Welcome - new staff and students

The 2016/17 academic year was exceptionally successful for the National School of Forestry.

We were joined by a new Lecturer in Forestry, welcomed 25 new students and said farewell to our highest achieving cohort of graduates ever.

Further details can be found at: www.cumbria.ac.uk/forestry

New Staff

Chris Watson (pictured right) joined the National School of Forestry as a lecturer in January 2017.

Chris is one of our alumni, who brings industry experience from his previous roles with the National Trust and Forestry Commission in Cumbria.

Student numbers

We had another excellent year of student recruitment with 25 full-time first year forestry undergraduates beginning in the 2016/17 academic year. We estimate that this represents approximately half of all current full-time HE forestry students in the UK.

www.cumbria.ac.uk/forestry
Graduation 2017

Astonishingly, seven of our graduates gained first class honours this year. Normally, we have one a year. Staff were concerned enough to thoroughly check marks and alert our External Examiner. However, all seven awards were thoroughly deserved. Well done James Broom, Antonia Dickson, Simon Ernstsons, Michael Garrett, Dan Haslam, Gejza Jano and James Johnston. It has been a pleasure teaching you.

Institute of Chartered Foresters, Prince of Wales Leadership Award

Dan Haslam and James Broom were awarded two places on this prestigious programme in 2017. They are in Canada this summer; Dan is in British Columbia and James is in Ottawa.

International

Chris Curry, a BSc (Hons) Woodland Ecology and Conservation student went on the exchange programme to Humboldt State University in autumn 2016/17. This made it three years in a row that the exchange opportunity has been used. Unfortunately, no students are going in 2017/18. Clearly the experience of learning forestry at our Lake District Campus is too wonderful to miss.

Forestry Skills Study

The National School of Forestry is working in partnership with the Royal Forestry Society, Forestry Commission England and Woodland Heritage, with additional funding from the Scottish Forestry Trust, on behalf of the Forestry Skills Forum. The study commenced in July 2017 and is intended to identify skills gaps, current training provision and the future needs of the sector in England and Wales.

Jobs news

The very first graduate from our BSc (Hons) Woodland Ecology and Conservation with placement programme has begun work as a forest/wildlife ranger on the Blair Atholl Estate in Perthshire, Scotland. Congratulations Will Livesey on getting your dream job!
Study tours

The accommodation and transport for the week-long study tours to upland Scotland in first year and lowland England in second year were provided within student fees again in 2016/17.

The first year students visited Glen Affric with Trees for Life, Loch Katrine with the Great Trossachs Forest Park and Forestry Commission Scotland, a harvesting site in Easter Ross with Euroforest (photo above), Creag Meagaidh with Scottish Natural Heritage, the Corrour Estate in the Highlands and Castlemilk Community Woodlands in Glasgow.

The second year students visited Chisnall Hall, an ex-colliery site, Chatsworth Estate, the Forestry Commission at Sherwood Pines Forest Park (photo right) and Daneshill Energy Forest. A highlight for those studying woodland ecology and conservation was visiting Treswell Woods with the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust.
Prizes

Institute of Chartered Foresters, Best Student Award

James Broom is this year’s recipient of the ICF Best Student Award, having the highest overall mark in a BSc programme.

UPM Tilhill Award, Best Forestry Dissertation

James Broom also received this award for his dendrochronological study of the effects of ash dieback. James was one of the recipients of the Royal Forestry Society Viking Bursary last year, which assisted with his field and lab costs. This work is due to be published in Quarterly Journal of Forestry. Another graduate, Mike Page, has joined Tilhill Forestry on their 2017 graduate programme.

Royal Forestry Society, Alec Pyman Award

This award for the best FdSc Forestry student went to Barbara Brown-Villidieu, who joined Forestry Commission Scotland after a placement year with them and is now enrolled on our part-time BSc (Hons) Forestry top up.

Egger Forestry Award, Best forest management plan

James Johnston (below left) received this award from John Paterson, Egger’s Director of Forestry (right). Egger have also taken on another placement student, Joe Oliver, this year.

James Johnston and John Paterson of Egger Forestry
Research, placements & further study

**Staff Research**

Dr Andrew Leslie co-authored a peer-reviewed paper in iForest on comparing growth of trees species using a resource capture index. He also published two professional papers on eucalyptus in the Quarterly Journal of Forestry.

Dr Andrew Weatherall attended meetings in Brussels, Belgium and Trento, Italy as a UK Management Committee member of EU COST Action ‘Climate Smart Forestry in Mountain Regions.’ He is off to Sofia, Bulgaria in September to help define exactly what climate smart forestry is.

Two members of staff, Dr Claire Holt and Dr Dorthe Villadsen, have been awarded University of Cumbria Early Career Researcher Funding to study the impacts of browsing on tree seedlings. Claire is using camera traps and Dorthe is using eDNA.

Nice work if you can get it!

www.cumbria.ac.uk/forestry
**PhD Research**

Mauro Lanfranchi continued his PhD (supervised by Dr Andrew Weatherall and Dr Elena Vanguelova) on the effects of forest management on soil carbon. His first article on the effects of whole tree harvesting on soil carbon is now in review. This work was funded by University of Cumbria and Forest Research, with additional funding for fieldwork from the Royal Forestry Society Viking Bursary and for lab work in Bilbao, Spain from an EU COST Short Term Scientific Mission. Mauro is presenting his work at the International Union of Forest Research Organizations 125 year anniversary congress in Freiburg, Germany in September 2017.

Andrew Carr is completing his PhD on the effects of woodland management on bats. This work is co-supervised by Professor Gareth Jones at Bristol University and Dr Andrew Weatherall at the University of Cumbria.

**Placements**

12 students were on placement this year. Thanks to Abundant Earth, Cleartrack (EvL) Ltd, Egger Forestry, First Ecology, Henbant, Isle of Man Government, A.W. Jenkinson Forest Products, Prior & Rickett Silviculture, Scottish Woodlands, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and Wyre Forest District Council for providing these opportunities. Our students gain valuable experiences that enhance their skills and provide excellent networking opportunities to aid their future careers. We look forward to welcoming them back in September and another cohort going out for the year.

**Further Study**

Gejza Jano is going on to MSc Environmental and Forest Management in Aberdeen.

Derek McNaughton (who graduated in 2016) is about to begin a PhD at University of Salford on ‘Novel methods for preserving native tree species.’

**Centre for National Parks and Protected Areas**

We continue to collaborate closely on teaching and research with our wildlife conservation colleagues: [www.cumbria.ac.uk/conservation](http://www.cumbria.ac.uk/conservation)
National School of Forestry courses

Details of each of our courses for 2017/18, with brief descriptions of individual modules, are available on the website. The courses are:

- BSc (Hons) Forest Management (with or without placement)
- BSc (Hons) Woodland Ecology and Conservation (with or without placement)
- FdSc Forestry (with placement)
- BSc Forestry (top-up)

Alumni

If you are a former student (perhaps one of those in the photo?), or a current student who wants to be inspired, or even a former staff member of the National School of Forestry, please join our LinkedIn ‘National School of Forestry Alumni’ site.