Dear ESF Community,

It is my pleasure to introduce the three notable alumni who have been named the 2019 Graduates of Distinction: Nikita Lopoukhine '68, John Anlian '73, and Roseana "Rosie" Burick '06. These outstanding individuals serve as a testament to what can be accomplished when you graduate with a degree from ESF and pursue your passions. The Graduates of Distinction award was established by the ESF Alumni Association to recognize the remarkable achievements of our alumni throughout the various stages of their career. The award recognizes those alumni who are pioneers in their field, whose work has positively impacted society and the environment, and who truly embody the spirit of environmental stewardship. Congratulations to our 2019 recipients!

**Nikita Lopoukhine '68**
*Lifetime Achievement*

After earning his degree in forest botany from the College of Forestry, Nikita Lopoukhine '68 began his career working with Forestry Canada in Ottawa. Nikita’s career path continued with the Lands Directorate for Environment Canada in Halifax, Nova Scotia where he led the development and application of a Coastal Classification System for the Atlantic Provinces of Canada.

In 1981, Nikita brought his talents and vision to Parks Canada, where he worked as a World Bank advisor, served as National Science advisor, chaired the Society for Ecological Restoration Board, served as executive director of the Ecological Integrity Branch and finally, as director general, National Parks Directorate.

Nikita’s accomplishments with Parks Canada include the application of controlled fire in maintaining park ecosystems, the launch of a leading-edge ecological
integrity monitoring program, the introduction and implementation of the Species at Risk Act, and overseeing the implementation of emerging scientific methods in addressing various ecological integrity challenges. Internationally, Nikita worked in conjunction with the World Bank in Russia and also represented Canada in negotiations related to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

In 2004, Nikita was elected chair of the World Commission on Protected Areas for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature where he served for the next eight years. In this volunteer role, he worked to strengthen the recognition of the fundamental role of protected areas in conserving nature and redefined the definition of a “protected area” into the standard currently used around the world. He has spent a lifetime protecting the special places of our planet and inspiring new generations of people to experience, embrace and love nature firsthand.

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**John Anlian '73**

*Notable Achievement*

John Anlian ’73 is an outstanding example of how commitment to the environment and a passion for public service can change the world. After graduating with a degree in forest biology, John continued his education at New York Law School in New York City earning his juris doctorate degree, and began practicing law in New Jersey. While developing a successful career as a respected attorney, he did not forget his ESF roots. His desire to improve the environment and, in turn, the lives of those he served, led him on an extraordinary journey spanning almost 40 years of public service.

Among John’s achievements are the advancement of the issues of conservation, recycling, land preservation, urban forestry, parks and green sustainability, and his leadership and support for a major expansion of Overpeck County Park in Bergen County, New Jersey.

Over the years, John has combined his love for the environment with his legal expertise by volunteering his time and knowledge to teach members of the NJ Shade Tree Federation and other New Jersey communities about the legal issues concerning shade tree commissions and community forestry. He was instrumental in providing counsel and advice in the adoption of the New Jersey Community Forestry Assistance Act; and continues to provide guidance on other proposed legislation in New Jersey affecting trees and community forestry.

Throughout his tenure, John has never forgotten the principles he learned at ESF.
and upon which he started his career in public service. He has also been active in scouting, having been an institutional representative for a local Boy Scout troop for many years; and is an Eagle Scout himself. He continues to help keep environmental and conservation concerns at the forefront of municipal governmental decisions in Ridgefield Park.

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**Roseana Burick '06**  
*Incipiens Quercu*

In the relatively short period since graduating from ESF, Ms. Roseana "Rosie" Burick has already made her mark managing natural resources with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. She has dedicated her career to overseeing public recreation and environmental stewardship. Rosie has been recognized on multiple occasions by the Department of the Army for her tremendous work on national projects, and outstanding community outreach.

Rosie’s degree in water sciences/environmental policy and law prepared her extraordinarily well for her career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In her short career she has served as a Park Ranger for a lake in Virginia and North Carolina, a Natural Resources Technical Specialist for the St Louis District, a Lock and Dam Program Manager for the Mississippi River, a Chief of Natural Resources for the Louisville District, a Deputy Chief of Operations for Rock Island District, and as the National Environmental Stewardship Business Line Manager. Recently she accepted a Program Manager position at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters Office; working on policy and budget for the Northwestern and Pacific Ocean Divisions.

Whether it’s partnering with the local libraries for their summer reading programs or teaching the next generation of park rangers about interpretation and outreach, Rosie has played an integral role in the development of national community outreach programs. She was instrumental in the implementation of the national Every Kid Outdoors initiative which provides free access to national parks across the country for every fourth grader and their family.

Please join me in congratulating our honored alumni,

David Amberg  
Interim President