Dear Friends,

The past year has been one of success and challenges at ESF. We continue to improve on all fronts, from research to rankings, and from making campus improvements to striving for carbon neutrality. Our faculty and students are receiving regional, national and international recognition for their excellence in both teaching and research.

I am particularly proud of the College’s recognition in the U.S. News & World Report rankings of national universities as 15th in the category of “Great Schools, Great Prices.” To be in the company of the University of Virginia, Brown, Emory and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill validates the work of our faculty and staff and supports the contributions of our outstanding students. Other significant rankings include those by Princeton Review and Forbes.com.

This year, we welcomed a record freshman class and also received a record number of applications. The increase in enrollment is testimony that students and parents view ESF as a gateway to improving their world.

We are making substantial improvements to the College’s campuses, including the completion of the rehabilitation of Baker Laboratory into a LEED-certified building, and a $1.9 million campus improvement project started this summer with improvements made to the campus’ Quad. We have begun a master plan for the main campus in Syracuse that utilizes many green technologies, thereby enabling us to “practice what we teach.” This year we will begin the design process for a new Gateway Building on campus. The building would serve as the physical representation of ESF’s new academic programs in sustainable construction and renewable energy. We plan for the building to be a “platinum plus” facility under the LEED rating system. Upgrades are also underway at our facilities at the Thousand Islands Biological Station, Cranberry Lake Biological Station, and the Adirondack Ecological Center.

In a year marked by the challenges of budgetary constraints, the ESF community has continued on its path of excellence. While the budget crunch forces us to rethink how we do business, we continue to put the students at the forefront of what we do.

We will have many challenges in the coming months, but I am confident our dedicated students, faculty and staff will move past those challenges, further distinguishing ESF as an extraordinary college. +

Sincerely,

C.B. Murphy, Jr.
President, SUNY-ESF
In the Classroom
ESF Nationally Ranked as 15th as Great School, Great Price

For the eighth year in a row, ESF earned a place among the top universities in America, as ranked by U.S. News & World Report.

In the “Great Schools, Great Prices” category of the 2009 edition of America’s Best Colleges, ESF is ranked 15th. The formula used in that category relates a school’s academic quality to the net cost of attendance. ESF is the only SUNY institution listed in this category.

The magazine also lists ESF at 37 among the top 50 public national universities, and at 83 in the list of best national universities, which includes both public and private institutions.

NWF Gives ESF High Marks for Environmental Action

ESF received high marks for environmental action in Campus Environment 2008: A National Report Card on Sustainability and Higher Education, issued by the National Wildlife Federation.

ESF was among the colleges and universities described as “exemplary and committed” in the category, “Exemplary Schools for Students Taking a Course on Ecology or Sustainability.” The College was also listed as exemplary in the category that examined, “Environmental or Sustainability Goal Setting.”

Forbes lists ESF as one of America’s Best Public Colleges

Forbes Magazine published a new set of college rankings on its Forbes.com website, ranking ESF 21st in its listing of “America’s Best Public Colleges.”

The Forbes.com rankings focus on the investment that students and families make in a college education, and the value they receive in return. Forbes asked the Center for College Affordability and Productivity, a Washington-based think tank, to compile its rankings based on five heavily-weighted factors:

- Number of college alumni listed in the 2008 edition of Who’s Who in America (25 percent)
- Student evaluations of professors taken from the website RateMyProfessors.com (25 percent)
- Four-year graduation rates (16 2/3 percent)
- Enrollment-adjusted numbers of students and faculty winning nationally competitive awards or scholarships (16 2/3 percent)
- Typical student loan debt at graduation (16 2/3 percent)

Forbes.com also provides a ranking of the top 569 colleges and universities in the U.S., including both public and private institutions, and ranks SUNY-ESF 189 on that list.

ESF Welcomes Record Freshman Class

ESF welcomed a record freshman class of 312 along with 173 new transfer students for the 2008-09 academic year. This compares to 250 freshmen and 184 transfer students enrolled last year.

The freshman class includes students from 19 states and sets a record for ESF enrollment from out of state, with 21 percent of the class coming from outside New York. The class marks one of the highest percentages of out-of-state students in the 64-campus SUNY system.

ESF received a record 1,545 applications for the freshman class and accepted a record low 49 percent of those applicants. The College also received 643 applications for transfer admission and accepted only 41 percent of those applicants.

The academic quality of the entering class has also approached record levels this fall. Sixty-five percent of ESF’s entering freshmen were ranked in the top quartile of their high school class, and 25 percent were ranked in the top tenth. The average of their high school grades was 90.2 percent.

Graduate Recruitment Increases

At the graduate level, 112 new students enrolled in fall 2007, bringing the College’s total (full-time and part-time) graduate enrollment to 575. Twenty-seven additional graduate students entered the College in spring 2007.

Enrollment data for fall 2008 shows the College with a total graduate enrollment of 568, including 126 new students entering this year. The College had a 16 percent increase in the number of graduate applicants compared to fall 2007.

The College and its graduate programs continue to flourish during a period of faculty transitions, expanded recruitment, and new academic initiatives.
Dr. Charles Kroll was named chair of the Department of Environmental Resources and Forest Engineering (ERFEG) beginning in the fall 2008 semester. He took over from Dr. James Hassett, who will remain on the ERFEG faculty.

Kroll has been a member of the ERFEG faculty since 1996. As a faculty member, Kroll has established himself as a committed teacher as well as a pioneering researcher. He has played an active role in mentoring the junior faculty members of the department.

Robert S. Davis of Owasco was appointed director of forest properties at ESF in March 2008.

Davis holds an associate of applied science in forest technology from ESF’s Ranger School in Wanakena, a bachelor’s degree in forest resource management from ESF and a master of science in silviculture from ESF. He is a Society of American Foresters certified forester. He was the owner of Sustainable Forestry Advisors, LLC, in Skaneateles. He served as senior forester with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. He currently serves as treasurer of the New York Society of American Foresters and area chair of New York Tree Farm, Inc., and is a member of the finance committee of ESF’s Ranger School Alumni Association.

Yuming Tung was named the new director of information technology in June. Tung came to ESF from Syracuse University where he was head of Library Information Technology Services.

Prior to joining SU in 1999, he held positions as manager of Network and Systems at LeMoyne College and as senior programmer/analyst at SUNY Upstate Medical University. Tung holds an M.S. in computer systems and information science and an M.L.S. in library and information science, both from Syracuse University, as well as a B.S. in mechanical engineering from Shanghai College of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering.

Michael Kelleher joined the staff as the director of renewable energy systems. In this new position, Kelleher focuses on finding and adopting technologies to help the College save energy and produce energy from sustainable and renewable sources.

Kelleher also serves as co-director of the SUNY Center for Sustainable and Renewable Energy, a 64-campus research and development clearinghouse in the area of energy efficiency and sustainability. He is a member of the ESF Campus Climate Change Committee.

Kelleher joined ESF from National Grid/Niagara Mohawk where he was senior vice president. Prior to joining National Grid, where he spent 18 years, Kelleher was a research economist at Cornell University.

ESF Welcomes New Faculty/Staff to Campus Community

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Dr. Cynthia Sedgwick was appointed dean of student life and experiential learning at ESF and began her position July 1.

Sedgwick holds a Ph.D. in higher education administration from the University of Virginia as well as a master of arts degree in human resources management from George Mason University and a bachelor of arts degree in psychology from Hampton University.

Sedgwick came to ESF from SUNY Binghamton, where she was associate dean for assessment and special programs in the Division of Student Affairs. Previously, she served as associate dean for academic affairs and administration in the Watson School of Engineering and Applied Science at Binghamton and as director of career services at the University of Connecticut.

New faculty members joining the ESF community are Assistant Professor Mariann T. Johnston, forest technology program at The Ranger School in Wanakena; Assistant Professor Jennifer L. Smith, construction management and wood products engineering; and Assistant Professor Jesse L. Brunner, environmental and forest biology.

These new faculty will contribute greatly to ESF teaching, research and service activities during the 2008-09 academic year and beyond.

Student Receives Chancellor’s Award

Jesse L. Brunner

Daniele Baker of Hollidaysburg, Pa., was honored with the SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Student Excellence during an April ceremony in Albany, N.Y.

Baker received a Bachelor of Science degree in environmental biology from ESF at its May commencement ceremony.

Chancellor’s Award honorees excel both in academic achievement and in at least one of the following areas: leadership, athletics, community service, creative and performing arts, or career achievement.

Baker was the student representative to the ESF Board of Trustees, an orientation leader and mentor, and a member of the Baobab Society.

Faculty/Staff Honored by Chancellor

Three ESF employees were honored by Interim Chancellor Dr. John B. Clark for their service to the State University of New York.

Associate Professor Cheryl S. Dobie received the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Faculty Service. The award recognizes the consistently superior service contributions of teaching faculty. Dobie, a faculty member in the Department of Landscape Architecture since 1993, specializes in community planning and design, citizen participation, and site planning and design graphics.

She established the Center for Community Design Research (CCDR) within ESF’s Department of Landscape Architecture. The CCDR is an outreach program that works in partnership with communities and
other academic programs to provide technical assistance, educational programs, and research projects that build community capacity to manage sustainable futures.

**Dr. Christopher Nowak**, associate professor in the Department of Forest and Natural Resources Management, was honored with the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching. This award honors those who consistently have demonstrated superb teaching at the undergraduate, graduate or professional level.

Since joining the ESF community in 1998, Nowak has provided a rigorous professional approach in the classroom and field, facilitating a positive learning experience for students and promoting intellectual dialogue. He regularly teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses in forest science including forest ecology and silviculture, Adirondack forest ecology and dendrology, and forest vegetation management, as well as focused seminars in forest ecology.

**John Turbeville** received the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Professional Service. The award recognizes consistently superior professional achievement within and beyond the position and those who serve as professional role models for a university system in the pursuit of excellence. Turbeville is the career planning and development officer for the Office of Student Life. He has been at ESF since 2002. Turbeville was a driving force behind the establishment of ESF’s new Academic Success Center which focuses on tutoring, academic guidance, and mentoring for undergraduate students.

**Environmental Studies Adds Graduate Programs**

ESF established two new graduate programs in environmental studies. These programs focus on the social and policy dimensions of environmental issues and take an interdisciplinary approach to solving environmental problems.

The new programs are a master of science (MS), and a master of professional studies (MPS), both in environmental studies.

The MS program is research-focused, offering students an interdisciplinary understanding of environmental issues, the problems that underlie them, and the paths that lead to sustainable communities. It is intended for students with a wide range of undergraduate degrees.

The MPS program is a non-thesis degree aimed at professionals already working in various environmental fields and others seeking a graduate program with less emphasis on research.

Both graduate programs offer unique blends of social science, humanities and physical science and allow students to take a hands-on approach to developing their own personal curriculum.

**Faculty Receives Awards**

ESF Professor **Guy Baldassarre** was presented with the Ducks Unlimited Wetlands Conservation Achievement Award in Research/Technology for 2008.

Baldassarre, a Distinguished Teaching Professor in the Department of Environmental and Forest Biology, was honored for his long-term contributions to the conservation of wetlands and waterfowl in North America.

Baldassarre’s research interests have focused on aspects of waterbird ecology. His interests include waterfowl ecology and management, work with the Caribbean flamingo, shorebirds (piping plover), and wetland bird diversity in general.

Associate Professor **Alexander Weir** was recognized for excellence in teaching by the Mycological Society of America (MSA).

Weir received the MSA’s William H. Weston Jr. Award for Excellence in Teaching, which is given annually to an outstanding teacher of mycology at the undergraduate and/or graduate levels.

Weir teaches mycology and diversity of plants in ESF’s Department of Environmental and Forest Biology. He is also director of ESF’s Cranberry Lake Biological Station in the Adirondacks.

Another ESF faculty member, **Dr. Chun Wang**, won the award in 1990, making ESF one of only two colleges to have had more than one faculty member so recognized in the past 20 years.

**College Expands Undergraduate Offerings**

**Renewable Energy Minor Added**

To address the need for sustainable sources of energy, ESF developed a renewable energy minor. This minor will provide students an opportunity to examine different sources of traditional and renewable energy in the context of total energy use from a systems perspective. Students will be exposed to views from a variety of disciplines as they wrestle with a wide array of issues related to current and future energy supply and use.

This minor is interdisciplinary with instructors from different disciplines teaching the core courses.
**Sustainable Construction Option Offered**

The Department of Construction Management and Wood Products Engineering introduced an undergraduate minor in sustainable construction management. With the rise in green and sustainable construction, the minor will provide students with a fundamental understanding of sustainable construction concepts and methods used to take a design into the field and build a quality sustainable structure in the most efficient and effective manner with minimal environmental impact.

**Fulbright Scholar to Conduct Research at ESF**

ESF was selected to host Fulbright Visiting Scholar Aude Guillemette Elisabeth Lochet from France for the 2007–2008 academic year. Lochet, a researcher from the Department of Environmental Sciences at the University of Bordeaux I in Talence, France, worked to find new tracers to track fish migration.

The Fulbright Program is sponsored by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Recipients of Fulbright awards are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential in their fields.

**International Research**

ESF faculty and students continued their studies at many locations including the Galapagos Islands, Quebec, Honduras, Costa Rica, Guyana, Spain, Mongolia and India. A sampling of that research includes:

- **Dr. James Gibbs** of the Department of Environmental and Forest Biology (EFB) served as advisor to the Charles Darwin Station in the Galapagos, assisting in the complex job of restoring habitats damaged by invasive mammals and other non-native animals and plants.

- **Dr. Theodore Endreny** of the Department of Environmental Resources and Forest Engineering brought five engineering students to Honduras as part of the Engineers Without Borders program. This year’s project was to restore a village’s domestic water supply. One student remains working on the project, and funds have been secured from NSF for a team to return in 2009.

- **Drs. Lawrence B. Smart** (EFB), **Timothy Volk** of the Department of Forest and Natural Resources Management (FNRM), and **Lawrence P. Abrahamson** (EFB/FNRM) are pursuing studies of shrub willow varieties developed at ESF and planted experimentally in Quebec. Such crops have, in turn, been used in gasification trials in Burlington, Vt. These studies are a continuation of collaborations with the Montreal Botanical Garden, which began in 1996. This work, which also includes commercial opportunities with Canada’s AgroEnergie, was described to many of the participants of a New York–Quebec meeting, including N.Y. Gov. David Paterson and Quebec Premier Jean Charet in New York City in September 2008. Dr. Neil Ringler, Distinguished Teaching Professor and dean of research, attended the New York City event.

**Women’s Soccer Joins ESF Sports Program**

Women’s soccer joined ESF’s roster of intercollegiate club sports. The newly formed women’s team began competition in fall 2008.

- The women’s soccer team joins a growing roster of teams on the hill. ESF’s men’s soccer and golf teams were established in 2007. The golf team competes at both college and NCAA-sanctioned tournaments across the state and plays both the spring and fall seasons.

- ESF men’s soccer program plays a competitive intercollegiate club-level schedule with games against club teams from Cornell University, Elmira College, SUNY Oswego, and Syracuse University, among others.

- These teams join ESF’s oldest sports team, the Woodsmen’s Team. Established in 1912 as the Forestry Club, the Woodsmen’s Team has men and women competitors engaged in timbersports that use traditional logging techniques. They compete with other colleges in the Northeast and Canada and do demonstrations at various campus and community events.

*The ESF women’s soccer team is the newest addition to join the roster of sports offered at the College.*
ESF Named to Community Service Honor Roll

ESF was recognized for its exemplary student community service and service-learning programs by being named to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for 2007. The Honor Roll is a program of the Corporation for National and Community Service and is sponsored by the President’s Council on Service and Civic Participation, the USA Freedom Corps, and the U.S. departments of Education and Housing and Urban Development. This is the second time the College was placed on the honor roll. The College was listed in 2006.

ESF’s Service Learning Initiative has been improving the student experience and contributing to local communities. The College continues to expand the scope of its service learning initiative with increased, community involvement.

Faculty use service learning to give students hands-on experience and community service helps students focus their career goals by affirming their chosen path or introducing them to new possibilities. Students contributed more than 62,000 hours through the service learning initiative and community service in 2007-2008.

College Community Supports SEFA/United Way Campaign

The 2007 State Employees Federated Appeal (SEFA) was again a success at ESF. More than 200 ESF employees contributed to the campaign, raising over $52,688.

Alumni Honored as Graduates of Distinction

A trio of ESF alumni were honored during the December 2007 Convocation ceremonies for their contributions to ESF and to society.

Dr. Edwin Ketchledge ’49 received the ESF Lifetime Achievement Award. During his tenure, Ketchledge was a beloved mentor, advisor and role model to ESF students. He focused his career and retirement on protecting the Adirondack high country, including starting a citizen-driven Summit Stewardship program to protect the High Peaks.

Dr. Ronald J. Eby, BS’69, MS’72, Ph.D.’74, and Dr. Mary E. Fowkes ’77 received the Alumni of Distinction Award. Eby received the National Medal of Technology for his work developing the vaccine Prevnar, which has reduced by up to 75 percent the number of ear infections and cases of pediatric pneumonia and meningitis caused by the Streptococcus pneumoniae bacteria.

Dr. Ronald J. Eby and former President George W. Bush
Fowkes has distinguished herself as a medical examiner for New York City and is on the faculty at New York University Medical Center. She has returned to ESF to lecture on forensic entomology and has advised U.S. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton on medical issues.

Center for Urban Environment Showcases ESF Expertise

ESF’s Center for the Urban Environment is working to broaden people’s view regarding environmental science and environmental studies. Urban problem solving involves not only the traditional environmental sciences, but also knowledge of the social and cultural dynamics of ecological sustainability as taught in the College’s environmental studies courses.

Showcasing the vast expertise ESF has to offer regarding the urban environment, the center is involved in numerous projects to investigate and develop novel ways to mitigate urban environmental problems; educate and train the next generation of urban environmental scientists, engineers, and planners; and engage urban residents in the study and improvement of the urban environment.

The center has partnered with the Syracuse Center of Excellence, USDA Forest Service — Urban Forests, Human Health, and Environmental Quality; SUNY Center for Brownfield Studies; and Syracuse University/SUNY-ESF EnSpire — Environment and Society: Partnerships in Interdisciplinary Research and Education.

Sustainable Business Collaboration Launched to Unite Education and Research

To help business leaders and students address the economic and practical challenges of incorporating green strategies into their organization, ESF has partnered with Syracuse University’s Whitman School of Management and the Syracuse Center of Excellence in Environmental and Energy Systems (Syracuse CoE) to launch the Sustainable Business Collaboration (SBC), a transdisciplinary approach to education and research on business and sustainability.

A collaborative effort involving faculty, researchers and students from ESF, the Whitman School, and the Syracuse CoE, the SBC utilizes combined strengths to provide insight into the best practices and policies for various sizes of businesses; metrics for sustainable efforts; implementation strategies; and associated long-term benefits to an organization and the community. To promote research in business and sustainability, the SBC made available three mini-grants of $5,000 each for summer 2008. The SBC also piloted a graduate class, “Business and Sustainability,” which examines the science and policy aspects of sustainability and their application to business organizations.

Sponsored Research Increases

ESF continues to increase the amount of sponsored research taking place at the College. Total expenditures for sponsored research in fiscal year 2007-08 were a record $14.7 million. There were 260 proposals submitted for a record total of $62.1 million. The College was among the highest sponsored research campuses in SUNY with an average per capita research expenditure exceeding $108,000. Approximately 93 percent of ESF’s faculty is actively and successfully pursuing extramural support at state and federal levels.
Funding and Facilities
Baker Laboratory Showcases Green Building Technologies

The finishing touches were put on Baker Laboratory, home to ESF’s departments of Environmental Resources and Forest Engineering (ERFEG) and Construction Management and Wood Products Engineering (CMWPE) and the Academic Computing Center.

The $37 million rehabilitation project added three high-tech lecture halls, six new computer labs, and used the latest in green construction practices.

Among the numerous green innovations used in the project, there is extensive use of electronic lighting controls and occupancy sensors in the rooms and a sophisticated building management system. This digital control system regulates the air handling and exhaust systems. The building also features a 23 kw (kilowatt) photovoltaic system, which provides window shading to the south side of the building. The building extensively utilizes recycled building materials, maximizing the use of natural lighting and recovers roof stormwater for gray water applications. Four 1,000-gallon storage tanks have been installed in the basement of Baker Lab to collect rainwater from the roof. The water will be used in the building’s cooling towers.

The College is applying for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification as a LEED Silver rehabilitation.

New labs for green construction/building materials research, composite products research, and an updated wood engineering test lab are among the enhanced facilities.

Changes Made to the Quad

ESF students are walking to class via new walkways around the quad, new outdoor stairways, and new - and more environmentally friendly – entrances at Illick and Marshall halls and Moon Library.

The bridge entrance to F. Franklin Moon Library is now surfaced with Flexi-Pave, a half-and-half combination of stone and recycled tires mixed with a urethane binder. Underneath the Flexi-Pave is a Warm Zone heating system to eliminate snow and ice in the winter. Flexi-Pave is porous, so rain and melting snow flow through the surface to the ground instead of producing puddles or runoff. Installation of this system means salt and sand won’t be needed and that will help protect the newly refurbished library.

Flexi-Pave and new bicycle storage racks were also installed at Illick and Marshall halls.

The southeast corner of Illick Hall is the location for a new rain garden and bioretention basin where a third of the rainwater from the roof will be diverted. The idea, suggested by a class project, is to demonstrate how runoff can be controlled, a biological system established and storm water management systems controlled during heavy rains.

The plants include spice bush, chokeberry, Virginia sweetspire, witch-hazel, and sweet bay magnolia, which are all very tolerant of wet soil.

New Gateway and Academic/Research Buildings

ESF will receive some $39 million for improvements at the main campus in Syracuse and at two of the College’s facilities in the Adirondacks as part of its new five-year capital plan.

The bulk of the funds, more than $30 million, will support strategic initiatives at the College. The budget includes $22 million for the design and construction of a new “gateway building” on the Syracuse campus; $44 million for a new academic research building; $2.5 million for the rehabilitation of a historic stone carriage house at the College’s Adirondack Ecological Center (AEC) in Newcomb, in the central Adirondacks; and $250,000 for a study and preliminary design for a recreational facility for students at The Ranger School in Wanakena, in the northwestern Adirondacks.
In addition, the budget includes $8.5 million for rehabilitation of existing buildings.

The gateway building is envisioned as a “platinum plus” facility, earning the highest rating in the U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system. The building would be a physical representation of ESF’s new academic programs in sustainable construction and renewable energy.

The funding for the stone carriage house at the AEC will help transform the building into an Adirondack conference and distance-learning center. The College plans to use the carriage house as a teleconferencing facility that will make ESF programs more available to secondary and college students, members of the scientific community and governmental and business leaders in the broader region.

The money earmarked for The Ranger School will be used to plan a recreation center for students who study forest technology and land surveying technology in the small town of Wanakena.

The Central New York legislative delegation — Assemblywoman Joan K. Christensen, Assemblymen William B. Magnarelli and Al Stirpe, and Senators John A. DeFrancisco and David J. Valesky — supported the College’s funding efforts, as did Assemblywoman Teresa R. Sayward and Senators Elizabeth O’C. Little and Joseph A. Griffo, who represent the North Country.

College Foundation Reports Successful Year

Along with keeping pace to reach its $100 million goal in assets by 2020, the ESF College Foundation had a number of accomplishments this year:

- Assets are still ahead of schedule for the $100 million 2020 goal; assets reflect a $500K gain despite a downturn in the stock market
- Total fundraising was $1.7 million — an 11 percent increase over 2006-07
- Membership in the 1911 Society increased by 30 percent, to 54 members.
- Unrestricted giving exceeded the goal by 12 percent
- A planning study for potential capital campaign was completed
- Property was acquired from Syracuse University for the ESF biofuels project
- A conceptual design feasibility study, market study and developer selection process were completed for the ESF student residence project
- $90,000 was raised for operations at Thousand Islands Biological Station, Huntington Wildlife Forest and Costa Rica Biological Field Station
- A partnership was formed with Open Space Institute and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to utilize the Masten House property in Newcomb, N.Y., to establish Northern Forest Institute for Conservation Education and Leadership Training
- $50,000 in private funding was secured to renovate lab space at Cranberry Lake Biological Station

College Increases Use of Alternative Fuels and Renewable Energy

ESF is exploring more methods to use alternative energy on its campuses. The College is looking into using wind turbines and a photovoltaic array at its Heiburg Forest campus in Tully to power the classroom building. A proposal is also being developed to replace an inefficient oil heating system at The Ranger School in Wanakena with a wood boiler.

The wood boiler would save the College between $10,000 and $15,000 a year and be carbon neutral.

ESF to Participate in Sustainability Rating System for Higher Ed

ESF is among more than 90 college and university campuses that will participate in the pilot phase of a rating system for sustainability in higher education.

The self-assessment system, called STARS (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System), was launched in February 2008. Participating campuses will test the system this year, then provide feedback to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), which developed the system.

The participating campuses represent a wide range of institutional types, sizes and geography. They include public and private schools, community colleges and research universities. Input from the pilot participants will help AASHE finalize the system before it is shared with a broader audience in 2009.
College Community
ESF Introduces New Logo

ESF launched a new leaf and acorn logo during spring 2008. The logo, developed by ESF’s Office of Communications, was the frontrunner in a survey of ESF alumni, students, faculty, and staff. The logo was updated because many members of the College community felt the previous ESF logo had an outdated look and did not communicate the College’s desired image of institutional vitality, quality and prestige.

Almost 1,900 ESF students, faculty, staff and alumni participated in the first round of the logo project conducted during the fall 2007 semester. Respondents used a web-based survey site to provide ratings for seven proposed logo alternatives, and provided more than 50 additional pages of email comments. Communications staff used that input to narrow the selection to two of the original choices and to develop a new option for consideration in a second round of the rating process. More than 1,000 people responded to the second round survey, resulting in the selection of the new logo.

The new logo will soon be seen on College publications, stationery, business cards, signs and merchandise.

Knothole Goes Live

ESF’s student-run newspaper, The Knothole, went live and interactive on April 1, 2008, and can now be viewed at www.esf.edu/org/knothole. The online edition will help increase visibility of the events and developments on the ESF/SU campus and allow for spectacular photography and a new level of interconnectivity previously unavailable with traditional forms of circulation.

Students Recognize Faculty for Outstanding Work

The Undergraduate Student Association recognized three individuals at this year’s spring banquet for their outstanding work with students. Dr. Kelley Donaghy of the Department of Chemistry received the Distinguished Teacher Award. From the Department of Environmental and Forest Biology, Dr. James Gibbs was honored with the Best Advisor Award, and Dr. Raydora Drummer Francis, director of multicultural affairs, received the Special Recognition Award for a Staff Member.

Office of Communications Wins Awards

ESF’s Office of Communications won awards at the state and regional levels. The office received a Gold Award for Best Article in a Magazine from CASE (Council for Advancement and Support of Education) District II. The article, “Science Sing-A-Long,” was published in the Fall 2006 issue of Inside ESF and looked at the scientific accuracy of a number of popular songs. District II includes schools from New York, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, Ontario, Canada; Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands and West Virginia.

ESF’s redesigned website won Best of Category from the State University of New York Council for University Advancement (SUNY CUAD). The website was launched in April 2006.

College Expands Media Initiatives

ESF entered into a partnership with Time Warner News channels in New York producing a weekly feature, “Going Green.” The two-minute television report spotlights ESF faculty, staff, and student efforts in environmental problem solving.

“Going Green” airs Mondays on News10Now covering the Southern Tier (including Binghamton), Syracuse, Watertown and Northern New York; R News covering Rochester and portions of Western New York; and Capital News 9 covering Albany and Eastern New York. Segments can also be viewed on the news channel’s respective web sites such as http://news10now.com/content/features/going_green/Default.aspx.

Negotiations concluded with WSYR TV in Syracuse to broadcast “Improve Your World with SUNY-ESF” on the station’s digital channel 9.2/890 on Time-Warner Digital Cable.

Improve Your World (IYW) is a half-hour magazine show produced in partnership with Syracuse University’s Orange Television Network that offers an opportunity for in-depth discussion of environmental issues. IYW also airs on the Orange Television Network, WPBS in Watertown, and Time Warner Community Access in Onondaga County. IYW aired on WSYR 9.2/890 on Sundays during the summer and will alternate with other local programming in the fall.

Distinguished Teaching Professor Emeritus Peter Black participates in a weekly educational program on WAER radio titled “Waterdrops” which serves to education Central New York residents on the value and need for protection of our water resources.

ESF Is on iTunes U

ESF has joined Apple Computer’s iTunes University system (iTunes U) which enables colleges to deliver audio, video and other kinds of digital media content to more than 50,000,000 iTunes users. To date, ESF has a dozen content series and courses, with nearly 300 tracks posted on the system. Video and audio series available on iTunes include “Going Green” with Terry Ettinger (ESF greenhouse manager), “Improve Your World,” “Nature in Your Backyard,” Distinguished Teaching Professor Emeritus Peter Black’s “Water Drops,” “At Work around the Globe,” “Research for a Sustainable Northeast,” and lectures from Dr. Charles Hall’s Global Environment course and a course in cell physiology.