

MSU
FORESTRY

Since
1902



An Update on MSU's Forestry Department

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Chairperson & Professor

Recent developments in:

- I. Undergraduate program
- II. Graduate program
- III. Turning the corner: faculty hires



I. Undergraduate program

1. Director of Undergraduate Studies
 - Larry Leefers for 2011-12 academic year
 - Dave MacFarlane starting 2012-13 academic year
 - Interviewing for Undergraduate Advisor / Recruiter
2. MSU Forestry will be hosting 2013 Conclave
 - Concurrent event: Stihl Timbersports (ESPN-U, Outdoor Channel)
3. Major revision of undergraduate curriculum
 - To take effect Fall 2013
 - How we teach
 - What we teach



3. Major revision of undergraduate curriculum

How we teach

- More on-line components to course-work
- More hands-on, experiential learning, including field time
 - Forest vegetation will be largely field based
 - New forest measurements course, largely field based
 - 2 week field camp
 - Internship or study abroad or independent research
 - More experiential learning across the curriculum
- Complementary approaches



3. Major revision of undergraduate curriculum

What we teach

Knowledge

- Grounded in basic forestry knowledge
- Role of forests in human well-being (economic, health...) & environmental quality
 - Valuation of ecosystem services & non-timber forest products
 - Global change biology & climate change
- Interdisciplinary, to solve natural resource & environmental problems
 - Conflict resolution
 - Ethics
- Global perspective
 - Study abroad option
 - Throughout curriculum



3. Major revision of undergraduate curriculum

What we teach

Skills

- Grounded in basic forestry field skills
 - more field time in forest vegetation, measurements, & silviculture
- More rigorous quantitative & geospatial
 - Calculus
 - Statistics
 - Ecological monitoring & data analysis
 - Valuation of forest ecosystem services
 - Forest resource economics & management
 - GIS applications to Natural Resources
- Written communication & critical thinking
 - Writing across the curriculum (with opportunity for revision)
 - Additional writing course (e.g., technical writing, writing in the public interest, grants writing)
- Soft skills: collaboration, verbal communication
 - Throughout the curriculum



II. Graduate program

1. New Graduate Certificate in Forest Carbon Science, Policy, and Management

- Lots of interest
- 4 core courses
 - Biogeochemistry & global environmental change
 - Human dimensions of forest carbon
 - Economics, policy, & finance of forest carbon
 - Measurement and monitoring of forest carbon

2. Revitalized graduate program

- 4 new grads on prestigious MSU fellowships
- Graduate Research Symposium in spring
(all welcome)



III. Faculty positions

1. Applied forest ecology / silviculture
 - Offer pending
 - Fire
 - Formation & dynamics of bio-char
2. Wood products
 - Endowment support
 - Industry needs / compatibility with MSU demands
3. Forest – water cycle interactions
 - Under consideration by MSU as part of MSU Global Water Initiative
4. High priority: urban & community forestry



Other news

1. Alumni tailgate on 17 November
2. Alumni reunions (typically held early summer)

