In the final year of ESF’s first century, the College has numerous accomplishments to propel it into the next 100 years.

As always, our students, faculty and staff are the driving force behind the College’s continued success. Our research continues to span the globe, with work being done in China by Dr. Stephen Teale, in the Galapagos by Dr. James Gibbs and in Puerto Rico by Dr. Charles Hall. It is projects such as these that will help drive the world toward a sustainable future.

Our students have taken the College’s commitment to community service to heart. Their reach expands beyond the Syracuse community; groups of ESF students traveled to New Orleans to participate in efforts to rebuild that city following Hurricane Katrina.

On campus, the face of ESF is changing as construction on the College’s first-ever residence hall is well under way. Our students will now have a place to call their own. Centennial Hall is scheduled to open in 2011, marking the College’s leap into its second century. Construction of the Gateway Building, a showcase for many sustainable energy technologies, is also under way. The Gateway Building will serve as a focal point for campus life with space for both academic and social events.

During the past year, ESF hosted a number of leaders who came to the College to see the future of sustainability. From U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu to N.Y. Gov. David Paterson, the sentiment heard repeatedly was that ESF is leading the way in solving some of the world’s most pressing ecological issues.

Please join me in taking a look back before we take a leap forward into the next 100 years.

Sincerely,

Cornelius B. Murphy, Jr.
On Campus
ESF earned high marks in numerous national surveys that rank colleges and universities on an array of factors. The rankings placed ESF among the nation’s most prestigious public and private universities; ranked the College high for the value of its education; praised it for its contributions in the areas of research and service; and declared it “cool” for being among America’s greenest campuses.

For the 10th 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 2011 edition of America’s Best Colleges, ESF is ranked 25th among national universities. That category relates a school’s academic quality to the net cost of attendance for a student who receives the average level of need-based financial aid.

- In the “Best National Universities” category, which includes 262 of the nation’s top-rated public and private universities offering undergraduate and graduate degrees, ESF is ranked 34th among the public universities and 79th overall.

- ESF was also listed among 84 universities in a category called “A-Plus Schools for B-Plus Students” that recognizes outstanding colleges that admit part of their entering class from among B-plus average students with special qualities and academic interests.

Forbes Magazine placed ESF at No. 23 in its listing of “America’s Best College Buys” for 2010. The rankings at the Forbes.com web site focus on the investment that students and families make in a college education and the value they receive in return.

The Washington Monthly College Guide ranked ESF as No. 26 among the nation’s top service-oriented colleges and universities. Washington Monthly reported that it “devised a way to measure and quantify how well individual colleges and universities were meeting their public obligations in the areas of research, service and social mobility” and ranked schools based on the results.

The Sierra Club listed ESF at No. 45 among U.S. colleges and universities that have the greenest campuses. In its “Cool Schools” survey, energy supply carried the most weight. Other factors were energy efficiency, food, academics, purchasing, transportation, waste management, administration, financial investment and other environmental initiatives.

The Princeton Review selected ESF as one of the best colleges in the Northeast, as reported in its “2011 Best Colleges: Region by Region” publication, and also included ESF in its nationally distributed “Guide to 286 Green Colleges.” The Princeton Review partnered with the U.S. Green Building Council to identify the schools with the nation’s most eco-friendly campuses and present information about each school’s sustainability, “green” majors and “green” job placement.

“Going green isn’t a campaign at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry — it’s a modus operandi,” the book states. “With sustainability and environmental education at the core of the university’s mission, SUNY-ESF has been at the
On Campus

forefront of nationally recognized, government-supported research in green issues.”

The publication cites ESF’s involvement with the development of an ethanol-producing biorefinery in New York and notes the College is committed to being carbon neutral by 2015.

The U.S. News and World Report Web site also placed ESF at the top of its list of colleges that offer small classes and charge less than $10,000 per year for in-state tuition and fees.

“Attending a big, affordable public university doesn’t doom a student to huge lecture halls,” the report stated.

That is evident at ESF, where more than 75 percent of the undergraduate classes have 19 students or less. Combined with the College’s high percentage of full-time faculty and “more selective” admissions standards, the College topped the list of 29 affordable public institutions. Other schools listed included three SUNY campuses (Potsdam, Fredonia and Alfred Tech), the University of California-Berkeley, UCLA, and the University of Tennessee.

Undergraduate Admissions

ESF Enrolls Diverse, Well-qualified Class

ESF welcomed 262 freshmen and 239 transfer students to campus this fall. Fifteen percent of the 501 new students have come to ESF from outside New York state. Twenty-three states and five other countries are represented, with students traveling to ESF from Alaska, Mississippi, Missouri, Texas, California, Colorado, Oregon, Mexico, China and India.

The College received a record number of applications for admission again this year (1,720 freshman and 860 transfer) and accepted only 46 percent of its freshman applicants and 39 percent of its transfer applicants. ESF continues to rank among SUNY’s most selective campuses.

There are 44 students enrolled in the Forest Technology and Land Surveying Technology programs at The Ranger School this fall, including six women, in one of the larger classes enrolled there in recent years.

The entering freshmen are well qualified for admission based on their high school grades (a 92 percent average), test scores and class rank. Sixty-three percent ranked in the top quartile of their high school graduating class and 97 percent ranked in the top half.

It is also a diverse class, with 11 percent representing minority populations. Fifty-four percent of the freshmen are male and 46 percent female.

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions is busy as staff members begin recruiting the class that will enter during the College’s 2011 Centennial year, and excitement is high in anticipation of housing that class in the first residence hall to be built on the campus.

Graduate Enrollment Remains Strong

Graduate enrollment remains strong at ESF, with this fall’s entering class totaling 105 new full-time graduate students following the most selective admissions process to date. The application pool for fall 2010 was slightly smaller than in 2009, but at more than 550 applications, was still more than 10 percent larger than any year prior to 2009.
New Members to Campus Community

Amy Ritter joined ESF as the new director of physical plant and facilities. Ritter comes to ESF from Cornell University’s College of Engineering, where she held the position of director of facilities. Prior to her service at Cornell, Ritter had 10 years of experience with several private engineering firms. She is a licensed engineer and has both a B.S. in Civil/Environmental Engineering and a B.S. in Engineering and Management from Clarkson University.

Elizabeth Mix accepted the permanent position of student activities associate/community service and service-learning coordinator in the Office of Student Life and Experiential Learning.

Mix joined ESF in 2008 as an AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America). Mix is responsible for coordinating ESF’s Campus Day of Service, first-year service projects, Community Engagement Fair, Saturday of Service during freshmen orientation, and numerous other volunteer opportunities and projects for students.

ESF welcomed new faculty members this year: Dr. Philippe Vidon, Department of Forest and Natural Resources Management, associate professor. Vidon comes to ESF from Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis. Dr. Theresa Selfa, Department of Environmental Studies, assistant professor. Previously Selfa taught at Kansas State University. Dr. Elizabeth Folta, Department of Environmental and Forest Biology, assistant professor, comes to ESF from North Carolina State University. And Dr. Lee Newman, Department of Environmental and Forest Biology, assistant professor, was at Brookhaven National Laboratory & Dowling College before coming to the College.

Timothy O’Mara was named residence hall director at ESF’s Ranger School in Wanakena.

Drs. James Gibbs and John Castello began serving as associate chairs in the Department of Environmental and Forest Biology.

Students and Faculty Receive Chancellor’s Awards

Two ESF students who graduated in May 2010 — Lynne Beaty of Geneseo and Kelly Klingler of Webster — were honored with the Chancellor’s Award for Student Excellence.

Chancellor 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.

Beaty was an environmental and forest biology major. She was the treasurer for ESF’s Honor Society Alpha Xi Sigma and was named to the President’s High Honor List for six semesters. She won a Cranberry Lake Biological Station Undergraduate Research Fellowship and was chosen to attend 2010 Marine Resources Population Dynamics Workshop. She served as a teaching assistant for zoology, wildlife technique and comparative vertebrate anatomy classes.

Klingler was an environmental and forest biology major. She was part of the Upper Division Honor’s Program, completed a 10-week National Science Foundation internship in Costa Rica, was a member of Alpha Xi Sigma, received the 1951 Alumni Award and was a recipient of the New York Water Environment Association scholarship.

ESF Employees Honored by SUNY Chancellor

Two ESF employees were honored by Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher for their service to the State University of New York.

Judy Barton, a keyboard specialist with the Department of Sustainable Construction Management and Engineering, was awarded the SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Classified
On Campus

Service. The award is given to University Classified Service staff who have consistently demonstrated superlative performance within and beyond their position.

Barton has worked at ESF for more than 40 years. She was cited for setting a wonderful example for all on how to treat people with respect and possessing a clear understanding of the need to respect the College and uphold its policies.

David Kiemle, instructional support specialist in Analytical and Technical Services, received the SUNY 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.

Kiemle has been with ESF since 1986 and supervises the technical operations of ESF’s nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) and mass spectrometry (MS) facilities and equipment. He also teaches advanced chemistry laboratory classes and co-authored the textbook Spectroscopic Identification of Organic Compounds and has been named co-author on a number of research papers.

Faculty Awards and Honors

Limburg Named Exemplary Researcher

Dr. Karin Limburg, a fisheries ecologist in the ESF Department of Environmental and Forest Biology, received the College’s 2010 Exemplary Researcher award.

The award was presented to Limburg April 14, 2010, as part of ESF Spotlight Symposium that focuses on student research. The award is given annually and recognizes a faculty member with exemplary research activity, publication record and graduate/undergraduate student research programs.

Limburg, an associate professor, joined the faculty in August 1999. Her most recent work focuses on the decline of fish in the Atlantic Ocean. Her work on the subject was published in the Proceedings of the Royal Society and in BioScience. She is on the board of the U.S. Society for Ecological Economics and is the founding co-editor of Ecological Economics Reviews.

ESF Professor Appointed Distinguished Teaching Professor

Dr. Robin Kimmerer, a professor in the Department of Environmental and Forest Biology, was honored by SUNY Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher for her extraordinary achievement as a teacher, scholar and mentor.

Kimmerer was appointed Distinguished Teaching Professor which recognizes and honors mastery of teaching at the graduate, undergraduate or professional levels. Candidates must have demonstrated consistently superior mastery of teaching, outstanding service to students
and commitment to their ongoing intellectual growth, scholarship and professional growth, and adherence to rigorous academic standards and requirements.

Kimmerer has taught at ESF since 1993. She received the John Burroughs Medal Award for her book, *Gathering Moss: A Natural and Cultural History of Mosses*. She received the ESF Foundation Award for Exceptional Achievement in Teaching, the Undergraduate Student Association’s Distinguished Teaching Award twice and the Baobab Society’s Faculty Member of the Year Award.

Kimmerer, who is part Potawatomi, is the director of the Center for Native Peoples and the Environment at ESF. The center focuses on developing connections between traditional ecological knowledge and western scientific approaches.

**Quackenbush Honored with Foundation Award**

Dr. Lindi Quackenbush, an assistant professor at ESF, received the 2010 ESF College Foundation Award for Exceptional Achievement in Teaching. She is a faculty member in the Department of Environmental Resources Engineering. The award recognized Quackenbush’s creativity as a teacher and her contributions to the professional engineering community.

Quackenbush teaches graduate and undergraduate courses that include surveying, remote sensing and geographic information systems. She also teaches engineering design courses at the freshman and senior levels.

Quackenbush earned her bachelor’s degree from the University of Melbourne, Australia, and her master’s degree and doctorate from ESF.

The Foundation Award was established in 1999 to celebrate the accomplishments of ESF faculty members who have achieved excellence in their teaching responsibilities.

**Baldassarre’s Research Changes Face of Hunting, Fishing**

Dr. Guy Baldassarre, a Distinguished Teaching Professor at ESF, was hailed by Outdoor Life magazine as one of 25 people who have changed the face of hunting and fishing.

Baldassarre, whose research focuses on the value of wetlands to wetland birds, was dubbed “The Waterfowl Ambassador” by the magazine. The article quoted former students who said Baldassarre inspired them to work in the field of conservation and, in particular, to focus on waterfowl management. Baldassarre teaches in ESF’s Department of Environmental and Forest Biology.

**Boyer Appointed Great Lakes Research Manager**

Dr. Gregory L. Boyer, a professor in ESF’s Department of Chemistry and director of the Great Lakes Research Consortium, was described as a “super scientist” by the Centers for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence (COSEE).

Boyer has been the lead scientist for several COSEE Great Lakes workshops aboard vessels that conduct research on the Great Lakes.

Boyer was also appointed to a three-year term on the Council of Great Lakes Research Managers by the International Joint Commission. The Council of Great Lakes Research Managers was
On Campus

established to assist the commission in the exercise of the powers and responsibilities assigned to it under the Great Lakes Water Quality agreement.

Hawks Named ASLA Officer

Richard S. Hawks, chair of the Department of Landscape Architecture, was elected to a two-year term as vice president of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA).

A graduate of ESF and the Harvard University Graduate School of Design, Hawks joined the ESF faculty in 1979. He has been department chair since 1988.

Hawks has numerous professional publications to his credit and is a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects, a member of the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture, and Sigma Lambda Alpha, the landscape architecture honorary society.

ESF Honors Two Employees for Their Contributions

ESF honored two of its own for their contributions to the College and the broader community.

Associate Professor Cheryl Doble, who teaches in the Department of Landscape Architecture, received the ESF Public/Community Service Award. The award is given annually to an employee whose outreach activities to the public represent the College and its mission in a positive fashion and whose volunteer service to the community enhances life for others. Doble is director of the Center for Community Design Research, which helps communities learn how to plan and manage sustainable futures.

Leah A. Flynn, director of student activities, received the ESF Quality of Worklife Award, which is given annually to an employee whose positive attitude and positive approach to work provides an excellent example of service and improves the work environment for the campus community. The director of student activities welcomes new students to campus and helps create programs to ease the transition to college life.

Departments’ Name Changes Reflect Program Growth

Two academic departments underwent name changes to reflect the College’s continued commitment to the environment and sustainability. Construction Management and Wood Products Engineering is now known as Sustainable Construction Management and Engineering. The name change highlights the department’s evolving mission.

Environmental Resources and Forest Engineering now operates under the moniker Environmental Resources Engineering. The new name is a better description of the program in its current form. The name change will trigger a change in the program’s ABET classification from agriculture and related programs to environmental engineering.

Secretary Chu Tours ESF’s Sustainable Energy Facilities

U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu visited ESF Oct. 9, 2009, for a tour of the College’s sustainable energy facilities.

Chu, who is also a Nobel laureate, and Congressman Daniel B. Maffei (N.Y.-25) met with ESF President Murphy and other dignitaries for a tour of the College’s pilot biorefinery plant, where work is being done to develop the use of wood as a source of sustainable energy.
“The people I’ve seen at this university should believe in what you are doing because it’s the right thing,” Chu said. “The enthusiasm of the faculty and students is leading the charge to new technology for the environment.”

Chu was co-winner of the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1997. He has devoted his recent scientific career to the search for new solutions to energy challenges and global climate change.

Governor Paterson Calls ESF ‘Catalyst of the Green Economy’

N.Y. Gov. David Paterson came to ESF Jan. 27, 2010, to announce a major renewable energy initiative that would lead to the installation of up to 100 megawatts of solar photovoltaic systems at public buildings throughout the state.

“ESF is the catalyst of the green economy here in Central New York,” the governor said. “Today we are actually going to make history as we embark on an unprecedented clean-energy initiative.”

Gov. Pataki and Michael Morris Visit ESF Campus


Interacting with an audience of about 100 ESF students, faculty and staff members, Pataki and Morris answered questions about the relationship between economics and energy, the need to reduce the United States’ dependence on foreign sources of fossil fuel and developing technologies to harness wind, solar and biomass power.

Pataki said ESF’s research at the intersection of environmental studies and economics proves the two fields are “synergistic, not antagonistic.”

Syracuse Mayor Delivers State of the City Address at ESF

Mayor Stephanie Miner gave her first state of the city address from the ESF campus in January 2010.

Miner said she chose ESF because of its focus on the environment and to highlight one of the many institutions she intends to work with during her tenure.

“I can think of no better place than SUNY-ESF to host my first state of the city address. As most of you know, ESF is the only college in the nation devoted exclusively to the study of the environment, developing renewable technologies and building a sustainable future,” said Miner.

She continued, “ESF is one shining example of the many institutions we in Syracuse have ready to partner with us to embrace innovation and to create new opportunities for our region.”
Service to Others Focus at ESF

ESF’s Service Learning Initiative and the College’s focus on community service continue to be a cornerstone of the ESF student experience. These programs contribute to the students’ growth; and to the well being of the local community.

Students contributed more than 71,000 hours through the Service Learning Initiative and community service in 2009-2010. The hours of service were completed by 2,740 students participating in 150 activities or taking any of the 27 courses that employ service learning. ESF works with 200 community partners to provide service opportunities.

Service learning is a form of structured experiential education in which students engage with the community to be active learners, enrich their sense of civic responsibility, and explore a practical application for course content. Faculty oversight, students’ reflective thinking, and college/community reciprocity are key components of service learning.

Students Use Breaks to Help Hurricane Katrina Victims Rebuild

Three groups of ESF students traveled to New Orleans to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina put their lives and neighborhoods back together.

Two groups of ESF students traveled over winter break, with a third group going to the Big Easy during spring break. Two of the trips were organized through Operation Southern Comfort, a Central New York organization that has taken more than 25 trips south to help Katrina victims rebuild. The third group of volunteers made the trip with the Protestant Campus Ministry at Syracuse University and ESF and were accompanied by ESF Associate Professor Douglas Daley.

Student volunteers helped rebuild and repair homes in St. Bernard Parish. The students also planted more than 1,000 Cyprus trees along the soil bank in bayous Bienvenue and Dupre and along the Violet Canal to restore wind and water barriers against future storms.

Students Honored for Park Service

Nearly 200 ESF students were honored for their participation in F.O.R.C.E.S. (Friends of Recreation, Conservation and Environmental Stewardship) in conjunction with the Council of Park Friends by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Places.

ESF Saturday of Service participants contributed to the removal of invasive plants and improvement of the interpretive trails at Green Lakes, Clark Reservation and Chittenango Falls state parks. They also worked on projects at Selkirk Shores, and Two Rivers, Green Lakes state parks; and the Sisters of St. Francis Spirituality and Nature Center at Alverna Heights.

Erica Brown, majoring in environmental science, was named the Outstanding Undergraduate Volunteer. Matthew Brinca was named the Outstanding Graduate Student volunteer. Brinca is studying for a master of science degree in forest resources management and recreation management.

Survey Shows ESF Grads Finding Jobs Related to Their Majors

According to the 2009 Graduating Student Survey, 78 percent of ESF graduates are employed or attending graduate school. The survey, conducted by ESF’s Office of Career Services, included the post-graduation activities of degree recipients from December 2008, May 2009 and August 2009.
Of those responding, 64 percent of those employed full-time indicated their positions were related to their ESF major and 74 percent of the employed undergraduates reported they found their position within three months following graduation.

ESF Green Campus Initiative Recognized for Environmental Efforts

The Green Campus Initiative (GCI), a student organization dedicated to making ESF a greener and more sustainable institution, was named first runner-up in the inaugural “Green of the Crop” contest sponsored by The Amos Project, Clean Tech Center, CNY Works, Earthsense, Metropolitan Development Association, New York’s Creative Core, Syracuse Center of Excellence, and The Post Standard/Green CNY.

Thirteen finalists were selected from 85 nominees based on the environmental impact of their work, as well as creativity and innovation. The GCI was named first runner-up in the education category. Some of the GCI projects include installing an aerated composting system, running an Earth Day waste audit and promoting recycling and biking.

College Joins National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics

ESF became an official member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). NAIA is the governing body for athletic programs at nearly 300 colleges and universities throughout the United States and Canada. NAIA membership will provide the guidance and regulatory framework needed to move ESF’s existing sports programs from a club sport level to an intercollegiate schedule of competition which began in the fall of 2010.

ESF currently has teams in men’s and women’s soccer, men’s and women’s cross-country, timber sports (the Woodsmen’s team), and golf. The College has developed a five-year plan for athletics that will lead to additional teams being added in the next few years.

ESF’s intercollegiate teams will compete primarily with NAIA and NCAA Division III-level teams from New York and neighboring states. The College does not offer athletic scholarships.

New Mascot, Oakie, Unveiled

ESF unveiled its new College mascot, Oakie, to the public, in January 2010. Introduced by President Murphy, Oakie bounded into the Bray Hall rotunda where students, faculty and staff gathered for the debut.

Oakie, who was chosen as the mascot by the ESF student body through a web-based election with six mascot candidates, will represent ESF’s growing athletic program. The College’s soccer, golf, cross-country and timber sports teams are known as the Mighty Oaks, a name linked to both ESF’s deep roots in the field of forestry and one of the most identifiable landmarks on the ESF campus: the Robin Hood Oak. The stately oak was the first tree to be listed on the National Register of Historic Trees in the United States. The tree grew from an acorn obtained by an ESF professor who brought it back from England’s Sherwood Forest around 1926. According to legend, the Major Oak sheltered Robin Hood and his men from their enemies.
In the Community
In the Community

College Ranks in Top 25 of United Way/SEFA Campaign Contributors

Contributions by the ESF community to the United Way/SEFA campaign earned the College a place in the top 25 donors. Contributing $60,357, the College was ranked 25th among more than 500 companies and organizations that participate in the annual fundraising campaign.

Wendy P. Osborne, art director in the Office of Communications, served as campaign chair this year and was nominated for the SEFA/United Way Campaign Volunteer of the Year award for her successful and innovative campaign.

ESF, OCC, SCSD Receive $450,000 Grant

ESF, Onondaga Community College and the Syracuse City School District received a $450,000 grant for “Smart Scholars” Early College High Schools (ECHS). The grant was part of $5.5 million in grants to 11 high schools and SUNY to coordinate a network of early college high schools throughout the state.

The program will create early college high schools that will give students the opportunity to accelerate the completion of their high school studies while earning college credits at the same time. Students will receive additional academic support from school/college partnerships to ensure they are at grade level and ready to participate in rigorous collegiate courses.

College Honors Graduates of Distinction

Two ESF alumni, Dr. Robert Lenz ’56 and Joe Martens ’81, received Graduate of Distinction Honors during the December 2009 convocation.

Lenz (Ph.D. ’56, chemistry) is a pioneer in the field of polymer chemistry. He received his Ph.D. from ESF in 1956, working with the late professors Conrad Schuerch and Michael Szwarc. He went on to become one of the founding members of the polymer science and engineering program at the University of Massachusetts. Lenz was a leader in the synthesis of polyesters, a class of biodegradable polymers. He authored a widely used text-and reference book, “The Organic Chemistry of Synthetic High Polymers.”

Martens (M.S. ’81, resources management) is president of the Open Space Institute (OSI), which is dedicated to protecting scenic, natural, and historic landscapes to ensure public enjoyment, conserve habitats, and sustain community character. Before joining OSI, Martens was a senior legislative analyst for the N.Y. State Assembly Ways and Means Committee. He also worked at the Adirondack Park Agency. He left the APA to become secretary for the environment during then-Gov. Mario Cuomo’s administration.

ESF Is a Top Campus for Active Research

ESF continues to do a great deal of sponsored research, locally, nationally, and internationally. Total expenditures for sponsored research in fiscal year 2009-2010 were at $14.4 million and the book value was $63.2 million.

There were 274 funding proposals submitted for a record total of $81.5 million. The College was among the most active research campuses in SUNY with an average research expenditure of $114,000 per faculty member.

Approximately 94 percent of ESF’s faculty is actively and successfully pursuing extramural support at state and federal levels.
In the Community

College Receives ARRA-funded Grants

Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, ESF received funding for two projects: one dealing with Lyme disease-carrying ticks and the other focusing on producing more energy from wood and other biomass.

Dr. Jesse Brunner received funding to study the overwintering mortality of the black-legged tick in a changing climate. The tick (Ixodes scapularis) is carrier of three emerging infectious diseases in North America: Lyme disease, human granulocytic anaplasmosis and babesiosis.

As winters in the Northeast become warmer and wetter, the range of the tick and the diseases it brings with it are expected to increase. Brunner will experimentally test whether and how increasing temperature and changing precipitation will influence overwintering mortality of nymphal blacklegged ticks.

Dr. Raymond Francis is researching increased energy production from wood and other biomass sources. Francis is exploring the improved possibility of integrated gasification of biomass and low-quality biomass from wood and agricultural wastes if the Soda, Anthraquinone process were to be implemented.

Passed by Congress in 2009, the ARRA’s goals include job creation and retention, encouraging economic activity and investments in long-term growth and fostering unprecedented levels of accountability and transparency in government spending.

International Research Abounds at ESF

ESF faculty and students continued their studies at locations around the world including the Galapagos Islands, Puerto Rico, China, Ecuador, Honduras, Costa Rica, Guyana, Spain, Mongolia and India. A sampling of that research includes:

Dr. Stephen Teale’s work on the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) has lead to a collaboration with the Northeastern Forestry University Harbin, Heilongjiang Province in China. ALB, an invasive tree-killing insect native to China and the Korean peninsula, has been introduced to the U.S. and become established in New York, Illinois, New Jersey and Massachusetts.

Teale is researching methods to improve previously developed chemical attractant and trap technology. Improved detection technology could shorten the time to successful eradication of ALB infestations. Traps utilizing chemical attractants for ALB would be a cost-effective technology for early and sensitive detection of ALB infestations.

Field work conducted in China was done at the Northeastern Forestry University in Harbin, Heilongjiang Province through collaboration with Professor Wang Zhiying and Dr. Jing Tian-Zhong.

Using the giant tortoise for ecosystem restoration in the Galapagos is the focus of research being done by master’s candidate Elizabeth Hunter and her advisor Dr. James P. Gibbs. In an effort to determine whether the reintroduction of giant tortoises can restore the plant community, a group of 39 tortoises that are non-reproductive and non-native was released on Pinta Island in May 2010. Hunter and three field assistants
In the Community

monitored the movements, foraging habits, and impact of these tortoises on the ecosystem through the summer of 2010 and will return again in the summer of 2011.

The work is part of a larger collaborative effort between the Galápagos National Park Service and ESF funded by both the Park Service and the non-profit Galápagos Conservancy. The tortoise release onto Pinta Island received national media coverage on the Today Show. The project has implications for global biodiversity conservation as it is one of the first to use an analog species to recover lost ecosystem services.

This is one of several projects that link ESF to conservation and management of Galápagos. Other, on-going projects include understanding interactions among three globally endangered species — the waved albatross, giant tortoise, and giant tree cactus — to inform conservation management of Española Island, Galápagos, guide development of anti-poaching technologies to aid park guards in apprehending tortoise poachers, and help design a shared information management system to facilitate conservation management by the various institutions concerned with the future of Galápagos.

Dr. Charles Hall and his students have conducted many studies in Puerto Rico over the last 25 years. These have been related to carbon, water and energy budgets to the Luquillo Forest and, increasingly, studies in the rural-to-urban region of nearby San Juan. Some of this work with Ph.D. student Nancy Harris was featured on the Discovery Channel special “Powering the Future.” More recently doctoral candidate David Murphy has finished work on the urban heat island effect for San Juan and more comprehensive studies on the vulnerability of Puerto Rico to “peak oil,” the apparent plateauing and decline in the availability of oil globally. Puerto Rico gets 100 percent of its energy from oil. Over the years this work has produced dozens of publications in scientific journals.

ESF Extends Reach of International Academic Partnerships

ESF continues to foster numerous international academic initiatives. Included in these partnerships are the Instituto de Ecología, Mexico; Monteverde Institute, Costa Rica; The University of Chile; Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, England; Catholic University of Avila, Spain; M.V. Lomonosov Moscow State University; Kahramanmaras Stucu Imam University, Turkey; and the Forest Research Institute, India.

The departments of Environmental and Forest Biology, Forest and Natural Resources Management, and Environmental Resources Engineering are partnering with Instituto de Ecología in Mexico to collaborate on addressing conservation issues of much interest to each group. With a grant from the National Council for Science and Technology, ESF researchers plan to convene with scientists from Instituto de Ecología to discuss the state of understanding about the mountain cloud forests in Mexico, the most urgent related conservation issues, and possible solutions to lessen the threats to these endangered natural communities that harbor many plant and animal species of concern.

Members of the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources Management (FNRM) taught a short course through the Maxwell School at Syracuse University for the Indian Forest Service. The course trains senior-level forestry officials (generally with 28-plus years of experience) on forest policy and planning. Two groups of students attended this past summer with more groups expected to come in the next two years. FNRM faculty involved are Dr. Christopher
Nowak, Dr. Robert Malmsheimer, Dr. Russell Briggs, Dr. Timothy Volk, Dr. Rene Germain and Dr. David Newman.

In the summer of 2009 Emanuel J. Carter Jr. spent five weeks in Santiago, Chile, working with the University of Chile. Carter, associate professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture, taught a week-long short course on urban forestry as urban design for Corporación Nacional Forestal, the Chilean Forest Service. The course was designed to help a federal department, long associated only with rural and wilderness landscapes, to address its new mandate to develop urban forests and urban green infrastructure and thus make the establishment of ecosystem services a normal part of the city planning/urban design process.

Carter was also involved in developing the new graduate program in landscape engineering. Specifically, three semester-long diplomas and courses for each diploma were developed. The diploma system allows graduate students, and especially those in full-time employment, to gain credentials through either full-time or part-time study and target the skill-building process at levels short of a master’s degree.

The first diploma was to begin in June 2010 but in the wake of the devastating earthquake earlier that year, the energies of the University of Chile were diverted to technical assistance in relief efforts. The diploma is expected to be offered in June 2011 with Carter serving as visiting professor in the new program.

In October 2009 Carter returned to the University of Chile with Dr. Richard Smardon. Their work included preliminary studies in preparation for a grant application to support the development of new wood technologies for affordable housing in the south of Chile. The new housing is part of an effort to reduce the drain of young people from the southern rural communities. Carter provided instruction about community planning for the population increase that would come with keeping young people in the region.

Smardon, professor in the Department of Environmental Studies, assisted with the ecotourism aspect of the project.

Smardon and Carter also developed a plan to convert a summer forestry practicum camp to a regional ecological observatory in Frutillar. That plan is expected to proceed further in the coming years with Carter remaining involved in the project.
**Campus Master Planning — campus improvements update**

ESF’s main campus is undergoing a major transformation.

The College broke ground Aug. 6, 2010, for construction of the new Gateway Building, a $28.3 million project that will showcase the College’s commitment to sustainability through a sophisticated array of renewable energy technologies.

Designed to meet the highest Platinum Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design standards set by the U.S. Green Building Council, the Gateway Building will produce energy for itself and several other buildings on campus. It will also become a focal point for campus life with space for student gatherings, exhibitions and conferences; an expanded bookstore; a snackbar; and a fitness center.

Construction of the Gateway Building was undertaken with support from N.Y. Sen. John DeFrancisco, who helped obtain approximately $6.3 million in New York state funding for the project.

The Gateway Building will be located on the ESF campus just west of Moon Library.

The College unveiled a commemorative cornerstone for its new student residence hall Sept. 16, 2010. At that time the building was formally named Centennial Hall in honor of the College’s upcoming 100th anniversary.

Construction of the residence hall, scheduled to open in August 2011, marks a turning point in ESF’s history: It is the first residence hall specifically for ESF students, who have, to this point, had access to on-campus housing only at neighboring Syracuse University.

Construction of Centennial Hall, overseen by national student housing developer Allen & O’Hara Education Services and local contractor Hueber Breuer, began in May 2010 along Oak-land Street, just west of the main ESF campus. The $31.4 million building will be owned and operated by the ESF College Foundation, Inc. The work is funded by financing provided through the Onondaga Civic Development Corp. and TD Bank.

The 452-bed facility designed by WTW Architects of Pittsburgh and HKK Architects of Syracuse will house 280 freshmen and 172 upperclassmen.

The residence hall is planned as a silver-certified LEED building. The building’s impact on the environment will be reduced by the use of storm water management techniques, sustainable building materi-als where possible, landscaping that includes native plants and a limited need to mow, extensive indoor bicycle storage and maintenance facilities and a pedestrian-friendly design.

Other campus improvements include the construction of a new road, Oak Leaf Drive, which runs between Bray and Walters halls connecting the north and south sides of campus. A new parking area and rain garden have been created near the College’s landmark Robin Hood Oak.

Several existing campus buildings are on a planned rehabilitation schedule beginning in 2014 and running through 2024. Energy systems within the buildings will be improved and space utilization will be increased. The campus as a whole — including all the properties — are being looked at to find opportunities for more sustain-able energy use.
Lincoln Sculpture Gets a New Home

The bronze sculpture of a young Abraham Lincoln on horseback that has graced the ESF campus for more than 30 years was moved in April 2010 to a more prominent location outside Bray Hall.

The statue was sculpted by Anna Hyatt Huntington (1876-1973), who depicted Lincoln as a young lawyer riding the circuit. He is engrossed in a book while his horse nibbles some grass.

The 5,000-pound statue was moved from its previous location outside Walters Hall as part of a project that has created a roadway between Bray and Walters halls. The statue is now located near the northwest corner of Bray Hall, across the street from the Carrier Dome.

Students Help Develop Climate Action Plan

ESF developed a Climate Action Plan that will use a combination of renewable energy projects, sustainable construction, energy conservation and managed forestland to make the College carbon neutral by 2015.

ESF took the unusual step of involving students in the formulation of the plan, which was submitted in September 2009 to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education as part of the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC).

Undergraduate Justin Heavey, majoring in environmental studies (environmental policy, planning and law) and minoring in renewable energy, worked with ESF staff members to construct the plan.

The report details a five-fold path toward driving the College’s net CO2 emissions to zero by 2015. Some 40 individual initiatives are included in five major areas:

- energy conservation measures
- alternative energy projects on the main campus and regional campuses designed to deliver clean and renewable energy to existing structures
- new construction that will focus on energy-efficient design and systems that produce heat and power from sustainable sources for new and existing buildings
- campus action to engage the campus community to increase awareness and reduce waste in all aspects of college operations
- forest carbon sequestration, centering on proper designation and management of ESF’s forested properties, in keeping with Chicago Climate Exchange and Greenhouse Gas Protocol standards.

The projected payback period on the plan is six years, based on a campus investment...
of $11.7 million, anticipated energy-related savings of $1.3 million, and $3.9 million in expected grants and incentives.

Huntington Lodge Restored

The restoration of Huntington Lodge at the Adirondack Ecological Center was completed in the fall of 2009.

The project recaptured the lodge’s original Great Camp look. Knotty pine paneling, spruce stair rails and whole-log archways reflect the original vision of architect William West Durant.

The result combines the ideas of AEC educator Paul Hai, the architectural design work of ESF architect Gary Peden and the craftsmanship of Joel Delia, Joseph Novak and Thomas Steven. Their work provides a rich setting for craftsman furniture created by L. & J.G. Stickley Inc. and obtained by the College through the generosity of the Audi family, owners of the Stickley company.

Foundation Report

The ESF College Foundation logged a successful year raising $1.3 million during a difficult economic time. Other accomplishments noted by the Foundation include:

- Documenting more than $5 million in pledges and bequests during the leadership phase of the Centennial Campaign for ESF.
- Earning a return of the investment portfolio which combined with new gifts brought assets to over $26 million; a $5 million increase over the previous fiscal year.
- Establishing more than seven new endowments.
- Hosting a successful Feinstone Environmental Awards fundraising banquet, with 235 attendees raising nearly $40,000 for ESF scholarships and academic programs.
- Securing bond financing of $31 million and beginning construction of new student residence, Centennial Hall, for ESF students.
ESF Readies for Its Centennial

Plans for ESF's Centennial Celebration in 2011 are under way, with a steering committee representing the administration, faculty, staff and students discussing the best ways to celebrate ESF's rich history. The occasion also provides opportunities to increase ESF's visibility and find new ways to help support the College's work.

The Centennial Celebration’s theme is “Environmental Leadership for a Second Century,” describing the core qualities of ESF and its history, and highlighting the important role the College will continue to play in matters involving education and the environment.

A slate of activities is being planned throughout 2011 including a semi-formal “Green Tie” Dinner July 28, 2011. Other events include alumni gatherings, and on-campus events both social and academic.

College Begins $20 Million Fundraising Campaign

In conjunction with its Centennial Celebration, ESF is embarking on its largest and most comprehensive fundraising campaign. The Centennial Campaign for ESF will provide the financial resources essential to the future success of the College in producing the environmental leaders of tomorrow.

Four essential goals for The Centennial Campaign for ESF were identified. They are: academic innovation, student scholarships, new campus facilities and financial strength.

The leadership phase of the campaign is underway, and will officially be announced at the Centennial Celebration in July of 2011.

Alumnus Scott Kasprowicz Receives Feinstone Award

Entrepreneurship and community activism were honored at the 2009 Sol Feinstone Environmental Awards when E. Scott Kasprowicz was presented with the Honorary Feinstone Award Oct. 22, 2009.

ESF alumnus Kasprowicz is an entrepreneur, business leader, and community activist. He served as deputy secretary of transportation for the Commonwealth of Virginia as part of then-Gov. Tim Kaine's administration. As deputy secretary, his work focused on transportation policy reform, transit-oriented design, and the development of a passenger rail extension connecting Dulles Airport with Washington, D.C. Kasprowicz serves on the board of directors and executive committee of the Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC), where he works on sustainable community development policy and is leading an effort to assemble multiple tracts of land for a regional gateway park. He is a founding member of Nuride, Inc., an incentive-based ride network founded to relieve traffic congestion and improve air quality.

The Sol Feinstone Environmental Awards seeks to recognize singular achievements in advancing the cause of the environment. One of the oldest and most respected in the field, the Feinstone Award was established in 1976. Past recipients have come from science, conservation, government, public policy, teaching and the media. For 2009, the Feinstone Awards Committee seeks to recognize the role of innovative transportation in sustainable communities.