The Ameriflux tower at Baskett Wildlife Research and Education Center is a collaboration project with MU, the Environmental Sciences Division of Oak Ridge National Laboratory and Atmospheric Turbulence and Diffusion Division of NOAA that measures the carbon and water balance of Missouri’s oak-hickory forests on a large scale. The 100-foot tower is part of a global network of sites that are outfitted with sophisticated analytical equipment measuring CO2, water vapor and meteorological information. This data can be used to estimate the CO2 and water vapor exchange of up to 250 acres of forest, giving an ecosystem-level answer to when forests are sources and sinks of CO2. Baskett Superintendent Jason Hubbart, SNR Forestry Associate Professor, helps monitor and collect the data for the study. At least once a month, sensors are checked and cleaned to ensure the most accurate data.

Photo & information courtesy of Kyle Spradley
Renewable energy is on everyone’s mind these days and at MU we have our own form - the return of the students to Columbia and campus. They bring incredible, renewable energy for everyone! And, this autumn marked the 175th time students have returned to MU! The University was founded on 11 February 1839 - so that’s 175 years of our energy being renewed each fall.

The School of Natural Resources (SNR), in one form or another, has been part of MU’s history for over 140 years. According to A History of the School of Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife (compiled by Dr. Richard Smith in 1988), Forestry education in various forms began at MU in 1870 when the Agricultural and Mechanical Arts College was established. The first full Forestry course (in the Horticulture Curriculum) was offered in 1892; and by 1912 the Department of Forestry was established with a faculty of 3. For reasons not recorded, the Forestry Department was abolished in 1921. From 1936 - 1946 a “pre-forestry” curriculum existed with the Horticulture and Forestry Department. By 1947, the Department of Forestry was re-established, becoming the School of Forestry in 1957.

Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences (first established in the early 1930s in the College of Arts and Sciences) merged with Forestry in 1973. Parks, Recreation and Tourism (originally established in 1966 in a now defunct college) joined those programs in 1988.

Soil Science can date its history (from A History of the Department of Soils and Soil Science at the University of Missouri, by C.M. Woodruff, 1990) at MU to at least 1882 when Dean of the College of Agriculture, J.W. Sanborn arrived at MU and established what are now known as the Sanborn Field research plots. Almost certainly soil science was being taught in the College earlier than that. By 1904, individual faculty were appointed in the “Department of Soils.” The first climatory faculty was appointed in 1949 within the Department of Soils; and Atmospheric Science became its own department in 1967. Soils and Atmospheric Science became its own department in 1967. Soils and Atmospheric Science combined with Forestry and Fisheries & Wildlife in 1990 and 1991, respectively. Today, these programs have merged to make the School one of the nation’s most outstanding and comprehensive Natural Resource units in higher education. We are proud to be a part of MU’s long and wonderful history.

For Fall Semester 2014, there are over 800 students enrolled in, and contributing their energy to, SNR. Our undergraduate numbers were down slightly from 2013 (largely due to the largest graduating class in history last May - and, that a result of the first significant pulse of graduates from our still new Sport Management emphasis in PRT). But, our graduate student numbers were up ~18%!

The renewed energy in SNR is carrying us all forward - I hope you have the opportunity to tap into it (by visiting campus; or interacting with our students, faculty or staff elsewhere).

As always, feel free to contact me with comments, questions, etc.

Dr. Mark Ryan  
RyanMR@missouri.edu
**Dr. Francisco Aguilar named Gilbert F. White Fellow**

Resources for the Future (RFF) recently named Forestry associate professor Dr. Francisco Aguilar a Gilbert F. White Fellow. RFF, a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization that was founded in 1952 and is headquartered in Washington, DC, was the first organization of its kind created within the United States that focuses exclusively on natural resource and environmental issues. For the past 60+ years, RFF has pioneered the application of economics as a tool to develop more effective policy about the use and conservation of natural resources. Its scholars continue to analyze critical issues concerning pollution control, energy and transportation policy, land and water use, hazardous waste, climate change, biodiversity, ecosystem management, health, and the environmental challenges of developing countries (www.rff.org). The research Dr. Aguilar and the other Resources for the Future researchers conduct encompass programs in nations worldwide and revolve around environmental, energy, natural resource and environmental health issues.

To read more about Resources for the Future, [click here](#).

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**Dr. Shibu Jose receives IUFRO Scientific Achievement Award & the SAF Barrington Moore Memorial Award**

Dr. Shibu Jose, Director of the Center for Agroforestry, was recently awarded two distinguished awards which include the Scientific Achievement Award from the International Union of Forest Research Organizations and the Barrington Moore Memorial Award from the Society of American Foresters.

The Scientific Achievement Award recognizes ten global scientists who have scientific achievements within the fields of research covered by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations. The IUFRO is a global network for forest science cooperation which unites more than 15,000 scientists in over 110 countries. The group's mission is to promote global cooperation in forest-related research and to enhance the understanding of the ecological, economic and social aspects of forests and trees; as well as to disseminate scientific knowledge to stakeholders and decision-makers and to contribute to forest policy and on-the-ground forest management (www.iufro.org). To discover more about IUFRO, [click here](#).

The Barrington Moore Memorial Award recognizes outstanding achievement in biological research leading to the advancement of forestry and it is awarded to one individual each year. Dr. Jose was presented with the award at the 2014 SAF National Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah. To read more about the award and Dr. Jose's achievements, [click here](#).
Wildlife Society
The University of Missouri Chapter of the Wildlife Society focuses on giving students the opportunity to connect and network with professionals in the field. We achieve this through events such as deer ageing with the Missouri Department of Conservation, having professionals come speak to the club, and through various workshops and activities. We aim to introduce students to wildlife conservation, research and internship opportunities, which help set students apart when looking for a job. Some of our bigger events include attending the Missouri Natural Resources Conference and the Midwest Wildlife Society Conclave. Conclave is a weekend conference that brings together student chapters from all over the Midwest. This is a great way to connect our students to other future professionals in our field. Our mission is to represent and serve the professional and student community of scientists, managers, educators, technicians, planners and others who work actively to study, manage, and conserve wildlife and habitats worldwide.

- Kathryn Smith, President

Mizzou Meteorology Club
The Meteorology Club has been very busy these last few months. They began by overhauling their e-mail by using MailChimp, a free e-mail service that allows them to create engaging e-mails for their members and alums. This was phase one of developing an easily reproducible precedent for future club officers. The goal of the current officers is to operate and execute organization affairs. “We can only learn from our past if we know what our past was,” stated Sarah Fairman, the current Vice-President of Meteorology Club.

The Mizzou Meteorology Club has participated in many events since the school year began. The first big event was the National Weather Service (NWS) - St. Louis open house. Three of the members traveled to the NWS in St. Charles, MO, and spent a Saturday educating the public about Mizzou Meteorology and talking to prospective students. The second big event was the CAFNR South Farm Showcase. Many of the club members came out and donated a couple hours to help Columbia-area kids create awesome cloud pictures with cotton balls and blue construction paper. Some of the children even made tornadoes and snow. It was a great opportunity for the club to interact with the community and answer their weather questions. The club has also already completed a highway clean up and just wrapped up selling candles for their annual Yankee Candle fund raiser. They had a school visit for 3rd graders at Benton Elementary at the end of October and on November 20th they will be promoting Winter Weather Safety around MU campus for Missouri’s Winter Weather Awareness Day. The club plans on handing out candy or hot chocolate with messages attached about how to prepare and what precautions to take for winter weather. The Meteorology Club is also busy planning their trip to the annual American Meteorological Society meeting that will be held in Phoenix, AZ in the beginning of January.

- Christopher Soelle, President
Sport, Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Association (SPRTA)
The Sport, Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Association is an organization located in the Parks, Recreation and Tourism department of the School of Natural Resources. The purpose of SPRTA is to give members the opportunity to interact and develop contacts with PRT students and industry professionals, to discuss current topics in the field, and to learn more about possible career options while fostering an environment of collegiate camaraderie through social events, community service, and positive municipal interaction. This year, we are focusing on not limiting ourselves to recruiting new members, and creating ways for members to stay active within SPRTA. This semester SPRTA hosted the mud volleyball tournament for CAFNR Week, for which SPRTA members were in charge of creating and monitoring a double elimination tournament bracket, as well as providing SPRTA volunteers to officiate the game. Also this semester SPRTA hosted a meet and greet session with the Director of Marketing for the Springfield Cardinals - Scott Bailes. During the session, PRT students were able to converse with Mr. Bailes, and learn about how we built his career in sport management. Mr. Bailes also provided great insight on how to gain an internships with the Springfield Cardinals along with what he likes to see on an applicant’s resume. SPRTA has many more events coming up this year, so stay tuned, and be sure to follow us on Facebook/Twitter (@mizzousprta) and for any questions regarding membership e-mail us at mizzousprta@gmail.com.

- Cireena White, President

Herpetological Society
As an organization, we are interested in expanding the knowledge of reptile natural history and conservation through education, outreach, and hands-on experience. We often give presentations to schools or small groups. Our biggest event each year is the South Farm Showcase. The club also takes trips throughout Missouri to search for reptiles and amphibians. We even travel to ‘Snake Road’ in Southern Illinois at least once a year. We have meetings once a month, usually on a Monday, and often invite speakers to the meetings. You can find the University of Missouri Herpetological Society on Facebook (click here) and feel free to check out our website by clicking here.

- Trevor LaClair, President
Parks, Recreation and Tourism Graduate Student Association (PRG GSA)
The Parks, Recreation and Tourism Graduate Student Association kicked off the 2014-2015 school year with several exciting events and continues to provide opportunities for professional development, networking and academic excellence. So far this year, members have helped with the Columbia Parks and Recreation PARKing day event, hosted lunch and learn talks, and enjoyed the fall colors during a field trip to Devil's Icebox, along with a potluck on November 16th. The GSA plans to be in the annual Missouri Parks and Recreation conference in the spring and hopes to help send members to other national conferences. Membership is open to any graduate student with an interest in PRT. For more information, contact President Lisa Groshong at LisaGroshong@mizzou.edu.

- Lisa Groshong, President

“The Missouri Transect: Climate, Plants and Community”
MU receives National Science Foundation

“The Missouri Transect: Climate, Plants and Community” is a $20 million effort to fund new research projects. The five-year grant to study climate variability and its potential agricultural, ecological and social impacts in Missouri has been awarded to the University of Missouri by the National Science Foundation.

Principle investigator of the project John Walker, professor and director of the MU Division of Biological Sciences says, “Missouri’s economy is driven by our diverse natural and agricultural ecosystems, which are affected by climate variability”. The Transect project will model and predict short- and long-term changes in climate and determine the impact on important plant ecosystems, as well as the communities that rely on them, said Dr. Walker.

Teaming up with Dr. Walker are 2 CAFNR faculty and 6 SNR faculty which include: Patrick Market, professor of atmospheric science; Jason Hubbart, associate professor of forestry hydrology and water quality; Keith Goyne, associate professor of environmental soil chemistry; Charles Nilon, professor of fisheries and wildlife; Sonja Wilhelm Stanis, assistant professor of parks, recreation and tourism; and Mark Morgan, associate professor of parks, recreation and tourism.

The project will create four interdisciplinary teams in the areas of climate, plant biology, community resilience and education/outreach. These teams will draw from faculty in all four University of Missouri System campuses - MU, Missouri University of Science Technology, University of Missouri-Kansas City and University of Missouri-St. Louis. The Donald Danforth Plant Sciences Center, Washington University, Lincoln University, the St. Louis Science Center and St. Louis University also will be involved.

To read the full story by Randy Mertens, click here.
In May of 1983, I joined a group of my peers in Jesse Hall for the spring commencement of the graduating class of students in Forestry, Fisheries & Wildlife. I’d spent four challenging, yet rewarding, years as an undergraduate in the School and after the weekend’s festivities, loaded my car and headed to New York State for another two years of fascinating work and a Master’s Degree. One more time I loaded my car and headed back west to begin my professional career in fisheries and conservation.

The bulk of my career was spent doing fisheries research for the Missouri Department of Conservation. The lessons I’d learned at the University served me well as I conducted a series of projects on Missouri sport fish and ways to improve their management. Eighteen years later, I accepted the challenge to begin a career in conservation administration and leadership, first in Fisheries Division, and finally as Chief of the Department’s Resource Science Division. The challenges of figuring out fish management had morphed into a broader responsibility for elk restoration, the challenges of modern deer and turkey management and the creation of the Department’s first Wildlife Health Program.

Before I knew it, I was eligible to retire from the Department and jumped at the chance to try something new. I wasn't sure what that might be, but I knew I needed a bit of time away from the demands of executive leadership to figure it out. Travel to Europe, the American West and New Zealand, all the time with fly rod in hand, gave me plenty of time to reflect and figure out what to do with the rest of my life.

Last spring, a few weeks after returning from the southern hemisphere, I had an opportunity to enjoy a beverage with Mark Ryan. After catching up a bit learning about what was happening in SNR, I made the open ended offer to help if there was anything I could do for the school that had set me on my way to a rewarding career and life. Mark wasted no time in setting up a meeting with Jack Jones and before I knew it, I was preparing to teach Fisheries Management at the University of Missouri...!

Perhaps after a year of limited responsibilities, extensive travel and more days of fishing and hunting than I could count, I was ready for a new challenge. Maybe teaching is a task I should have tried long ago. Whatever the case might be, being back in academia has been a very satisfying and enjoyable transition for me. I’ve found that students really aren’t that much different than I remember: typically, they are young, busy and concerned about their studies, their friends and learning about what conservation and natural resources are all about. I asked my students on the first day to tell me what they wanted out of the class. The answers mirrored the diversity of learning opportunities available in SNR and the ever broadening perspective of the students themselves. I was happy to learn that some wanted to pursue a career in fisheries and I was intrigued by those who said they wanted to work with captive wildlife and species restoration. For their term paper, they have chosen topics ranging from the overfishing of bluefin tuna, trophic cascades caused by overfishing of the beluga sturgeon and the effects of rainbow trout on westslope cutthroat trout. Today’s students have grown up with a global perspective and they are not afraid to think beyond the boundaries of their home town, state, or nation. It is all extremely gratifying to observe and it is an honor to help them learn and maybe get the chance to inspire them along the way.

Being back at Mizzou feels really good. If you’ve read this far, I’d encourage you to think what you might be able to do for your College and University. There are a bunch of great students here and they deserve the best we can give them so they are ready to be tomorrow’s stewards of our resources.
D.L. Hallett Fellowship awards first recipient

Diana Hallett, a SNR Fisheries & Wildlife M.S. graduate and a long time supporter of the School of Natural Resources, recently gifted $500,000 through her estate plan to endow the D.L. Hallett Fellowship and added to the Missouri Chapter of Wildlife Society Graduate Fellowship. Christine Rega, a Ph.D. student, was the first recipient chosen for the fellowship and was awarded on April 18th.

photo source

MU 175th Anniversary Celebrated with 175th Tree

On Thursday, September 18th, MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin, Vice Chancellor and CAFNR Dean Tom Payne and Wayne Lovelace of Forrest Keeling Nursery unveiled the 175th tree planted on MU’s campus to commemorate the 175th anniversary of the founding of MU. The tree, called Bucks Unlimited Oak, resides in Peace Park and represents a joint effort by CAFNR’s Center for Agroforestry and Forrest Keeling.

Wayne Lovelace is a 1958 graduate of the MU College of Agriculture’s horticulture program. He runs Forrest Keeling along with his children, horticultural industry veterans Rob Lovelace and Kim Lovelace-Young (vice president and a 1981 graduate of CAFNR). The nursery grows more than 97 varieties of seedlings, 122 varieties of potted liners, 22 species of oaks and 27 varieties of nut trees and specializes in native plant material. Over the course of his career, Lovelace has collaborated with nurseries, conservation and private organizations, and has been recognized with several high-honor awards which include: being inducted into the American Nursery and Landscape Association Hall of Fame, recipient of the International Plant Propagators Fellow and Award of Merit, the 2005 University of Missouri Faculty-Alumni Award, and was named Forest Conservationist of the Year in 2012.

Mark Coggeshall, assistant research professor of forestry within SNR, developed the tree using natural grafting techniques of swamp white oak at the Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center (HARC) in New Franklin, MO. He set out to develop a tree that had earlier flowering and fruiting, greater survivability, faster growth in a variety of climates and superior production of acorns, a wildlife-preferred food source. Once Bucks Unlimited Oak was created, it was trademarked by MU and licensed for production to Forrest Keeling. The Elsberry, MO nursery plans to sell the tree to landscapers, conservationists, landowners and others in the tree’s natural growing area which spans from Kansas to Florida to Maine.

To see all photos by Kyle Spradley & story by Randy Mertens click here
SEAS Student Receives National Oceanic and Atmospheric Award

Christopher Soelle, a senior soil, environmental and atmospheric sciences SNR student, was the recipient of The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Ernest F. Hollings Scholarship. As the recipient, Chris received a financial grant along with the opportunity to apply his knowledge in a real-world setting. Chris chose to intern at the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Chicago, IL, and spent his summer working on a Weather Ready School Program for the Chicago region. While interning, Chris worked on his main project, working on a Weather Ready School Program for the Chicago region. Along with this project, he also managed the office’s social media accounts during a “double derecho” event that spawned eight tornadoes. After nine weeks the internship ended and Chris flew to Washington, D.C., to present his summer project. At the end of the presentations, awards were given, and Chris was chosen as the Outstanding Oral Presentation Award winner!

Full story by Eleia Yonke here

SEAS Student Receives Donald Williams Soil Conservation Scholarship

Jodie Reisner, a Masters student currently advised by Dr. Randy Miles, was awarded the Soil and Water Conservation Society’s Donald Williams Soil Conservation Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to individuals who are currently employed but wish to improve their technical or administrative competence in a conservation-related field by pursuing a degree. Ms. Reisner is currently employed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service as the State Conservation Agronomist.

Former SNR Forestry Ph.D. Graduate receives award from American Statistical Association

Mevin B. Hooten, 2006 Forestry Ph.D. graduate and currently Assistant Unit Leader in the Colorado Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Unit and Associate Professor at Colorado State University, received the Young Investigator Award from the American Statistical Association, Section on Statistics and the Environment, at the 2014 Joint Statistical Meetings in Boston, MA.
5th Annual Missouri Golf Tournament

By: Jerry Hitzhusen, PRT Associate Professor

The 5th Annual Missouri Amputee Golf Tournament was held on September 26-28, 2014 at the Lake of the Woods Golf Course in Columbia, Missouri. The Scramble Golf Tournament on September 26th had over seventy golfers including able-bodied, amputees and numerous other disabilities. This is an excellent part of the fund raising for the Missouri Amputee Golf Association's Annual Scholarship Award, which is awarded to a college student in the state of Missouri. Carter Aery, a student in the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism in SNR has won this award for the past two years. Carter is also a member of the University of Missouri Wheelchair Basketball Team and was on the Silver Medal Team that competed in Soul, Korea this past summer.

The individual competition took place on September 27th & 28th, with a banquet following on Saturday evening for all participants.

You can find out more information about Amputee Golfing by watching the two videos: A New Swing for an Old Game & Boots on the Green.

To see a story previously published on CAFNRnews, click here.

above left: Richard Schwartz, President of the Missouri Amputee Golf Association is pictured presenting Carter with his second place finish from this year's tournament.

above right: Jerry Hitzhusen, Associate Professor in the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism and a member of the Board of Directors of the Missouri Amputee Golf Association is pictured above with other participants in the Scramble Golf Tournament prior to the Amputee Golfers Competition.

The SNR Advisory Council (first established in 1958!) met in Columbia in early October. The group enjoyed a focus on undergraduate research with several research posters on display and a very informative student panel that outlined their experiences conducting original research with faculty mentors. Dr. Pat Market, Chair of our Soil, Environmental, and Atmospheric Sciences Department gave a presentation on new research efforts in Atmospheric Sciences; and we followed that with an informative field trip to KOMU’s weather broadcast studios. The Advisory Council, roughly 65 members strong, represents stakeholders related to all of the School’s majors and emphasis areas. The group continues to provide key support, advice, and encouragement to the School.
Mizzou Trap Academy

This past July the University of Missouri’s Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism held its inaugural Mizzou Trap Academy, with a target audience of high school sophomore and junior shooters. Selected shooters desiring to participate must also have shown an interest in pursuing a degree in higher education upon graduating from high school. The Academy’s first event was a great success and will be offered again during the summer of 2015 through the CAFNR Summer Academies at Mizzou Program. The Academy was an initiative created by Dr. David Vaught, with the goal of teaching high school participants new trap shooting skills and also having some fun along the way. Participants were fortunate enough to have past Olympic shooter Terrie DeWitt, world-renowned focus and concentration shooting coach Mark Brownlee, former collegiate national trap shooting champion Brian Thompson as their team coaches along with Dr. Vaught. The event was intended to add to the skills of the shooters and as Dr. Vaught stated, “We want them to understand the leadership, team building, focus, concentration and all of the other things that might help them shoot trap better, but are also life skills that I think will help them in future careers.”

The annual Mizzou Trap Academy hopes to continue with its goal to encourage and nurture youth development through shooting sports and the educational opportunities available to participants. The Academy was held over the course of three days between Mizzou’s campus and Prairie Grove Shotgun Sports. This even was possible due to the generous donations of the Midway USA Foundation.

Written by: David Vaught, Department Chair, PRT

To see more about the Mizzou Trap Academy, click here.

Stay up-to-date with MU Weather Service Twitter and Facebook!

Peter Speck, a graduate student in atmospheric science, is the managing editor for the MU Weather Service Twitter and Facebook page. Speck wanted to give himself and his fellow students experience in forecasting using the instantaneous abilities of social media to move information to a number of people.

The forecasts are for central Missouri, but range into the rest of the state if conditions make it necessary. The tweets and posts are not all heavy-duty science, but contain announcements such as ‘it’s too nice outside and the forecaster is heading out for a bike ride’. Included are links to official NOAA charts and radar data.

You can follow on Twitter @MizzouWX and on Facebook at Mizzou Campus Weather Service

For the full story by Randy Mertens, click here.
Teaching with Technology Doesn’t Have to be Pedestrian

By: Peter Motavalli, Soil, Environmental & Atmospheric Sciences Professor

I was once ticketed for jaywalking and ordered to attend what was called “Pedestrian School”. During this three-hour session, the instructor diligently proceeded to help us avoid any confusion that might arise with the wide array of electronic “Walk” and “Don’t Walk” signs that advise pedestrians when it is safe to walk across the street. Despite the ludicrous nature of the subject, this instructor was following what I consider a fundamental objective of teaching which is to provide useful tools that students can employ in their future lives to be successful in their personal and professional endeavors.

In scientific professions, these tools include basic study and communication skills, statistics, laboratory methods, and approaches to solve applied problems. A major step in the development of my use of technology for teaching at the University of Missouri was learning about the results of a survey of alumni that the MU Campus Writing Program conducted in 2000 that indicated that 95% of the former non-science majors and 88% of former science majors strongly agreed that writing was a critical skill for success in their field. However, what I noticed in the classroom was that many of my undergraduate students in the area of soil science and environmental science had inadequate writing skills. In addition, they had little experience communicating with the diverse audiences and in the wide variety of formats and media that modern scientists use in their professional careers.

One step I took in addressing the challenge of improving writing and communication skills was to provide students with a real audience for their writing beyond simply writing for their teacher, to have them focus on relevant issues, and to create a product that would have lasting value. My first effort was the creation of a student environmental publication that was put together by the students in the classroom and edited by students from the journalism program at MU. The effort transitioned to a web-based publication that was designed by the students in the agricultural journalism program and eventually became a wiki-based publication that students produce and can be stored on the Blackboard course site from year-to-year. Moreover, my students now publish in the MU online student writing journal, “Artifacts” and have won several prizes related to student environmental writing.

Because of technology, we have been able to extend the audience for the students’ writing beyond the classroom and it is a powerful motivator. In my soil fertility course for upper level undergraduate soil and plant science students, the students have produced a web-based extension publication in Blackboard with the audience being the Introductory Soil Science students. The Introductory Soil Science students then read and evaluated the individual student writing using the survey tool. The results were then compiled and shared with the original student authors.

During one semester, students in my soil fertility class wrote a manual for soil and plant testing that was requested by the Missouri National Guard stationed in Afghanistan who were setting up a soil testing program to support agricultural development in that country. These are great opportunities for students to see the value of their writing and knowledge and extend the boundary of the classroom through use of technology.

In recent years, I have surveyed students in my classes regarding their expertise with technology and have noticed that many of them have little experience with developing new media whether that be designing a web page or producing their own video. Additional skills in entering geographically-referenced environmental data and mapping are also important for success in environmental science-related professions.

(continued on page 13)
Because of this identified need, one of my assignments requires student groups to combine several technologies to produce an MU environmental tour with an environmental theme of their choice. The students first map out the tour using the My Tracks app and then upload the track and waypoints to the My Places feature of Google Maps. In Google Maps they then add text, video (YouTube) and pictures (Picassa) to each waypoint to describe the significance of the point on their tour. The whole tour is then presented and described by the students in a Tegrity recording that’s provided to the other students on Blackboard.

Blending technology with these new pedagogic methods may lead to a classroom which will be far more enriching and diverse than the traditional lecture and laboratory format that has been a central feature of the university experience in environmental science and other natural resource fields. In addition, student use of web-based tools and other technology is better preparation for the needs of a successful scientific career which will be strongly based on use of technology and improved formal and informal communication. These technologies also allow for an expansion of the classroom to cross institutional, disciplinary and geographical boundaries. They also provide increased opportunities to enhance learning, create a database of information and products that outlive the end of the semester, and enlarge and diversify the audience to which students communicate and interact.

By the way, since I attended “Pedestrian School”, I have been successfully crossing the street for over 30 years. To see full story by Dr. Motavalli, click here.

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**Sonja Wilhelm Stanis featured in Mizzou Advantage Brochure**

Parks, Recreation and Tourism associate professor Sonja Wilhelm Stanis is currently featured as a ‘Featured Profile’ in the Mizzou Advantage brochure. Dr. Wilhelm Stanis is featured for her research which looks at the role of parks and outdoor open spaces in promoting health and physical activity. She also has partnered with other researchers to examine how proximity and quality of city parks influence physical activity and park use. Dr. Wilhelm Stanis and her team have received national recognition for their work on how different races and ethnicities perceive the same park. In addition to her research, she is a principle investigator on developing a comprehensive tool for evaluating park use and park characteristics which has been widely used by the research community.

Randy Mertens, Media Relations Coordinator within the Office of CAFNR Communications, recently wrote two stories highlighting two of Dr. Wilhelm Stanis’ projects, listed below.

*Safer Crossings - Crosswalk design increases pedestrian safety, study shows*

*Walking Off Obesity - Active use of nature trails, not sightseeing, improves youth health*
**NEWS FROM THE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS OFFICE**

**By: Dr. Rose-Marie Muzika**

Educational approaches change over time and one consistent and increasing important change in recent years has been a shifting emphasis on independent files of study such as undergraduate research projects or internships. While Parks, Recreation and Tourism students and Environmental Science students are required to complete internships, we find that internship opportunities have become more valuable to all SNR students, both undergraduate and graduate. Students seeking Forestry degrees who pursue internships may petition to allow those internships to serve as the capstone experience. Internships are also becoming more common for Fisheries and Wildlife students. Indeed, many employers look for that additional experience when seeking new employees and not surprisingly, students use that experience as a stepping stone towards employment.

We are fortunate in SNR to have a strong Advisory Council and a dedicated group of alumni who are eager to participate in our students’ education. Connections with these groups have helped place students in internships in a variety of public agencies, NGO’s, as well as vast cross section of businesses and corporations. As an example, in recent years students have interned with the Missouri Department of Conservation, Forest ReLeaf, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service, Mississippi Lime Company, Hammonds Products Company, City of Springfield, Spartech Corporation, Green Bay Packing, the National Weather Service, local television stations, minor league baseball teams, MU Athletics, and parks and recreations divisions of countless cities and municipalities.

As of October, the undergraduate enrollment in SNR was 880 students with 460 students in Parks, Recreation & Tourism, 182 in Fisheries & Wildlife Science, 161 in Soil, Environmental, & Atmospheric Sciences, 72 in Forestry, and 5 Natural Resources students who have not selected a major.

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**SAVE THE DATE!**

Trivia in the Wild
Hosted by the Natural Resources Alumni Association
March 6, 2015

doors open at 6PM, trivia starts at 6:30PM
for more information check out the SNR Alumni association on Facebook by clicking here

The Department of Soil, Environmental and Atmospheric Sciences hired Cammy Willett as an Instructor and Advisor. She is teaching an Introductory Soil Science Laboratory and is serving as the initial advisor for all undergraduates within the department. photo source

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**Staff & Faculty News**