

April 2009

Dear EES/NRC Grads,

Greetings from Orono and the year in which winter never seemed to end. Actually, this felt to me like the Maine winters of the 1950s and 1960s that I remember. Of course the snow banks appeared taller then, but friends tell me that it was because I was even shorter than I am now.

Many thanks to those of you who sent along a response to our alumni survey! Making sure we are meeting the needs of our students is a high priority for UMaine, and your responses to the survey are important to accomplishing this goal. If you did not get a chance to complete the survey, there is still time. Go to the program web site, www.umaine.edu/nrc/, and click on the link under news. Just download the survey, complete it, and send it to me as an email attachment: mark.anderson@umit.maine.edu.

There are a lot of things going on at UMaine I want to share. In February, Ivan Fernandez and George Jacobson, two long-time program faculty members, led a team effort to produce an important report Maine's Climate Future. If you would like a .pdf copy of this report, just send me an email request at mark.anderson@umit.maine.edu.

What are we reading? This winter I enjoyed the reader that Bill McKibben came out with last year, published by the Library of America. It is called American Earth: Environmental Writing Since Thoreau. There are excerpts from lots of old favorites in there and plenty of surprises as well. I recommend the book.

We were excited to learn that **Laura Wood**, a Junior from Scarborough, Maine was one of **two** UMaine students chosen this year to be Morris K. Udall Scholars. This is the top national recognition for undergraduates in environmental fields and Laura follows in the tradition of **Julia McGuire** '06, UMaine's first Udall Scholar. (Julia, by the way, has been working with a women's environmental network in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico.) Laura is studying in Australia this semester and she is posting her experiences on the program web site. Take a look.

I am pleased to have heard from many program graduates since the last newsletter. **Andy Geaghan** '04 reports that he is now the Assistant Pastor at the East Orrington Congregational Church and is completing an M.A. in Pastoral Studies at the Bangor Theological Seminary. He is doing his final project on Christianity and environmentalism. **Sam LaRue**, who graduated last May, is doing an internship in Patagonia with Global Vision International. See his picture on flickr.com by searching "patogone1". Also far away is **Misty Edgecomb** '99 on a Fulbright scholarship in South Korea working on a book on Korean War adoptees. Misty's blog on this topic is at: <http://smallfishbook.blogspot.com>.

Jessie Mae MacDougall '97 writes that she is now working as a Wildlife Program Assistant at Maine Audubon helping promote a proposed Maine Climate and Energy Planning Act. **Amy (Paquet) Trepanier** '00 has started a teaching career having worked on UST programs in

Massachusetts since graduation. **Chris Reichard**, '98, is in Colorado working for Brown and Caldwell now doing ecological issues and regulatory compliance. **Ross Nason**, also '98, is an Environmental Planner with the Kennebec Valley Council of Governments and President of the Maine Resource Recovery Association.

Eric Ford '06 has joined Stantec in their Northhampton, Massachusetts office. (Is that three or four NRC/EES grads at Stantec branches?) **Torry Sheafe** '96 is a Project Engineer on the Maine Power Reliability Program at Central Maine Power. **Erica Bickford** '06 is finishing her M.S. in Atmospheric and Ocean Sciences at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. **Lucas Patry** '05 is busy in the family business, Kate's Creamery in Old Orchard Beach, working hard to reduce their waste flows. I particularly like their buttermilk for baking!

It was fun to see **Jim Brooks** '81 and hear his presentation at the Climate Change conference here on campus last fall. Jim remains Director of Bureau of Air Quality at Maine DEP. **Sarah (Lord) Joyce** '00 was proud to tell of the arrival of her son Sullivan. She is working part time now as a Biologist with Micro Technologies in Richmond, Maine. **Jesse Millen-Johnson** '08 is an Environmental Health Specialist with the Salt Lake Valley Health Department (yes, that's Utah). **Abby Bline**, also '08 is an environmental technician at the Jacques Whitford office in Portsmouth, N.H.

Those of you with superb memories will recall that Abby was last year's John F. Boyle Prize winner as the top Senior in the program. I am pleased to let you know that this year's Boyle Prize is shared by **Steve Fletcher** and **Mary Beth Parent**. They are both in the soil and water sciences area (Sue Erich and Ivan Fernandez advisors, respectively). While the national financial problems have reduced the earnings on endowments, we are still about to make awards to students, albeit smaller. The generosity of you and other UMaine graduates and friends to the University of Maine Foundation continues to make important differences in the lives of our students. Thank you!

As a final note, I am sad to report that Randy Alford, long time member of the program faculty, died this winter after a long battle with M.S. Randy was a world class entomologist with expertise in insect sensory behavior and he was an important part of the NRC program. He advised students in the program, including honors thesis research, and he was the driving force behind the course Pesticides and the Environment. Not just me, but the whole UMaine community will miss Randy's charm, insights, and dedication to teaching and research.

Sincerely,

Mark W. Anderson
Coordinator