Feb. 26, 2019

Dear ESF Community,

Following the hard work and efforts of the search committee and valuable feedback from the campus community, I am pleased to announce Dr. David Newman has accepted the appointment of interim provost starting March 1. We had a difficult task narrowing the pool to one candidate, as we had a full slate of top-notch applicants. Thanks to all involved for making the search process a success.

Dr. David Newman, currently serves as professor of forest resource economics and policy in the Department of Forest and Natural Resources Management. He served as the chair for close to 11 years and prior to that was the associate dean of academic affairs and professor at the Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources at the University of Georgia. He received his undergraduate degree in forest management from the University California at Berkeley and received his masters and Ph.D. in forest resource economics from Duke University.

Dr. Newman’s primary research areas have been the economics of public policy related to timber supply and land use change. He has authored or co-authored more than 50 refereed journal articles, two books and two edited volumes in the general areas of returns to research in forestry, the economics of timber supply, the role of government policy in landowner decision-making, and forest taxation. He has consulted on various forestry projects with organizations such as the World Bank, the U.S. Forest Service, the World Wildlife Fund, the Agency for International Development and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Dr. Newman currently serves as the president of the National Association of University Forest Resource Programs and the chair for the New York Society of American Foresters chapter. He has given lectures or served as a visiting scholar at several international institutions including the Chinese Academy of Forestry, the Swedish Agricultural University, the Finnish Forest Research Institute, Oslo University, the Colombian National Planning Department and the University of Tasmania. He also served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Colombia. He served as an outside consultant for two anti-trust cases, an expert witness in a timberland investment lawsuit in Costa Rica and an environmental suit involving the EPA.
As you can see, David brings a wealth of experience and will be a tremendous asset to the senior leadership team.

Dr. Newman succeeds Dr. Nosa Egiebor, who served as provost and executive vice president for the past two years. Dr. Egiebor will serve as special assistant to the president for international education programs and assist with the transition for the interim provost. As of Sept. 1, 2019, he will serve as professor in the Department of Environmental Resources Engineering. I speak for the entire campus community in thanking Dr. Egiebor for his service as provost and executive vice president.

Environmental and Forest Biology Chair Named

Dr. Melissa K. Fierke, associate professor, associate chair and director, Cranberry Lake Biological Station starts term as chair of the Department of Environmental and Forestry Biology on March 1, 2019.

Dr. Fierke holds a B.S. in environmental chemistry and a B.S. in environmental biology from the Arkansas Tech University. She received an M.S. in fisheries science and an M.S. in environmental science (water resources) from Oregon State University and her Ph.D. in entomology from the University of Arkansas.

She has active research projects in emerald ash borer and EAB parasitoids, density of blacklegged ticks and prevalence of Lyme disease, and pollinators (in willow biomass crops as well as along powerlines).


Please join me in welcoming Dr. Melissa Fierke as the new chair of the Department of Environmental and Forestry Biology.

Sincerely,

David C. Amberg
Interim President