

August 25, 2005

Emeritus professor receives prestigious international forestry award

Professor Emeritus Robert Engelhard at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point's (UWSP) College of Natural Resources (CNR) is to be honored this September with the prestigious Bernard-Eduard-Fernow Award. The biannual award is in recognition for exceptional achievement in the area of international forestry.

"I have the large joy and honor to be able to communicate to you that the presidency and the advisory board of the German Forestry Association decided to lend to you the Bernhard Eduard Fernow badge 2005," stated Henning Graf von Kanitz, president of the German Forestry Association in his congratulatory letter to Engelhard.

"This is a fitting tribute to Bob's career here in our College," said Christine Thomas, Dean of the CNR. "His work has impacted thousands of natural resource students through the years, and many of his accomplishments continue to benefit today's students as well. Although he retired from teaching years ago, Bob has remained a valuable and active supporter of the CNR, UWSP and the forestry profession."

A native of Milwaukee, Engelhard joined the UWSP faculty in 1965 and retired from UWSP in 1991 after a 25-year teaching career where he received the universitywide excellence in teaching award three times. The College of Natural Resources also recognized Engelhard's excellent skills in the classroom as he was named the CNR's outstanding faculty member for 1972, 1975 and 1991.

While at UWSP he was one of the creators of the university's forestry major and one of the founders of the college's summer program in the Black Forest of Germany. Engelhard is one of a handful of state residents who holds the title of "fellow" of the Society of American Foresters (SAF), and has a long history with SAF, the Lakes States Council of Industrial Foresters and the state Natural Areas Preservation Council.

While completing his doctorate in forestry at Michigan State University in the late 1960s, he began a 40-year friendship and collaboration with a fellow forest economics student, Anton Hammer. Dr. Hammer later visited UWSP in 1971 and together they created a cooperative forestry program between the CNR and Baden-Wurttemberg. Since 1972 over 1,500 CNR

students have studied natural resources management in Germany. In 1978 an additional two-week program was added for students to study in Krakow, Poland. This is the largest program of its kind in the United States.

Prior to coming to UWSP he spent nine years as forest manager for Trees for Tomorrow in Merrill. After retirement from the university he served on the Governor's Council on Forestry and as the executive director of the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association for four years. He worked in the early 1950s with the U.S. Forest Service in Alabama, Arkansas and Louisiana.

Engelhard and his wife, Karen ('59), are planning to attend the award ceremony in Berlin's Weimar (Congress) on September 15 in conjunction with the 62nd Annual Convention of the German Forestry Association. Bob and Karen still reside in Stevens Point and have two children and four grandchildren.