Dr. Ruthford H. Westveld, chairman of the forestry department since it was established in 1947, and now the director of the full School of Forestry, reports that forestry alumni have reacted with enthusiasm to the change from department to school.

"Many alumni have written into the School commending the administration for the change and expressing the opinion that this will help the forestry program at the University immeasurably," Dr. Westveld said. "Apparently the alumni realize that their reputation as graduates from the University, even though some of them were graduated as far back as eight years ago, is dependent upon the reputation of the institution in forestry at present, rather than at the time they were graduated. For this reason, they feel that the change is as important to them as to those graduating in the future from the School."

In spite of the fact that seven of the eight states that adjoin Missouri do not have accredited forestry schools, relatively few out of state students have registered in forestry at M. U. On the other hand, quite a number of Missouri high school graduates enroll in forestry at the educational institutions in Colorado, Utah, Idaho, and Montana where, since the initiation of forestry instructions, the work has been set up in either a school or a college. The change in status at Missouri is likely to attract more from out of state as well as in the state.
Support from timber land owners and wood-using industries in the form of scholarships and grants for research has been meager. “It is hoped,” the director said, “that the change in status will bring more support to the School in the form of grants for scholarships and research.”

Dr. Westveld said that in seeking additions or replacements for the teaching and research staffs, the School status is likely to have greater appeal to prospective candidates and thus make it easier to secure additions to the staff.

An administrator at a land-grant college in an adjoining state, in commenting on the establishment of the School of Forestry, wrote: “It is highly important that we have a strong school of Forestry in this section of the country in order that young men may receive training applicable to our conditions. In years gone by, we have brought in foresters to our department who have received their training in Michigan and elsewhere, and it took those men quite a while to get adjusted to Great Plains conditions.”

The School of Forestry “laboratory” includes the 9,000-acre forestry preserve in Butler County and 4,500 acres of timberland at the Weldon Spring Experimental Farm, both owned by the University. Students in the School attend a summer camp held each year at the Butler County forestry preserve.

With the aid of an enthusiastic staff, Dr. Westveld has worked closely with the Forestry Club and with graduates after they have gone out into the field. The club is one of the most active student organizations on the campus, with one hundred per cent membership. It produces a yearbook, the Missouri Log, which might be likened to a small edition of the Savitar, with its features confined to matters of interest to the School and its students. It contains scores of pictures taken by its own staff and many features dealing with the year’s activities. The Missouri Forestry Alumni News is a monthly publication of the Forestry Alumni Association, which is closely affiliated with the University of Missouri Alumni Association. The News contains class notes about graduates, School news and articles by faculty members.

Dr. Westveld, who first came to Missouri in 1936, received a B.S. degree in 1922 and a Ph.D. degree in 1946 from Michigan State University. In 1925 he won an M.F. degree from Yale University. He has had teaching and research experience at Michigan State, the University of Florida, and Alabama Polytechnic Institute.

In addition, the School of Forestry director has had administrative and research experience with the U. S. Forest Service in New Mexico, Oregon, and Washington. Dr. Westveld is the author of “Forestry and Farm Management,” “Applied Silviculture in the United States,” and numerous articles and bulletins.