LIFE IN THE PROFESSION

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The Students of the
COLLEGE OF FOREST RESOURCES
University of Maine
Alan S. White, Associate Professor of Forest Biology and the H. W. Saunders Professor of Hardwood Silviculture, joined the faculty at the University of Maine in 1986. Alan received his B.A. in Biology from Williams College in 1973, his M.S. in forest ecology from the University of Montana in 1976, and in 1981 Al earned a Ph.D. in forest ecology/fire ecology from the University of Minnesota. After receiving his Ph.D., Al moved to the southwest where he worked as an Assistant Professor of Forestry at Northern Arizona University.

Finally, thirteen years after Al began his academic and professional journey across the United States, he decided it was time to venture back to his eastern roots in Maine. Al's responsibilities at the College of Forest Resources are numerous. On the undergraduate level Al teaches silvics, forest ecology, and its associated lab. On the graduate level Al teaches a very popular course in research methods. Along with his teaching duties, Al also serves as an advisor and committee member for many forest biology graduate students. He has also been very successful in his research efforts. The major bent of his present research deals with the competition of tree species after an area has been clearcut. Among others, Al also carries out research pertaining to topics such as plant population dynamics, silviculture of northern hardwoods and spruce-fir, fire ecology and site classification.

In 1989, Al obtained the honor of being voted the "Distinguished Forest Resources Professor" by the senior student body. His popularity continues to this day with the present student body. Even though he has an enormous workload, he is never too busy to stop and talk to students about anything they might like to discuss. His sincerity and interest in the students' concerns helps to make the entire atmosphere around Nutting Hall a little more relaxed. It is always nice to have such a well rounded professor on the faculty to help to mold the next generation of forestry students.

On behalf of all those involved with the College of Forest Resources, we would like to honor Dr. Alan S. White for all that he has done for the college by dedicating the 1991 Maine Forester in his name.
Fred B. Knight retired as Dean of the College of Forest Resources on December 31, 1990. His dedication to the forest resources professions has extended over the past forty years and has ranged from New England, the Rocky Mountains, America’s “heartland” and back to Maine. Dean Knight is a University of Maine alumnus who has served the University for the past eighteen years as a leader, teacher, researcher and friend.

Fred Knight received his B.S. in Forestry from UM in 1949. He returned to the University in 1972 as the Director of the School of Forest Resources and, later, Dean of the College of Forest Resources. In this capacity, he was also Associate Director of the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station, Dwight B. Demeritt Professor of Forest Resources and Cooperating Professor of Entomology in the College of Applied Sciences and Agriculture.

Fred Knight’s return to the University marked the beginning of a major growth period for the School of Forest Resources. Under his able leadership, the Cooperative Forestry Resources Unit, Wood Science and Technology Program, Recreation and Park Management Program, and five endowed professorships were added, and existing programs expanded. He was instrumental in securing college-status for this recognized unit in forest resources education and research at UM. Today the College is designated as a Center of Excellence in the University and is well-respected nation-wide.

Dr. Knight’s teaching and research talents have also been widely recognized. He was named Distinguished Professor at the University of Maine in 1989 and received the College’s Distinguished Service Award in 1984 and the Distinguished Forest Resources Professor Award in 1980. Dr. Knight taught a diversity of courses, directed over seventy graduate students, and inspired countless undergraduates to strive for excellence in their careers. His research focused on developing sampling methods for bark beetles and related entomological statistics, and integrated pest management systems. He produced over 110 publications, including the textbook Principles of Forest Entomology. He has received numerous awards and honors for his white pine weevil and spruce budworm research.

Fred Knight’s contributions to the profession have extended far beyond the University of Maine. He is an active member in many organizations, and has served on numerous regional and national committees. In 1983, he was elected Fellow of the Society of American Foresters. He has been involved in international exchange programs with Germany, China, Russia and Canada; and is active in industry and civic programs closer to home. He served his country on active duty in the Navy and then as a reservist. Fred Knight has dedicated his life and career to the principles of stewardship of the natural resources. He has given much of himself in these efforts and has touched many lives in a very positive way!

To celebrate Fred Knight’s retirement and honor his years of inspired service to the University and the forest resources professions, over two hundred people joined the College for a reception, dinner and roast on Friday, December 14, 1990. We will always have a warm place in our hearts and much respect for Dean Emeritus Knight. We wish him much happiness in his retirement and look forward to his continued involvement in the student activities of the College.
During the last twenty years we have hired many people. We looked for graduates who had good technical skills. These technical skills were often found in graduates from the traditional colleges of forest resources, including wildlife as well as forestry. We oriented toward these people more than to those with degrees in environmental sciences or natural resources because of the depth of technical skills associated with the former degrees. We could take a young employee and apply them quickly to technical issues. From an employer’s point of view, this was a great advantage.

However, one skill is essential -- the daily ability to have good communication skills. As a professional, you will face many challenges beyond those of the woods and wilds. You may be an "expert" in your field, but if you cannot communicate clearly and effectively, no one is going to know it. Communication is a challenging and creative endeavor in itself. You will learn a lot about yourself and how you perceive the world around you by expressing yourself verbally and in writing. We challenge you to experience and develop your communication skills.

A number of issues emerged in the last decade that you will soon face in your careers. These issues include managing growth and development, maintaining resource-based economies, enhancing economic competitiveness, resolving social problems, preserving environmental quality, developing long-range goals and implementing effective policies for resource use and conservation. Changing patterns of ownership, rising prices and changing parcel sizes in rural areas will undoubtedly impact your career as a resource manager. The supply of rural land for commodity production and other amenities is affected by land-use controls, tax regulations and other institutional factors, as well as physical and technological factors. It is time for all of us to redefine and embrace a new land ethic.

To us, the greatest issues that you will continually face are ethical questions. This is something that you have been trained in at the University of Maine and it involves the quality of the products that you produce and the rigor and the attention to the adequacy and technical details of the work that you do. It also involves your ability to critically evaluate and self-analyze the answers and the results that you produce as part of your job and profession.

We challenge you to study these issues and assess what roles you may play as a resource professional. Study the resources, economies, people, land-use trends and future options of the region where you live. You can influence decision-making as a manager, an educator, a recreationist, an elected official, a member of your community, and as a member of society. You are in a position to offer innovative solutions to resource challenges. You have a central role to play in guiding the future conservation and management of the natural resources of your region and beyond. Getting involved will require a commitment of your time, energy and money; and it will never be rewarding. In your investigations and actions, do not underestimate the power of politics (it is human nature) and the power of public opinion. In the long run, you will be challenged and satisfied that you made a personal contribution.

Finally, your professional, ethical as well as your technical educational development does not stop with the day you graduate from this College; that is just the beginning. Your employer will and should expect, however, that you will perform your job not only to the best of your technical ability, but also within the best and the highest standards of ethics and quality that you are capable of producing.

We had three other faculty depart and one new faculty member join us in 1990. Dr. Paul Risk accepted a position as the TLL Temple Professor of Forestry at the Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas. Dr. Brad Griffidi relocated to Fairbanks, Alaska, to assume a position with the Alaska Fish and Wildlife Research Center of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Dr. Marshall Ashley resigned his faculty position to continue his forestry work with The World Bank in Haiti. We wish these three faculty much success and happiness in their professional activities.

Dr. Robert Rice joined our faculty as an Assistant Professor of Wood Science and Technology in September. Dr. Rice came to us from Mississippi State University to fill the vacancy left by Richard Hale’s retirement last year. Dr. Rice is a dynamic teacher and researcher, and we welcome him to our College faculty. Two faculty members are currently involved in research efforts abroad. Dr. Maxwell McCormack is on sabbatical leave at the University of Freiburg in Germany and Dr. Barry Goodell is a visiting scientist at the Forestry and Forest Products Institute in Tsukuba, Japan.

Other developments in the College include the addition of the Vladek (Kim) Kolman Memorial Scholarship for forestry students. In 1990, the College awarded over $54,000 in scholarships and awards to deserving students. We are pleased to be able to offer the Kolman Scholarship to future CFR students. Linda Hawkins and Marie Roy left and Lisa Lyons and Tracey Nelson joined our clerical staff this past year.

We congratulate those of you who will be graduating this year. We encourage you to get involved -- as knowledgeable resource professionals, you can make a significant contribution. A "vision" of healthy, working ecosystems available for all to enjoy is possible if you are dedicated to making it a reality. We wish Dana Condro and Derek Binding a safe and swift return from "Desert Storm" in the Middle East. For those of you who remain with us in 1991, we wish you continued success in your pursuit of knowledge. We thank each of you for the contribution you have made to the College and for your part in keeping our long-standing tradition of excellence alive. Good luck with your studies and your career plans, and may you find a lifetime of peace and happiness!

Dean G. Bruce Wiersma & Assistant Dean Katherine Weber
NUTTING NEWCOMERS

Bruce Wiersma is the new Dean of the College of Forest Resources. He is a 1964 graduate of the University of Maine with a B.S. degree in Wildlife. He received his Masters Degree from Yale University in 1965 and his Doctoral Degree from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in 1968. He was the Director of the Center for Environmental Monitoring and Assessment at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory at Idaho Falls. He was involved in the study of movement and distribution of pollutants in natural ecosystems, ecosystem monitoring techniques, long-range atmospheric transport of pollutants and global base-line pollutant and ecosystem modeling. He enjoys running and skiing. He resides in East Holden with his wife, Ann, and four children.

Bob Rice is our new Assistant Professor of Wood Science and Technology. He comes to the University of Maine from Mississippi where he taught courses in forest products at Mississippi State University and conducted research at the Mississippi State Forest Products Lab. Dr. Rice received his B.S. in Physics from the University of New Haven in Connecticut. He earned both his masters and doctoral degrees through work done in research in Forest Products at Virginia Tech.

Dr. Rice is originally from Illinois. His professional interests include wood physics, wood moisture relations, drying of wood, computer controls, composite materials and acoustics. He enjoys working with wood and jogging.

The Forest Management office has a new secretary this year: Lisa Lyons. Lisa graduated from Husson last May with a B.S. in business education and a minor in office management and secretarial studies. She teaches evening courses through Conferences and Institutes at the University of Maine.

Lisa enjoys working with the students, faculty and staff in the College. Her only complaint is the tremendous paper waste she sees here at the University.

Her favorite things to do are shopping, eating out, cooking, and doing aerobics. Lisa resides in Milford with her husband, Neil.
ADMINISTRATION

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B.S., University of Maine, Wildlife, 1964
M.F., Yale University, Forest Ecology, 1965
Ph.D., SUNY College of Environmental Science, 1968, Forest Ecology

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Natural Resources Management, 1976
(Forestry & Wildlife)
M.S., University of Rhode Island
Community Planning, 1987
(Environmental Planning)

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Ph.D., University of Maine, Plant Sciences, 1981
Forest Pathology

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Business Administration, 1986
FOREST MANAGEMENT

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Biology and Integrated Management of Small, Non-Industrial Forests

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Ph.D., Purdue University, Forest Economics, 1967

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M.F., Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Forest Management, 1976
Ph.D., Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Silviculture, 1980
Timber Management and Harvesting

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Ph.D., University of Idaho

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M.S., University of Maine, Forestry, 1978
Photo Interpretation and Remote Sensing
FOREST BIOLOGY

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Ph.D., Yale, 1969
Tree Physiology

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Forest Pathology

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Ph.D., Oregon State University, Forest Products, 1983
Wood Science and Technology

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Ph.D., University of Minnesota, 1981
Forest Ecology/Silviculture

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Forest Tree Improvement

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M.S., Syracuse University, Forest Pathology, 1965
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Wood Anatomy
RECREATION, PARKS, AND TOURISM PROGRAM

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Ph.D., University of Michigan, Forestry, 1971
Forest Recreation, Recreation and Park Management

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B.A. Middlebury College English, 1970
M.S. Parks, Recreation & Tourism, 1989

THE COOPERATIVE FORESTRY RESEARCH UNIT

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Silviculture

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Forest Pathology

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Ph.D., SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Silviculture and Forest Soils, 1985
Forest Soils
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M.S., University of Illinois
Ecology, 1966
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Ecology, 1968
Wildlife Ecology

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Wildlife Science, 1974
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Zoology, 1978

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Field Ornithology at Oxford,
Growth and Development of
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Science, 1974
Population Dynamics

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Management, 1982
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Wildlife, 1985
COOPERATING FACULTY

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B.S., University of Alaska, Wildlife Management, 1968
M.S., University of Maine, Wildlife Management, 1969
Ph.D., University of Idaho, Wildlife Science, 1977
Migratory Birds
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Lewis P. Bissell  Extension Forestry Specialist Emeritus
Richard J. Campana  Professor Emeritus of Forest Pathology
Malcolm W. Coulter  Professor Emeritus of Wildlife Resources
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Ralph H. Griffin  Professor Emeritus of Forest Resources
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Benjamin F. Hoffman  Associate Professor Emeritus of Forest Technology
Fred B. Knight  Dean Emeritus
Howard L. Mendall  Professor Emeritus of Wildlife Resources
Arthur G. Randall  Associate Professor Emeritus of Forest Technology
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Lloyd C. Irland, The Irland Group
Oliver Larouche, Hirundo Wildlife Refuge
Jerry Longcore, Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
George Matula, Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Department
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Dale S. Solomon, Research Forester, USFS
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PAUL BERTRAND
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This is my response to your question "What does the forest industry expect from a new college graduate and what challenges will they face in the future?"

First, I must say the University of Maine Forestry School is one of the best in the country. I know first hand because we have several University of Maine foresters working for us who are doing a super job.

As to expectations of a new forester, I expect them to have all the basic tools or knowledge a forester is required to know to do the job (i.e. dendrology, silviculture, mensuration, forest pathology and entomology, photogrammetry, etc.) In addition, a person should have skills in computers, forest finance, public speaking and technical report writing.

If a person is well prepared in the above mentioned skills, the "door of opportunity" is generally open for all who want to enter. However, to succeed in this competitive profession, a person needs to show some of the following personal skills or traits:

1. **Hard Worker** -- Not afraid to get his or her hands dirty. Willing to plant trees, fight fire, cut wood, etc., when required to gain experience.

2. **Self-Starter** -- Willing to do tasks without being asked. Not a "clock watcher" -- main objective is to complete the task at hand.

3. **Team Player** -- Have the ability to work well with others.

4. **Outdoor Person** -- Enjoys working alone in the woods in all seasons of the year. Not afraid of the woods.

5. **Good Communicator** -- Willing and able to express oneself in public. Thinks well on feet. This is becoming more and more important as foresters and the forest industry need to tell their story to the general public and others in order for the industry to survive.

6. With all of the above, add some experience and a little luck and you will generally have a very successful forester.

Good luck to all in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Cope
General Manager
The forestry profession is entering into a very challenging time as we move into the 1990’s.

Not long ago, a forester’s job was primarily concerned with forestry prescription, road and harvest layout, line work, inventory and other practical jobs. It was not uncommon for a practicing forester to see very few people outside of the profession and most were content with that. Life seemed to be more simple then.

The foresters graduating in the 1990’s and those now working through the educational system will certainly be challenged in the years to come.

One of the first challenges that will be faced is forest regulation by the public. This will be in several forms including various zoning regulations, timber harvesting policies, and zone management policies, among others.

The public is very aware of the forest and wants to participate in its management. You will be challenged in addressing the public’s concerns while practicing your profession in a sound business-like manner with a shrinking land base.

You, as a forester, are a true environmentalist. Others, however, will take exception to this. Many self-styled environmentalists and, more particularly, preservationists will pose many challenges to you. These groups are well educated, well financed, and are intent upon preserving forests for future generations with little regard to the multiple use form of management of the forest resource.

A forester of the nineties will need to be an astute businessman. Forestry on private land needs to function in a profit mode while addressing all the concerns placed on it. The land area that supports the working forest is steadily shrinking due to government regulation, thus more intense management practices are needed to generate the profits to stay in business.

A forester of the nineties will need to be well versed in law. A knowledge of business law such as contract law, environmental law, governmental regulation and international export law will be indispensable.

A forester of the nineties needs to be sensitive to the public issues. This is probably the most demanding challenge facing a forester today. The public often perceives problems that may or may not be founded in fact. It will be your job to provide the facts and take a leadership role in forming public opinion.

Become involved! Write letters to editors of newspapers and to legislators to make your views known. Take a leadership role by becoming active in local, state, and national organizations or groups. Join and participate in professional or trade associations. Keep current – read.

The 1990’s are going to be very challenging and exciting times and I believe they will also be very rewarding times for those in the forestry profession.

Jonathan C. Ford
J. M. Huber Corporation
DEBBIE BOURGON, FORESTER

My nine years with Champion International Corporation have been spent in Forest Inventory. A major part of my responsibilities has been planning and coordinating the permanent growth program; much of this included preparing all the tally sheets, transferring cruiseline locations onto photographs, organizing equipment, revising the procedures manual, planning rain-day projects, and supervising the work. The permanent growth program has been very rewarding for me. This has been due to the importance of the numbers we generate in forecasting future wood supplies to our mills, but also working with all facets of the project, especially working with the summer students. Cruising plots can become routine, not to mention the long days, black flies, rain, and just plain hard going. However, remeasuring growth plots have always been challenging especially in the quest for paint. You jump out of the pickup in the morning and you never know if you’re going to find the plots in the next minute or hours. If an area has been cut through, one lingering paint spot can be a godsend. Despite all this, the people you work with make the job the most interesting. I hope the summer students that have worked with Champion over the years have gained knowledge of a forester’s role in industrial forestry that they can use toward their careers. I certainly enjoy working with the students. They bring back my college days and pass on new ideas to me.

Over the years, I have seen such a technological change in everything we do in Forest Inventory. When I started with the Company, I would have never thought that there would be a PC on everyone’s desk, much less taking one out in the pickup with you. We’re using data recorders to collect our tree data on the plot, eliminating data entry back in the office. We do all our map updating and volume calculations in-house on a GIS workstation. The capabilities that can be done on that machine are astounding. Still in the learning mode, we’re generating specialized maps catering to any particular map feature desired.

I decided in High School I wanted to work outside, in conservation, maybe. This was primarily due to walking in the woods with my Dad and Uncle as a kid. Those were always special times, checking out a trap line or helping to gather maple sap. After vacationing in Wyoming, I knew I wanted to work at Yellowstone National Park, probably pointing at Old Faithful. I stuck with that outdoor theme right into college. I finally found out what Forestry was all about and still graduated with my degree. Well, I haven’t made it to Yellowstone, yet. Of course, I’m still young. However, the experience, knowledge and fun I’ve gained here in Maine, has certainly been fortuitous and rewarding.
Discovering things that are yet unknown is a major goal of scientific research. And, scientific study directed at the sound, frugal use of the Earth's resources is a major job of the U. S. Forest Service. As part of the Department of Agriculture, the Forest Service maintains the largest forest research organization in the world.

The U. S. Forest Service overall is a large organization with 33,000 permanent employees and almost one-half that number more in temporary assignments. Our work involves about 250 different occupations at 850 locations. With 191 million acres of National Forest System lands to manage, with State and Private Forestry functions in all 50 states involving the protection and management of an additional 700 million acres of forest land, and with forest research activities from Hawaii to Maine and from Alaska to the Virgin Islands, there is very likely to be a discipline, location, and opportunity for you.

Our research mission as an organization is broad and includes studies on timber management and silviculture, forest tree improvement, growth, and harvesting; forest economics; global change; protection of forests from fire, diseases, and pests; management and improvement of rangelands and wildlife and fish habitats; forest recreation and wilderness management; urban forestry; forest engineering; and resource monitoring and inventory.

In order to address the societal needs of the 1990's, the National Research Council has defined five broad forestry research areas that critically need to be strengthened: (1) the biology of forest organisms; (2) ecosystem function and management; (3) human-forest interactions; (4) wood as a raw material; and (5) international trade, competition, and cooperation. These topics are broad and encompass biological, climatic, and societal issues both in forestry and related renewable natural resources. The Forest Service will be at the cutting edge of this effort.

Recently, an employee questioned a research scientist about the wisdom of placing dbh marks on trees. This employee assumed that as the trees grew, the marks would be higher and higher up the trees. Obviously, his knowledge of tree physiology was extremely weak. Fortunately, he was not interested in a career of research and soon afterwards departed. This story points out the need for well-educated individuals in forestry research. Education must not be compromised.

Advanced degrees are required for almost all Forest Service research assignments. Besides an excellent background in a particular field of study, a research scientist must have an ability to deal with concepts and to think creatively about scientific subjects. If you think you fit into this mold, why not consider the U. S. Forest Service as a serious career possibility.
THE RESOURCE INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND SPATIAL ANALYSIS LABORATORY

The Resource Information Management and Spatial Analysis Laboratory (RIMSAL), of the College of Forest Resources, provides more than topographic maps of Maine. Located in Nutting Hall on the Orono Campus of the University of Maine, this center of graphic information and spatial analysis takes available maps, photographs, statistics, field-collected data, and other descriptive information, to create new maps through computer analysis. The system provides products with new perspectives on problems of land use and natural resource management. This visual depiction of information gives users a better understanding of the existing relationships among forest resources than could be possible using traditional cartographic mapping techniques.

Established over ten years ago as a cooperative among the University of Maine, Maine Agricultural Experimental Station (MAES), and the Maine Department of Conservation, RIMSAL has evolved from a Graphic Information System (GIS) center focused on forest and geological resources to a center of applied GIS. It will provide to a greater diversity of disciplines than ever before including, recreation resource management, wildlife biology, and municipal development and planning, better support in cartographic sciences.

Maine GIS (MeGIS) is designed for the accurate integration, storage, and analysis of objects and phenomena where geographic location is critical to the analysis. Applications of a GIS are finding coincidence of factors such as soil types and vegetation, and updating information on maps, such as forest cover maps to show recent logging. Despite the analytical power of this main-frame run system, MeGIS could not exist on its own without its staff or workers. The members of RIMSAL are Professor Tom Brann, Technical Advisor and Instructor Louis Morin, Graduate Research Assistant Andy Torelli, and student workers Sara Duclos and Amy Meehan.

Currently the staff is working on a two year soil suitability project mapping project for Hancock County. The maps are created using basic soil classification data supplied by the USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS). This analog data is encoded using a digitizer and converted into digital format that the system can understand. Various programs edit, process, analyze, and generate maps from this collected information. These highly accurate products will help planners of townships within Hancock County prepare their comprehensive plans. Other projects completed in the past by RIMSAL have included mapping the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, property ownership along Moosehead Lake, and a land management plan for the Department of the Navy's Survival, Escape, Resistance, and Evasion (SERE) School.

Graduate work at RIMSAL also includes an assessment of PHOTOMAP, a system designed to allow data collection directly from single photographic images. Using photogrammetric equations, and USGS Digital Elevation Models the various distortions inherent with photos can be removed or corrected.

In the near future, the lab will be expanding with the creation of a GIS, in a UNIX based environment, and the integration of twenty or more Intergraph GIS and Computer Aided Design (CAD) workstations. This new equipment will help diversify operation capacity of RIMSAL. It will provide students, undergraduates and graduates alike, opportunities to experiment with new state-of-the-art technology.

Louis Morin
Andy Torelli

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Back in my day...

I Love You

Hey! What are you looking at

Smile

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