

Yale SCHOOL OF FORESTRY &
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

CANOPY



SPRING 2015

News and notes for alumni and friends



2008**Class Secretaries**

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Agha Ali Akram '14 Ph.D. writes: "I finished my Ph.D. at F&ES last year and moved to D.C. for my postdoc with Evidence Action. My wife, Zahra, and our two-year old son, Zain, are enjoying what D.C. has to offer!"

Georgia Basso writes: "I work with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Coastal Program and am loving living in New Haven, Conn. I feel lucky to have seen so many F&ESers this past year, including cross-country skiing with **Angie Rutherford** in Yellowstone, ice skating with **Tara Moberg '09** in Vermont, and hopping onto a group trip out to Hama Hama to visit with **Kendra James '12** and **Tommy James '09, '16 Ph.D.**, forage for morels, and sip a famous Sloan family traditional morel soup recipe. Such wonderful respites from the working life! Hope everyone is doing well!"

Josh Berman writes: "While I am continuing to enjoy my work at the Sierra Club on energy issues in the Northeast, the big excitement this year has been the arrival of David Spina Berman (born September 14, 2014). We look forward to cultivating his love of the outdoors and of all things F&ES!"

Innocent Liengola writes: "Just after graduation, I was back in DR Congo working until now as project manager for the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) in Salonga National Park, in the heart of the Congo Basin forest, a site where the potential for conservation of bonobo is juxtaposed with major challenges and uncertainty. The bonobo is a chimp species found only in DRC on the southern side of the Congo River. The bonobo home range does not overlap with other great apes found in DRC. I am closely working with Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de Nature (ICCN), a governmental institution in charge of protected areas in DRC; international NGOs; local communities; and policymakers to reduce threats

to DRC forests and wildlife by promoting sustainable forest management for conservation and development. I'm also engaging local stakeholders including civil society, women's organizations, indigenous groups, and extractive industries, and building their capacity to implement more sustainable natural resource management practices. Engaging communities will provide a critical basis for any future potential pay for performance REDD+ mechanisms. I am based in Monkoto, headquarters of the park, to oversee the work in Salonga National Park, and spend 40% of my time in Kinshasa, the capital city of the DRC."

Mira Manickam writes: "I am living in Oakland, Calif., building a partnership between the City of Oakland Office of Parks and Recreation and Brown Girl Surf, creating programs to empower girls and women to connect to the ocean through coastal explorations and surfing. In my spare time, I make eco-feminist hip hop, rock climb, surf, and organize with Asians for Black Lives."

Moe Myint writes: "I joined the Institute for Environmental Sciences (ISE) of the University of Geneva as the senior scientist in 2015. I am working for the Climate Change and Climate Impact (C3i) Research Group of Switzerland. In 2013, I founded the consulting company MNR II — Mapping and Natural Resources Information Integration — based at Le Brassus in the Jura Mountains. I have recently contributed to *The HCS Approach Toolkit: No Deforestation in Practice*, especially for chapter 3 as the MNR II scientist." mnrii.com; highcarbonstock.org

Paula Randler writes: "In June 2014 I bought a house in Tucson, essentially just to try my hand at my own rainwater harvesting. In November, with the help of a local nonprofit called Watershed Management Group, I installed a 1,300-gallon cistern, laundry-to-landscape system, passive harvesting basins, and a bunch of native and citrus trees. I love watching my shade grow, and I 'enjoy' spending time trying to eradicate Bermuda grass. In work-related news, this year I recruited 60% more students to two of our scholarship categories for American Indian and

Alaska Native students. If you work with students studying for public service careers, please point them to Udall.gov!"

Kelsey Wharton writes: "I'm working as a science writer for Arizona State University and write about research across the university for our online magazine *Research Matters*. I recently contributed a piece to our Sustainable Cities series. There's really great work being done in sustainability at ASU — I'd love to entice more F&ESers out this way! Have I mentioned it's 75° and sunny all winter long? In family news, we welcomed our second son, Cedric, in December, so we have a full house with a two-year-old and a baby. Sometimes it's crazy, but mostly it's awesome." researchmatters.asu.edu

Yong Zhao writes: "I'm leading a Yale start-up team creating a fast casual Chinese food brand called Junzi Kitchen. The first store will open in June 2015 on Broadway in New Haven." junzi.kitchen

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Sean Dixon writes: "My fish business, Village Fishmonger NYC, launched 'Sustainable Seafood Week' in 2013 — after two years in New York City, we've gone national! This year, 'Sustainable Seafood Week: National' will be in New York in June, Seattle in August, and San Francisco and D.C. in September." villagefishmongernyc.com

Jeffrey Ross writes: "In August 2014, I accepted a position with the Grand Council Treaty #3 as the Director of Territorial Planning. In this position I am responsible for facilitating greater participation of 28 First Nation communities in economic development and management opportunities in the natural resources sector. I also was recently appointed to the Province of Ontario's Forest Tenure Modernization Oversight



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