

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Foresters Alumni Association

Annual Meeting

Call to Order: President Bill Schmidt, class of 1971, called the annual meeting of the MSU Foresters Alumni Association, the oldest constituent group of MSU Alumni Association, to order at 10:00 am on Saturday, November 1, 2008 in Room 183 of the Natural Resources Building. The annual meeting was held in conjunction with the MSU – University of Wisconsin football game. A total of 61 alumni and guests, largest number ever to attend the annual event met for a catered luncheon and fellowship celebrating the 106th year of the MSU Forestry Program.

Introduction of Officers – The President introduced the current officers and those that make the organization possible:

President – Bill Schmidt

Secretary – John Anton

Treasurer & Campus Liaison - Jim Kielbaso

Organizer Extraordinaire - Juli Kerr - not present

Editor, 'Forester' Magazine' - Don Dickmann –

Past President - Bob Cool

The President also acknowledged that yesterday was Bob's birthday, all join in with a rendition of "Happy Birthday"

Chairperson Report: Dr. Daniel Keathley, chair of the Department of Forestry, the oldest Forestry program in the nation was introduced and updated the membership on the activities of past year in the department:

1. Staffing – Dr. Sophan Chhin was hired to fill the Silviculture position formerly held by Don Dickmann. Dr. Chhin is from British Columbia. Several other positions including the Urban Forestry position remain unfilled.
2. Accreditation – The program is accredited for another 10 year period as the process went very well. There were no follow up recommendations made by the reviewers.
3. Outreach - The chairman recently completed a six state tour meeting with Forestry alumni in Arizona, Kansas, Texas, and New Mexico.
4. China – Dr. Keathley recently returned from China where discussion centered around ecological services with student and faculty exchange program being discussed.
5. Grants – a grant was received for Wood Plant Energy research from the Department of Energy focusing on cellulose research.
6. Enrollment – the undergraduate enrollment was described as "steady". The graduate program has seen a shift to more domestic students at the expense of students from Southeastern Asia and Africa.

Presidents Report: President Bill Schmidt reported on the activities of the Association:

1. Greeting – the President noted that this is the largest ever participation in the annual meeting at 61.
2. Newsletter – The Michigan State Forester Newsletter was published. It can be viewed by going to the Department’s web site. Hopefully the Newsletter will be a semi annual event.
3. Recognition of Attendees;
 - a. Oldest Class – Class of 1961 – Stan Preshaw of Sheridan
 - b. Furthest Distance – Tori Irving of Escanaba

Secretary’s Report: Secretary John Anton gave the secretary report. This consists of the Annual report to the MSU Alumni Association of August 18, 2008 and the minutes of the Annual Meeting of November 3, 2007. Additionally Dr. Victor Rudolph passed away on August 30 at the age of 91. Dr. Rudolph in later years moved to Marietta, Georgia to live with his daughter.

Treasurer Report: The treasurer noted the financial activities of the association including the Annual meeting, Senior Luncheons, and assistance to the student forestry club. The balance on June 30th, 2008 was \$2,518.47.

Election of Officers: Kris Owen recommended the current officers for nomination. Mike O’Connor seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Comments from Alumni:

1. Annual Meeting - The membership chose to have the officer’s schedule the next annual meeting based on home games availability. The annual meeting is held in conjunction with home football game.
2. Position – Mike O’Connor inquired on what could be done to refill the Urban Forestry position.
3. Maple – a complaint was heard regarding the lack of real Maple Syrup for the breakfast as the Forestry club and at least two graduates produce the product.

Raffle: a raffle was conducted with each Alumnus receiving a prize. Special thanks to Max Hoopingarner who picked the tickets for the raffle and to Becky Hagerman whose employer, the Nature Conservancy in East Lansing, donated several nice prizes.

Other: the left over bunch was donated to Haven House in East Lansing so that those less fortunate could also enjoy the day.

Adjournment: With no further business, the president adjourned the meeting at 11:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,

John Anton, Secretary,
Michigan State University Foresters Alumni Association
November 2, 2008