



**Forest Resources Alumni Group
2016 Alumni and Friends Meeting**

The deadline for banquet reservations is April 15, 2016.

The reservation deadline for lodging at Toftrees at the group rate is March 21.

(Note: Breaking from recent tradition, our 2016 banquet takes place the weekend *after* Blue-White weekend.)

Friday, April 22	
3:00 - 5:30 p.m.	Forest Resources Alumni Group, Board of Directors Meeting Red Pine Library, Toftrees Resort and Conference Center
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.	Department Head's Reception Silver Maple Ballroom, Toftrees Resort and Conference Center
6:30 - 9:30 p.m.	<p>Forest Resources Alumni Group, Alumni and Friends Banquet Silver Maple Ballroom, Toftrees Resort and Conference Center</p> <p>We will honor our 2016 Outstanding Alumni, Kenneth C. Kane '82 and Robert E. Slagle '58, and one of our 2015 Outstanding Alumni, Richard W. Guldin '70.</p> <p>Charles Ruffner '95g '99g, and John Groninger '91g, both professors at Southern Illinois University, will present "Penn State Foresters in Afghanistan—Promoting Community Stability through Resource Conservation."</p> <p>Ruffner and Groninger have led natural resource training and development in Afghanistan under the umbrella of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). Much of OEF – the effort of the United States and coalition partners from October 2001 to December 2014 in Afghanistan to combat terrorism – played out within rural, natural-resource-dependent communities. Military stabilization and civilian development leaders alike quickly recognized the importance of interactions with farmers, herders, and the resources upon which their livelihoods depended. Ruffner and Groninger worked with the U.S. Military, USDA, and USAID to gain access to Afghan communities and help build a base for long-term stability. They will share their experiences with us. We will see stunning images from parts of Afghanistan not shown on the news as they relate their work back to their respective experiences as Penn State students. They offer a unique perspective on how a Penn State forestry education can provide a powerful basis to address emerging challenges, wherever in the world they may occur.</p>

Lodging

A small block of guestrooms has been reserved at

Toftrees Resort and Conference Center, State College. Single-occupancy rate is \$99 for Friday night.

We also have a few rooms in the block for Saturday night (also \$99). To reserve rooms in the block, please call Toftrees **by March 21** at 814-234-8000 and mention "Forest Resources Alumni."

To check **other lodging options**, contact the Centre County Convention and Visitors Bureau toll free at 800-358-5466 or online at <http://www.centralpacvb.org/>.

Questions? Contact Ellen Manno, 814-863-0362; exr2@psu.edu.