern pike into the boat and slipped it into a cooler half-filled with water. Farrell showed Molly Connerton ’95 how to determine the pike’s gender and take a scale sample that will reveal the fish’s age, working in much the same fashion as the rings on a tree. Farrell measured and weighed the fish. He attached a numbered metal tag to the pike’s jaw and snipped off a small piece of fin, leaving a tell-tale mark that will identify the fish if the jaw tag falls off and the fish is captured a second time.

“This fish is done. Then you let him go,” he told Connerton, a fisheries technician who is working with Farrell this summer. “Hopefully, someone will catch this fish and return the tag.”

Farrell let the pike slide back into the river and headed the boat toward a trap net across the bay.

He and Connerton checked traps for several more hours. The work was done daily from April 7 through June 7, when northern pike and muskellunge finished spawning in the St. Lawrence. Then, Farrell, Connerton, and a handful of other staff members began searching for young pike and muskellunge that occupy the bays during the summer.

At the same time, two graduate students are investigating other aspects of the river’s fish population. Doctoral student John Cooper is studying the development and feeding habits of young pike and muskellunge that feed on plankton. Master’s student Brian Smith ’95 is studying the way northern pike use French Creek, a tributary, for spawning.

Their base of operations is Ellis International Laboratory, a research facility on a 3-acre island given to ESF in 1970 by James P. and Toni Ellis Lewis. The late James P. Lewis, a longtime member of ESF’s board of trustees, had owned Beaver Falls Paper Co. He and his wife received the island as a wedding present from Mrs. Lewis’ parents.

The main building, on a bluff uphill from the boathouse and dock, serves as an office and spare sleeping
quartes. Farrell, who directs the day-to-day operations on the island, lives in a small building known as the “master bedroom.” Graduate students are housed in the servants’ quarters and in a living area in the boathouse.

The island mascot is Farrell’s dog, a glossy black Labrador retriever named Calvin.

On maps, it is called Governor’s Island. Some college employees refer to it as Shotbag Island. In Clayton, the nearest town on the mainland, some people call it Little Calumet because it is adjacent to the larger Calumet Island.

“There are a number of colleges and universities that have biological stations on the shore of a lake, or a river. But right in the St. Lawrence River? I don’t know of any other college that has one,” said Dr. Robert G. Werner, the faculty member most closely associated with the research conducted at the laboratory.

Werner, of ESF’s Faculty of Environmental and Forest Biology, has been involved in Ellis projects for as long as ESF has owned the island. Researchers there have investigated the relationship between terns and gulls in the Eagle Wing Islands, the egg and larval stages of minnows and sunfish, and aquatic plant communities. In recent years, the research focus has been the esocid family—Great Lakes muskellunge and northern pike.

Over the last 11 years, the state Department of Environmental Conservation has invested more than $1 million in the college’s effort to research the decline of the muskellunge and pike, both of which are economically important gamefish.

According to Steven R. LaPan MS ’85, it was money well spent. LaPan did the research for his master’s thesis at Ellis and is now a senior aquatic biologist with the DEC’s Region 6, which includes the Thousand Islands area.

“That money ($100,000 a year) would pay for two DEC biologists for a summer,” LaPan said. “But give it to ESF and you’ve got a small army of people out there seven days a week.

“The presence of that research facility on the St. Lawrence River is extremely important. It has become a mainstay to the department and to the local area,” LaPan said.

The DEC operates management research units on Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, Lake Champlain, and the Hudson River, but not on the St. Lawrence.

“There is no way we could pull off this level of effort. We could not effectively keep our finger on the pulse of the St. Lawrence River without that research facility,” LaPan said.

continued on next page
This summer’s work at Ellis is rooted in a project that began about 10 years ago, when DEC fisheries experts noted a decline in the number of muskellunge in the St. Lawrence. The reason for the decline is a mystery. There are several theories: maybe young pike, which hatch earlier in the spring than muskellunge, were eating the young muskies; maybe as North America’s lakes become more eutrophic and suffer oxygen depletion, the muskellunge, which like deep water, can’t get enough oxygen; maybe they were being fished out.

“The skills of the fishermen and the technology have improved over the years with things like down riggers and sonar,” Werner said. “The fish aren’t getting any smarter.”

Werner took on the problem, performing baseline research to find out where the fish were spawning and living the early part of their lives.

Werner and LaPan, then a graduate student, collected fish in nets, searching for nursery sites and using radio telemetry to track the muskies. LaPan spent three years tracking between 30 and 40 fish. He found the bays they used for spawning. He also found some bays that looked like perfect spawning sites, although the muskellunge apparently did not use them. The researchers stocked five unused sites with young fish raised in a hatchery. That was seven years ago, and since muskellunge don’t spawn until they are 6, the results of that study have so far been inconclusive.

“This summer is going to be a critical time,” Werner said. “That’s a big experiment. We’re hoping that it does work out successfully.”

The focus of the research expanded a year ago to include northern pike.

“We’ve been seeing a gradual decline in northers,” LaPan said.

The DEC’s warm water fisheries assessments, in which nets are dropped at specific locations at the same time each year, showed there were fewer northern pike than in previous years. The long-term study that had already been directed at muskellunge made it easy for researchers to turn their attention to pike.

What’s the reason for the northern pike’s decline? LaPan’s chief suspect is variations in water levels, which are regulated to facilitate shipping on the St. Lawrence Seaway. The result, he believes, is a slow, long-term degradation of the wetlands that provides northern pike and some 30 other species with crucial spawning habitat.

A year ago, the DEC agreed to include pike in the study that had been aimed solely at muskellunge. The researchers hope it is as successful as the muskie project.

Werner, LaPan, and Farrell believe the muskie population is recovering. The trap net catches are increasing, hitting a high of 35 in 1997. Farrell is netting twice as many fish as LaPan did 10 years ago. This spring, the nets had trapped 32 muskies. “We’ve had entire years where we’ve only had 12,” Farrell said.

In addition, anglers appear to be having more success than they did a few years ago. An anglers’ diary
program and reports from local fishing guides indicate last autumn’s fishing success was “phenomenal,” according to Farrell.

“Muskie fishing is getting a lot better,” said Jim Brabant, a fishing guide in Clayton for 33 years.

He often stops at Ellis International Laboratory to show the anglers the young fish being raised there.

“These guys are out on the water when it’s freezing cold. It ain’t an easy life out there,” he said. “The things they’re finding out have never been known before. I’m really glad they’re doing it.”

Hilary Grimes, executive director of the nonprofit Save the River organization, said the Ellis work had a “huge” impact on both the St. Lawrence fishery and the local community.

“Sometimes [the ESF scientists have been] a fairly unknown entity, but they’re getting to be better known,” she said. College staffers on the island are frequently invited to speak at schools and community events, and residents are increasingly more inclined to turn to the ESF representatives with questions about the river and its fish population.

She gives the college credit for turning around the muskie decline.

“The muskellunge population has recovered,” she said. “The muskellunge were really important gamefish for the Thousand Islands area all through the early and mid-20th century. A lot of people around here depend on anglers coming in to fish for these great big fish. And if the anglers aren’t here, we’re losing a lot of money.”

Farrell and LaPan say ESF can claim the credit for changes in fishing regulations that helped protect the muskellunge. State rules once said a muskie had to be 36 inches long before an angler could keep it. But in 1986, the minimum size was increased to 44 inches.

“The rationale for the 44-inch limit came out of ESF,” LaPan said.

When muskies begin spawning at the age of 6, they are about 36 inches long. The change in the size limit means they now have at least three to five years of spawning, instead of just one.

The research also led to the identification of 36 crucial spawning sites in the river. Armed with information collected by the college, the DEC asked the New York Department of State to designate the areas as significant coastal fish and wildlife habitat. Now, if landowners want to dredge in those areas, state officials can discourage them and offer alternatives, such as a longer dock.

“That has afforded these areas some protection. It allows us to look at projects with a little more scrutiny,” LaPan said. “These sites are very important. They don’t just spawn anywhere. We better protect these sites because, boy, if we lose them, what happens?”

In addition to the scientific research, part of the solution was educating people and changing their attitudes.

Save the River began offering incentives to anglers to release muskies. The group provides a limited-edition... continued on next page
print, depicting a St. Lawrence River muskellunge painted by local artist Michael Ringer, to anglers who sign affidavits stating they have released a 44-inch or larger muskie.

Brabant said most of his customers at Clayton Fishing Charters now practice catch-and-release fishing.

"The educational effort resulted in hundreds of legal-sized fish being returned to the water," LaPan said. "Some people are even releasing fish that are 54 inches long. People are respecting this fish, how long it lives and how majestic a critter it is.

"In the early '80s, people didn't know that a 50-pound female fish was 15 years old and that these fish can live to be 25 or 30 years old," LaPan said.

Werner compares muskellunge to tigers in a jungle. They are solitary predators at the top of the food chain.

"There just aren't that many of them at the top of the predators' list, so they're hard to study," he said. "Most people fish for muskies just for the rare opportunity to catch one. And if it's big enough, to take it home and put it on the wall. They used to say it took 100 hours of fishing to catch a single muskie."

Werner's interest in the big fish was born on the shores of Lake Maxincuckee (pronounced max-in-KUK-ee) in northern Illinois, where he played as a child.

"As a kid, I spent a lot of time down at the lake shore and in the woods, grabbing frogs and fishing and that kind of thing. And I just became enchanted with that kind of environment."

That same fascination marks his interest in the St. Lawrence River. "It's relatively young. It's an interesting system because it was under ice 10,000 years ago," he said. "The St. Lawrence River system has been in operation since the glaciers retreated.

"It's a very diverse, complex ecosystem. And it's strongly influenced by a keystone predator, the muskellunge. We're really right in the heart of muskellunge territory. They belong here. They should be here. They only exist in North America and this is one of their better habitats. The Thousand Islands part of the St. Lawrence is really a critical area for them.

Over the course of his 35-year career in fisheries, Werner has learned to look at ecosystems through the eyes of a fish.

"There are 1,800 islands and underwater islands, or shoals, in the St. Lawrence," he said. "If you go underwater and imagine yourself as a fish, it's pretty interesting. It really hasn't been fully explored. There's a lot to learn about how that system works."

Claire B. Dunn is assistant director of ESF's Office of News and Publications.
The arm patch on Kevin Reynolds’ bullet-gray uniform says he’s a public safety officer.

A more apt description would be “bridge builder.”

As he logs his nightly five to 10 miles crisscrossing the ESF campus on the 4 p.m. to midnight shift, Reynolds does more than look for crime. He’s forging the kinds of bonds that keep a community safe and make it strong as well.

Early in his foot patrol one recent evening, he pauses outside Illick Hall, gazing over the quad as a light rain falls. A student strides by. “Hi there,” she calls over to him.

Reynolds smiles and waves. “Hi! Did you get that paper finished last night?”

“Well—just one more to go.”

“Good! It’s a start!” he says back as she continues on her way.

Building bridges.

“There are a lot more of them than there are of us,” Reynolds says of the students. “And they have a lot of knowledge about what's going on. I try hard to get to know them. Then you have a bridge, something that's neutral, and that can foster communication.

That makes for a safer community, and one that people want to participate in.”

As a public safety officer, Reynolds’ primary duty is to protect the people and property of the ESF campus. But the 12-year veteran views his job description through a broader lens. He talks more about community than crime statistics. He rattles off a list of former deans and talks proprietarily about the quad’s changes over the decades. He savors the school’s history and ponders its role in its present.

“I have to ask myself, and I hope every employee asks himself—What is the larger picture? How do I fit into the mission of the college?” Reynolds says. “If you keep that in mind, I think you have a much happier, healthier place to work. And you’ll be a much happier and healthier employee, because you can see beyond the narrow view of what you do day in and day out.”

His role at ESF, beyond Public Safety, has included stints on the Quality of Worklife and Personal Safety committees. He also serves as crime prevention officer, and coordinator of the Employee Assistance Program (EAP). In the summer, he is a training associate and instructor of new recruits at SUNY’s Public Safety Academy in Albany.

Such involvement does not go unnoticed. “There are some people who not only do their job well, but are particularly good citizens,” observes President Ross Whaley. “People who bring a special spirit to the place. Kevin, to me, is that kind of person.

“Kevin approaches whatever he does with a very holistic view. He always looks at what he does in terms of the place itself, in the context of creating an environment in which the students and the staff prosper.”

Judy Kimberlin, assistant director of Personnel and Affirmative Action, saw Reynolds’ commitment in action when they served together on the Quality of Worklife Committee. After succeeding her as chair of that committee six years ago, she says, he was instrumental in establishing the President’s Public Service and the Quality of Worklife awards.

“Kevin made the awards happen,” she recalls. “I think it was his tenacity and determination that the unsung workers on campus were highlighted.”

Reynolds won the Quality of Worklife Award himself about three years ago.

“Kevin takes the public safety role far beyond just public safety,” Kimberlin says. “He doesn’t just ask ‘Is it safe?’ or ‘Is there something wrong going on?’ but rather, ‘Are there things I can do to enhance it?’ I think students feel confident knowing he’s on patrol and that he knows them by name.”
getting to know the people in his "community" is the best part of his job, Reynolds says, and it's one reason he doesn't mind working the evening shift. It gives him a chance to chat with students working late in the lab, the library, or the studio.

He glances up as a student emerges from Moon Library.

"Hello there," he calls. "You weren't in there all night, were you?"

The student laughs and shakes her head before moving off.

"It's little transactions like that that are important," Reynolds notes, "especially with a quiet student like her. It helps to build that bridge with little risk to them. She'll be back next year, and already we have the start of a bridge. And that's important to me."

A native of Cortland, Reynolds honed his skill with students after graduating from State University College at Fredonia with a degree in political science. At the prompting of his cross-country and track coach, he took a job as assistant coach and residence hall director. Two years later, he left to care for his father, who was dying from cancer in Florida.

Reynolds returned to Fredonia in 1983 to resume his residence hall work and pursue a master's degree in student personnel administration from State University College at Buffalo.

Given the chance to work in student affairs after completing his master's, Reynolds opted instead to pursue openings in SUNY's public safety division. He had gotten to know Fredonia's public safety officers, and they suggested he might enjoy the work himself.

Reynolds says the residence hall experience was good training for his public safety duties, because establishing a healthy rapport with the student community makes his job that much easier.

"I think it's important that the students know me," Reynolds says, "because if enough of a bridge is built, they feel comfortable coming to me and saying, 'Kevin, what about this?' or 'What about that?' Or I can go to them and say, 'Hey, something's been stolen. Let me know if you see anything.'...Very few people are new to me, and I get to meet the ones who are new pretty quickly."

He makes a point of knowing student leaders, speaks to incoming students about Public Safety, and greets virtually everyone he passes on patrol, mentally cataloging names and faces.

Paul McGuinnes, director of Public Safety, says Reynolds' compassion for the students is well documented. He recalls a time about a year ago when Reynolds was investigating a bicycle theft on campus. Unable to immediately locate the bike—which the student relied on for transportation—Reynolds loaned her his own bike until she could replace the stolen one.

"That's a pretty great demonstration of his caring," McGuinnes says. "He extends himself a little bit further."

President Whaley recalls when Reynolds was singled out several years ago to receive an end-of-the-year staff award from the student body. That a member of Public Safety was chosen for the honor still slightly amazes Whaley.

"Often I'm not surprised by the selection," he says. "But for students to choose somebody in a uniform who—" in another context—might be looked upon as restrictive? I think that says a lot about our students and an awful lot about Kevin."

ESF senior Carol Johnson agrees. She first met Reynolds in passing on campus; for the past two years, she has worked with him in Public Safety through her job with the Work-Study Program.

"Kevin doesn't come off as intimidating," she says. "He makes it easy for you to be his friend. But he's not just this happy-go-lucky guy—you respect him at the same time."

Reynolds' campus duties expanded two years ago, when he became coordinator of the Employee Assistance Program. In that role, he advises employees on problems ranging from drug abuse to elder care—anything that can affect their job performance or morale, he says.

In his off hours, Reynolds likes to work out, and he's currently training for his first triathlon. An avid distance runner since his school days, he's working on his swimming technique—those flip turns were a struggle—and his endurance on a bike.

The running has been known to come in handy at work. Like the time he came upon a bicycle theft in progress. When the suspect saw Reynolds approaching, he took off, and Reynolds gave chase across campus.

"I'm a pretty good runner, and I stayed right with him," Reynolds recalls. "He looked back, and his eyes got wide. He didn't expect that." Reynolds and his supervisor, Lt. Dan Dugan, cornered the suspect behind the Carrier Dome and made the arrest.

"Dan thinks that may have been the only time somebody was caught in a foot chase on campus," Reynolds says with a laugh.

Fortunately, the campus generally is quiet enough that Reynolds can focus most of his energies on what he enjoys most—the people.

A student approaches the Public Safety entrance. Reynolds looks up and catches his eye.

"Hello! How's it going?"

The student flashes him a wry smile.

"Oh, it's finals week, you know?"

"It's little transactions like that that are important," Reynolds notes, "especially with a quiet student like her. It helps to build that bridge with little risk to them. She'll be back next year, and already we have the start of a bridge. And that's important to me."

A veteran newspaper reporter, Carol Boll now works as a free-lance writer. She lives in DeWitt, NY.
Join decision makers from local government, state agencies, engineering, consulting, development, law, and funding agencies to learn how New York communities have used environmental initiatives to create new jobs and develop new economic opportunities, while also improving the quality of the environment.

Members of successful public-private partnerships will share their experiences in winning state environmental funding to provide sustainable economic growth for New York state communities.

Keynote Speakers

JOHN P. CAHILL, COMMISSIONER, NYS DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
CHARLES A. GARGANO, COMMISSIONER, EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

SUNY-ESF is establishing a new chair…and it’s up to you to name it!

Solid Hard Maple Chairs and Rockers

ESF Captain’s Chair at $275 $ ________
ESF Boston Rocker at $275 $ ________
Optional Personalization $25 $ ________
(See Below)
Shipping & Handling $19 $ ________
(For Texas, Rocky Mountain States, and west, add $10 per item.)
TOTAL $ ________

Visa ○ MasterCard ○ American Express

Card # _________________________________
Exp. Date ____________________

Make checks payable to: “Standard Chair”
Mail all orders to: Standard Chair of Gardner, 1 South Main Street, Gardner, MA 01440 Telephone: 1-800-352-5885
For information, contact Debbie Caviness, 315-470-6632, at ESF.

Ship To:
Name __________________________________
Address __________________________________
(No P.O. Boxes permitted)
City/State/Zip__________________________
Phone _______________________

Chairs and rockers can be personalized with your name and graduating year.

Personalization (Up to 30 characters and spaces):

Laser Engraved with the ESF Logo

ESF Captain’s Chair
ESF Boston Rocker
Optional Personalization
Shipping & Handling
TOTAL

Visa ○ MasterCard ○ American Express

Card # _________________________________
Exp. Date ____________________

Make checks payable to: “Standard Chair”
Mail all orders to: Standard Chair of Gardner, 1 South Main Street, Gardner, MA 01440 Telephone: 1-800-352-5885
For information, contact Debbie Caviness, 315-470-6632, at ESF.

Ship To:
Name __________________________________
Address __________________________________
(No P.O. Boxes permitted)
City/State/Zip__________________________
Phone _______________________

Chairs and rockers can be personalized with your name and graduating year.

Personalization (Up to 30 characters and spaces):

Laser Engraved with the ESF Logo
On Campus

Books and Monographs


Awards and Honors


Nyland '58, Ralph D., Forester of the Year. New York Society of American Foresters.


Campus Calendar

July 28

August 7
College Information Session for prospective students. Also scheduled for August 14 and August 17. Additional information: Office of Admissions, 315-470-6600.

August 7-8

August 16-18

August 19
Classes begin. Ranger School.

August 27-30
Student Orientation '98. Syracuse. Additional information: Office of Student Activities, 315-470-6658.

August 31
Classes begin. Syracuse Campus.

Sept. 10-11

Sept. 19-23
Alumni Reception, Society of American Foresters annual meeting. Traverse City, MI. Additional information: Office of Alumni Services, 315-470-6632.

Sept. 23-24

October 3-5
Alumni Reception, American Society of Landscape Architects annual meeting. Portland, OR. Additional information: Office of Alumni Services, 315-470-6632.

October 8-9

October 9-10