

# HUMBOLDT STATE FORESTRY ALUMNI

Spring 2013



1 Harpst Street, Arcata, CA 95521

[www.humboldt.edu/fwr/alumni](http://www.humboldt.edu/fwr/alumni)

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## 100 Years of Education at Humboldt State University

Humboldt State University will mark its 100th year in fall 2013, with a full academic year of events and activities scheduled to celebrate the milestone.

“Humboldt State’s Centennial will be a wonderful opportunity to look back at all we have accomplished, and to look forward to a future filled with possibility,” says HSU President Rollin Richmond. “There is such a large community of people who care about HSU, and I hope they find a way to be a part of this celebration.”

A Centennial-themed Homecoming & Family Weekend will be Sept. 27–28, 2013, this will be held in conjunction with the Forestry Alumni Weekend events. A special centennial Founder’s Day will be celebrated in April 2014. At the May

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2013 Commencement Ceremonies, the campus will recognize the Centennial Class. The next year, in May 2014, the campus will recognize the New Century Class, including our new century Foresters! As a special part of the Centennial celebrations, and of particular interest to the Forestry Alumni, is the creation of Centennial Grove, a dedicated grove of redwoods west of the Kinesiology Building. Information on centennial events and news can be found at [www.humboldt.edu/100](http://www.humboldt.edu/100) or follow it on [Facebook.com/HSU100](https://www.facebook.com/HSU100).

## HSU Forestry Alumni Weekend 2013

The Forestry Alumni Weekend has changed from an annual spring event to a fall event held in conjunction with HSU Homecoming September 27–28. This event is a great opportunity for HSU Forestry Alumni to get together back in the old redwood stomping grounds and celebrate HSU Forestry traditions, reminisce, meet with old friends, and see how the department is doing today.

The next HSU Forestry Alumni Weekend will be in conjunction with the Centennial-themed Homecoming and Family Weekend this fall 2013. Come celebrate with us!!

Registration forms and event information will become available in the spring of 2013 on the Forestry Alumni website. <http://humboldt.edu/fwr/alumni>

## New Forestry Faculty

The department of Forestry and Wildland Resources is excited to welcome two new tenure track faculty members. Dr. Jeff Kane and Dr. Erin Kelly joined the department fall 2012.



Dr. Jeff Kane (left) is a 2007 Humboldt alum with a Masters in Forestry. He recently earned his Ph.D. in Forestry at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff this May. His research interests focus broadly on fire ecology and fuels management. More specifically, he is interested in fire and drought effects on tree mortality, fuel treatment impacts and effectiveness, fuel dynamics and litter flammability/defense traits.

Dr. Erin Kelly (right) earned her Masters and Ph.D. in Forest Social Science from Oregon State University. She has spent the last two years in Newfoundland, Canada, as a post doc research fellow

working on forest policy and public participation and community capacity and resilience in the Northern Peninsula. Dr. Kelly will work in partnership with Humboldt forest industry representatives.



## Alumni Breakfast at Sierra Cascade Logging Conference

The Sierra-Cascade Logging Conference forestry alumni breakfast was held on February 8, 2013 in Redding. Over 40 alumni were present to get an update on HSU Forestry enrollments, faculty status, the logging sports team and general news. In addition to the alumni, 15 current students attended, getting to meet a wide cross section of alumni members (and future employers!). Members pitched in contributions to support the logging sports team's participation in the Logging Conference and the event yielded 3 new members of the Forestry chapter of the HSU Alumni Association. Northern California members mark your calendar---2014 Logging Conference breakfast is tentatively schedule for Friday, February 7, 2014. Watch the alumni website and Facebook pages for updates.

## HSU Alum Given Field Forester Award by SAF District 3

In his long and varied career in the forestry profession, Martin D. Grubrud has showcased his talent for forestry in several projects that have had a lasting effect on both the profession and the communities in their vicinity. In the late 1970's Grubrud helped build the first fire history maps of LA County. In the mid 1980's he contributed to the writing of the original County Oak Tree Ordinance, which set the bar for over

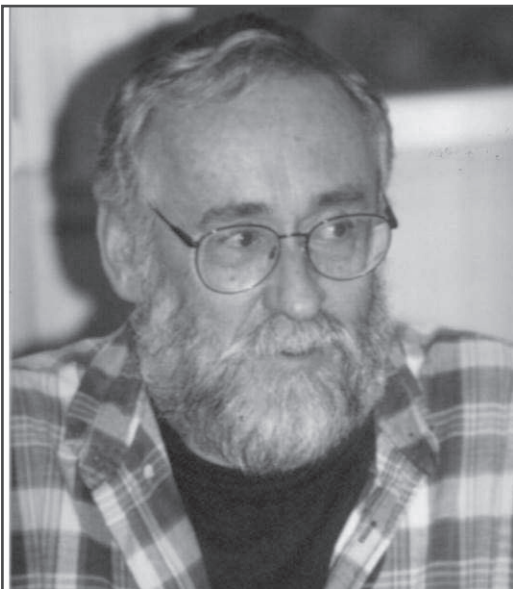
10 counties and 40 cities to adopt similar ordinances. In 1999 he began his own consulting firm and worked to create Mono County's Fire Safe Council. Grubrud also helped create Inyo and Mono County's Community Wildfire Protection Plans. It is fitting that SAF would award Grubrud with this honor, to which his HSU forestry degree set the foundation.

## Dr. Dale Thornburgh, In Remembrance

We are saddened to inform our fellow alumni of the passing of Dr. Dale Thornburgh. His legacy will live on in the knowledge, wisdom, and perspective he imparted to so many of us throughout the years. This obituary was originally published in the Eureka Times-Standard from March 1 to March 3, 2013 and is republished with their permission.

Dr. Dale Alden Thornburgh was born on Dec. 1, 1931, in Tiffin, Ohio and passed away on Feb. 24, 2013, with his family at his side. He grew up in Missoula, Montana and Bremerton, Washington. He received a BS and PhD in Forestry from the University of Washington and a MS in Forestry from UC, Berkeley. While in college he was a champion hurdler and qualified for the national trials, barely missing the Olympics. In 1953 he was drafted into the Army and stationed in Brooklyn, NY. Along the way, he met the love of his life Pat Thornburgh and they were married for 52 years, enjoying their family of three sons and their wives, one foster daughter, and nine wonderful grandchildren. In 1965, Dale and Pat moved to Arcata where Dale was a professor of Silviculture and Ecosystems Management at Humboldt State University for 40 years. Dale exposed thousands of students to a "kinder and gentler" approach to forest management. Being an avid hiker and back packer, Dale scaled most of the notable peaks in the Pacific Northwest. As a professor at HSU, Dale prided himself on being able to beat the students up the trails and was known for always wearing shorts, no matter what the outside temperature was.

He and his colleague, Dr. John Sawyer of the Botany Dept. spent many hours in the 1970's studying the ecology of the Klamath Mountains. In one diverse area, called the Miracle Mile, they discovered 17 species of conifer trees and over 400 plants. Dale traveled worldwide to study and admire trees, spending time in Europe, China, and parts of the Middle East. Dale was an original member of the City of Arcata's Forest Management Committee and served on it for 27 years. He helped bring scientific credibility to the City Forest and brought international attention to its programs. He was also a California Registered Professional Forester and received The Sequoia Award from the Pacific Forest Trust on 2005. Dale is survived by his wife, Pat, his sons Larry and Joel, his brother Gerry, his 9 grandchildren (Faye, Julia, Sara, Charles, Marlie, Scott, Avery, Sean, and Erin) and his loyal and trusted friend, Dr. Bill Sise. He was preceded in death by his parents, Paul and Elaine Thornburgh, his sister Lois Thornburgh, his son Mark Thornburgh, and his grandson Gregory Thornburgh. The family is planning a memorial dedication at a later date. Memorial donations may be made to the Arcata Forest Fund of the Humboldt Area Foundation, 363 Indianola Road, Bayside, CA 95524.



## Forestry and Wildland Resource Dept. News and Updates:

Students, faculty and staff from Humboldt State University Department of Forestry and Wildland Resources recently journeyed to Spokane, Washington to take part in the Society of American Foresters (SAF) Annual Convention. This year's convention program focused on ecological resilience.

Department Chair Dr. Ken Fulgham, Professors Dr. Han-Sup Han and Dr. Erin Kelly attended with forestry students, Rachele Raines, Alexander Taylor, Connor Goldstein, Ricky Shurtz and Sam Tenneson to compete in the annual SAF Quiz Bowl. 32 teams took part in the competition, with the team from State University New York eventually winning the Bowl.

Forestry and Wildland Resources staff member Sara Hanna and Dr. Fulgham presented a talk entitled "Post-Fire Succession in a Sagebrush Steppe and Western Juniper Community in Northeastern California". The convention was also the perfect setting for alumni to reconnect. A joint alumni reception was held for The Forestry Alumni of California, which included Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, University of California @ Berkeley and Humboldt State University alumni and friends. The reception was well received with over 100 people attending and there were approximately 20 HSU Forestry alumni in attendance.

### Faculty:

Dr. J. Morgan Varner left in early summer 2012 for another position with Mississippi State University. The Provost approved an emergency faculty recruitment, Dr. Jeffrey Kane now fills the Wildland Fire Management faculty position.

We have successfully hired Dr. Erin Kelly to assume the faculty position in Forest Administration, Economics, and Policy. Lastly, we were successful at hiring of Dr. Ed Vasquez on a one-year Visiting Professorship in Rangeland Resources and Wildland Soils. Ed is a 2006 graduate from University of Arizona.

Future permanent faculty positions needed are:

- Forest Mensuration, Measurements & Biometrics
- Rangeland Ecology and Plants
- Forest Dendrologist and General Forest Ecologist
- Watershed Scientist and Wildland Soil Scientist
- Wildland Geospatial Science
- FWR Department Chair to replace Ken Fulgham

### Accreditation:

We received a two-year postponement of the SAF Accreditation of forestry in order to stabilize the faculty and implement the second major curriculum change process in a 5-year period. We have submitted the required paperwork and fees to obtain Society of Fire Ecologist certification. Other potential accreditations or certifications are from the Society for Range Management and the Soil Science Society of America.

### Student Enrollments:

We have 228 Forestry Undergraduates and 18 Graduate Students in either the Forestry or Watershed MS tracks.

The Option distribution is as follows:

- General Forestry = 70
- Forest Resource Conservation = 31
- Wildland Fire Management = 55
- Forest Hydrology = 30
- Forest Operations = 31
- Forest Soils = 11



## A Note From the Recruiter...Lisa Perry

Just a quick note from the road....I immensely enjoy representing HSU Forestry across California and up and down the west coast. We have 229 applications pending for Fall 2014, up again, and have had a wonderful response from both high schools and community colleges. Our students and alumni are our best ambassadors. If you'd like to represent HSU forestry at an event or school this year please contact me for presentations and/or materials. I also love to add events to my existing travels so if your local school or organization has a career or college event, please let me know and I'll try to fit it in. You can contact me at [lap36@humboldt.edu](mailto:lap36@humboldt.edu) or 707-826-3273.

## 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Banquet Results

The 13th Annual Department of Forestry and Wildland Resources Spring Awards Banquet was held on Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> 2012 in the Kate Buchanan Room. Over 100 people attended the event which highlights the accomplishments of the students and the department.

Dr. Ken Fulgham, Chair of the Department of Forestry and Wildland Resources was Master of Ceremonies for the evening. Dr. Fulgham welcomed everyone to the celebration and recognized the many people who made the event possible. Special recognition was given to Gayleen Smith, ASC for the Department of Forestry and Wildland Resources. The Forestry and Wildland Resources Department currently has 246 students, including 213 undergraduate students and 23 graduate students. This year the faculty in the department have active grant funds over \$4,200,000 for the 2011–2012 fiscal year, representing nearly 10% of all active grants at HSU this year.

Karl Franci, president of the HSU Logging Sports team gave an overview of the team's accomplishments and upcoming events. The Logging Sports Team has placed 1st and 2nd at

several events this year. The team will continue to compete at the annual Association of Western Forestry Clubs Conclave held later this month at Oregon State University.

The night continued with the announcement and presentation of scholarships to 25 undergraduate and graduate students in the department. Over \$26,000 in scholarships were awarded at the banquet. This year's Forestry Alumni Scholarship of \$1500 was presented to Chris Henderson. Chris Henderson is starting his senior year at HSU with an emphasis in Forest Resource Conservation. The evening ended with the presentation of three awards to outstanding graduating senior students, whose names will be engraved and displayed on a brass plate in the Forestry Building Lobby. The award Forestry for "Academic Excellence" was presented to Jesse Braley. Jasmine Westbrook received the "Most Outstanding Student Award in Rangeland Resources and Wildland Soils". The 2011–2012 "Professional Promise Award", which is voted on by the faculty, was awarded to recent Forestry graduate Whitney Schimke.

In addition to the department scholarships awarded there was approximately \$19,000 in outside scholarships awarded to Forestry and Wildland Resources students. This includes scholarships awarded by Women in Timber, California Licensed Foresters Association and the California Farm Bureau to name a few.





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c/o Forestry and Wildland  
Resources Department,*

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Arcata, CA 95521  
(707)826-3935*

- Annual Individual (HSUAA and Forestry Chapter): \$45
- 3-Year Individual (HSUAA and Forestry Chapter): \$105
- Lifetime Individual (HSUAA and Forestry Chapter): \$550

HSUAA Life Members may choose:

- Forestry Chapter Annual: \$10
- Forestry Chapter Life: \$150

\*Spousal rates available, please contact Alumni Relations 707.826.3132

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E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Major & Year graduated HSU: \_\_\_\_\_

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*The Humboldt State University Forestry Alumni Chapter was established to support the Department of Forestry and Watershed Management. The Chapter aims to provide a source of expertise to the students and faculty, and to provide for the fellowship of the alumni, students and faculty of the department.*