Could “Precision Forestry” change the industry? • Let Warnell plan your class reunion

WAVES OF UNCERTAINTY
Mississippi marshes vulnerable to BP’s Gulf disaster
November 2010

Nov. 6   Warnell Tailgate
Come tailgate with Warnell before the UGA v. Idaho State game. Cost is $15/person. Children under 6 free for this family-friendly event that features a buffet lunch, drinks and snacks. Starts three hours before kick-off.
Contact Emily Nuckolls at (706) 542-0713 or enuckolls@warnell.uga.edu.

December 2010

Dec. 3   The Wildlife Society’s annual Chili Cookoff
Hosted by the UGA Student Chapter. Contact Derek Colbert at colbertd@warnell.uga.edu.

February 2011

Contact Dale Greene, (706) 542-6652 or wdgreene@uga.edu.

March 2011

March 23-25 2011 Timberland Investment Conference
See Page 7 for more information.

April 2011

April 11-13 Georgia Water Resources Conference
The Georgia Center, Athens, Ga. www.gawrc.org/

April 16   The Wildlife Society’s annual wildlife supper
Hosted by the UGA Student Chapter.
Contact Derek Colbert at colbertd@warnell.uga.edu.

Annual Wildlife Supper
hosted by the UGA Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society
April 16, 2011
Social hour 5-6 pm, Dinner at 6 pm
Contact Derek Colbert at colbertd@warnell.uga.edu
Greetings from Warnell! We have started a new semester with an enrollment of 341 undergraduates and 174 graduate students. As I travel the state to visit with our alumni and friends, the topic of budgets and their impact on UGA and the Warnell School always is high on the list of discussion items. Our business, like yours, has had a rough time during this economic downturn. Warnell is down more than $1.6 million in funding from state sources. However, last year was our best year ever in the grants arena with more than $10.5 million generated in grant funding. Kudos to our faculty for continuing to do a fabulous job in attracting outside funding support for our programs.

For more than 100 years, Warnell has educated natural resources professionals at the undergraduate and graduate level. Today we have one of the largest and most respected graduate programs in the US. More than 80 percent of these graduate students are supported by graduate assistantships funded from extramural sources – research grants, teaching assistantships, etc. An area of significant decline during our budget challenges has been Warnell-supported graduate assistantships. These awards are used to help attract the best and brightest young graduate students to our field and to Warnell. However, we need additional support in this area. Many of us, myself included, have benefitted from attending Warnell for graduate school and receiving those “slave wages” we earned while in graduate school. More importantly, that assistantship provided additional benefits like a tuition waiver and the opportunity to take classes at a major research institution to help hone our skills as natural resource professionals and scientists. Few realize that the cost of fully supporting and educating a graduate student is in excess of $200,000 a year – little of which is borne by the student when attending UGA on a graduate stipend.

A primary goal of our development effort over the next couple of years is focused on rebuilding support for graduate students – particularly graduate stipends. It currently takes about $300,000 in endowed funds to annually fund a graduate assistantship. We hope to raise enough funding over the next couple of years to endow a couple of new Warnell assistantships. We have started two funds already – The Ernie Provost Graduate Support Fund and the Center for Forest Business Graduate Support Fund. These funds are specifically dedicated to supporting future graduate students in our programs.

I hope you will take a moment and consider supporting these ongoing fund-raising efforts. If you have had the opportunity to attend Warnell as a graduate student, particularly if you received such support during your experience here, I hope you will consider giving back to a program that may have contributed to your success. Our ability to continue to offer such great programs depends, in part, on providing such support.

Mike Clutter
Dean, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources
ON THE COVER:
Warnell doctoral student Anna Joy Lehmiche traveled with Professor Bob Cooper (background) to Mississippi in August to collect data for a long-term bird population research project, which has gained in significance since the catastrophic BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in April. See Story on page 10. Photo by Clark Jones.

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HOW ARE WE DOING?
We welcome letters to the editor and feedback from our readers. Submit news items, questions or address changes to:
thelog@warnell.uga.edu

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Illustration: A Warnell Collage: With humble beginnings in 1906 as a school of forestry, Warnell has grown to incorporate a diverse array of majors. This artwork features many of the tools used by current Warnell students and graduates in their studies and professional careers. From compasses to clinometers, paddles to pine needles, Warnell continues to rise above the rest. This collage will be used by the Warnell School in promotional and recruitment efforts. The illustration was created by Ami Flowers, born and raised in Augusta, Ga. Ami spent most of her young days fishing with her family and playing in the "woods" with her older brother, H. Jared Flowers (BSFR ’04). Graduating from Warnell in Wildlife Management (BSFR ’08), Ami worked as a field guide in South Africa’s Kruger National Park and a Resource Management Ranger for the National Park Service. In spring of 2010, Ami returned to Warnell in pursuit of a M.S., focusing her degree on the role of art in environmental education. With the future in mind, Ami hopes to continue to do what she loves the most: working in the great outdoors and using her art to inspire others.

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Georgia high school students couldn’t dart their way around learning how to safely induce sleep in animals needed for wildlife disease research. Warnell Assistant Professor Sonia M. Hernandez recently taught a group of high school students in Georgia’s Summer Preview for Junior High Students program the importance of collecting biological samples to study wildlife diseases, which can affect humans, domestic animals and wildlife populations.

Hernandez, who teaches a class on wildlife disease investigation, says students need to understand the principles behind anesthetizing animals – why and how to do it. Although they’re still in high school, these students got an up close demonstration on how she uses dart guns and other equipment to safely anesthetize animals. They were the first to test out her new equipment, which she will also use to teach graduate students anesthesia techniques and for her conservation medicine and biology study abroad course in Costa Rica.

Forestry and fisheries students immersed themselves in some hands-on field experience during Maymester this year. Although forestry field camp has been a longtime Warnell course, 2010 was the first time a similar three-week course was held for fisheries majors. Students enrolled in forestry field camp toured the Georgia Piedmont, the South Carolina sandhills and the North Carolina mountains. They also visited mills and harvesting operations in three states. The new fisheries field camps took students to sites like Sapelo Island and the Toccoa River. In both courses, students gained first-hand experience in field skills and techniques used in the respective fields.
The Warnell School’s forestry and wildlife conclave teams both had outstanding showings at their respective competitions this year, with the UGA Forestry Club placing 3rd overall and the Wildlife Society topping all of its competitors.

The Forestry Club placed 3rd overall among 15 southern forestry schools and placed 1st in technical events and 4th in the physical competitions. Singled out for individual awards were: Jason McMullen (timber estimation, archery, men’s crosscut saw), Jacob “Red” White (men’s crosscut, Jack & Jill crosscut), Morgan Newman (Jack & Jill crosscut, women’s crosscut), Amy Sonnier (women’s crosscut), Matt Tsiklistas (men’s bow saw), Ian Bullard (photogrammetry), Michael Pigott (wood ID), and Clayton Smith (compass and pacing). Professor Dick Daniels says that more recognition goes to other critical members of the winning team with numerous top five finishes and contributions to our point totals: Jonathan Lee, Blake McMichael, Allen Simms, Reid Yates, Austin Smith, and Tyler English.

The Wildlife Society’s conclave went even better — the team placed first overall at the Southeastern Wildlife Conclave held in Maryland. They also took second place in the Quiz Bowl and Team Field Competitions, and had three members place in the top 3 in individual awards. The second-place Quiz Bowl team was made up of Theron Menken, Robert Horan, Drew Ruttinger, Matt Streich, and Derek Colbert. Other awards:

- Second place in orienteering: Will McCranie and Gresham Cash
- First place in dendrology: Ami Flowers
- Third place in dendrology: Laci Coleman
- Second place in radiotelemetry: Meg Williams and Derek Colbert
- Third place in muzzleloader shooting: Robert Horan
- Second place in color photography: Annie Davis
- First place in black and white photography: Robert Horan
- Second place in black and white photography: Ami Flowers
- First place in non-game calling: Ami Flowers

Donna Gallaher, a program coordinator in Warnell’s Center for Forest Business, won the 2010 Georgia Forestry Association’s President’s Award at the organization’s annual conference in July. Since 1996, Gallaher has been overseeing the Georgia Sustainable Forestry Program Initiative for the CFB, which manages the program in Georgia for the GFA. The GFA chose Gallaher for her innovative work over the years, which has resulted in accolades like the Georgia State Implementation Committee being named the Outstanding State SFI program in 2004. She’s also been instrumental in implementing the Inconsistent Practices hotline, landowner outreach mailings and public relations efforts. Several other Warnell directors attended the GFA conference, including Dean Mike Clutter and CFB Director Bob Izlar.
Warnell’s forestry Ph.D. program tops the south, 5th in U.S.

The Warnell School’s forestry Ph.D. track has been ranked fifth in the United States among all forestry doctoral programs and No. 1 in the South, according to new rankings from the National Research Council. The third assessment of doctoral research programs by the organization places Warnell behind just four other schools – the University of Washington, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Yale University and the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. The full rankings assessed 33 forestry doctoral programs across the U.S.

Dean Mike Clutter said he’s pleased the NRC recognizes Warnell’s outstanding Ph.D program. “These rankings provide us with some independent validation that our graduate forestry program is of high quality and contributes to the reputation of our school,” he said. “The National Research Council has for many years provided independent rankings of programs in the pure and applied sciences. We are pleased that they continue to recognize Warnell as a great place for forestry graduate education.”

In creating its rankings, the NRC uses advanced statistical methods to analyze a number of characteristics about the doctoral program, including research activity, program diversity and student support services. The NRC collected data from institutions, faculty members and doctoral students through a series of questionnaires and surveys and by calculating citation rates of departments in academic journals. This method was developed and honed over three years to ensure validity. It aims to create a common benchmark for doctoral research programs and provide universities with information on how to improve their programs.

“Juniors” acquire outdoor knowledge

The Warnell School’s Mary Kahrs Warnell Forest Education Center and the Savannah Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation co-sponsored a JAKES Conservation Field Day on Sept. 11 at the Guyton, Ga., facility. JAKES — Juniors Acquiring Knowledge, Ethics and Sportsmanship — is a NWTF program for kids 17 and under that focuses on giving children a chance to explore their outdoor world and learn conservation related skills in a safe kids-only environment. The event drew out 35 children and their families who participated in learning about the history of conservation, wildlife identification and hunter safety. Participants also had an opportunity to try their hand at archery, a BB gun range, fishing skills casting and view live animal displays.

Gail Lutowski, the center’s education program coordinator, said such programs are key to instilling in children an appreciation of wildlife conservation and natural resources. “The JAKES program is successful because it partners children who are interested in the outdoors with experienced outdoorsmen and women,” Lutowski said. “The children have the opportunity to learn from experts and the experts have the chance to pass on their knowledge and love of the outdoors to a new generation.”
March 23-25, 2011
The Ritz-Carlton Lodge, Reynolds Plantation
Lake Oconee, Georgia

Conference will address post-recession views of:

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• Conservation: Accommodating the New Reality
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For more information contact Bob Izlar (706) 542-6819 or bizlar@warnell.uga.edu or Rich Molpus (706) 542-5079 or molpusr@warnell.uga.edu
You’ve been part of Warnell’s NRRT team for several years. What led you to this particular area of study?

I have always enjoyed and had an interest in the great outdoors. However, after completing my doctorate I served in a post-doctorate research position with the USDA FS examining trends in outdoor recreation participation and resource issues. This experience further developed my interest and passion for the natural resources, recreation and nature-based tourism area of study.

How do you think the expansion of technological distractions will affect how we interact with our natural resources?

Portable and small laptops, iPods, iPhones, etc., allow people to listen to music, speak to or text friends, complete school work or to watch movies while sitting outdoors. However, in these examples, I am not sure how much of the outdoors experience people are truly appreciating. Our belief in technology is also providing some people with a false sense of security in the great outdoors as witnessed by the trend of people phoning search and rescue services to come and get them or in some cases to bring them more water.

You’re a strong proponent of civic responsibility. How do you encourage your students to become good stewards of our environment and community?

Everyone’s daily lives are hectic, and hence we tend to concentrate our time, thoughts and efforts on our immediate family and friends. However, I strongly believe we all should try to foster a larger civic responsibility that extends to our local community and environment. By providing students with opportunities to work on research, applied projects or educational outreach services, we hope to foster within them a greater sense of how they may contribute as citizens to our local communities and environment.

Much of your research focuses on how we use our public outdoor spaces -- how people use state parks, what children do for recreation, etc. What have your studies discovered that concerns you?

I am concerned that there appears to be a growing disconnect between people, especially children, and the natural environment. In general, children are spending less time outdoors in nature, which impacts their overall appreciation and understanding of the environment and related issues. However, many schools, outreach services, state and federal parks and of forests have started to offer more environmental education programs to help address this concern.

What can we do to reverse the trend that is endangering our state parks?

Due to the recession and budget cutbacks state parks face a difficult short-term future. However, Georgia’s Department of Natural Resources (GA DNR) is actively examining their parks and the facilities and services they provide to better ensure they are meeting the present and future needs of their diversifying population. I would also encourage people to visit our state parks, historic sites and wildlife areas to see firsthand the many beautiful areas we have in Georgia.
**Warnell welcomes new faculty members**

**Dr. Richard Bin Mei**

Dr. Richard Bin Mei has joined the Warnell School as assistant professor of forest finance. Mei, who earned his Ph.D. in forest finance and economics from the Warnell School, began Oct. 1. He also holds a master's degree from Mississippi State University, and both master's and bachelor's degrees from Beijing Forestry University in China. “It takes decades to grow a tree, but centuries to establish a sound education program,” Mei said. “I am glad to join the excellent team at Warnell and am ready to make my own contributions.”

Mei, who was a research assistant at Warnell from August 2007 to May 2010, did his post-doctoral work with the school’s Center for Forest Business. He has authored or co-authored more than a dozen peer-reviewed articles and is a multiple award winner. He is also a member of the Society of American Foresters, Southern Forest Economics Workers and Xi Sigma Pi National Forestry Honor Society. “Our Center for Forest Business is happy to have added additional expertise in Forest Finance with the hire of Dr. Mei,” said Dean Mike Clutter. “Richard’s strong analytical background coupled with his excellent training in finance will be useful as Warnell continues to expand our programs in the area of forest business.”

**Dr. Neelam C. Poudyal**

Dr. Neelam C. Poudyal has joined the Warnell School’s faculty in the Natural Resources Recreation and Tourism major. Poudyal, who has been at Warnell for the past year as a post-doctoral researcher, has a Ph.D. in natural resources from the University of Tennessee, a master's degree in geography from Western Illinois University and a bachelor's degree from Tribhuvan University in Nepal. As a post-doctoral researcher at Warnell, Poudyal has been investigating a number of topics, including the human dimensions aspects of invasive species, urban forestry and the economics of forest and trail recreation. “With a strong background in natural resource economics as well as natural resources recreation and tourism, Dr. Poudyal adds considerable breadth and depth to our newest major here at Warnell,” said Dean Clutter. “Neelam will be responsible for teaching classes in a variety of recreation and tourism areas.” He said he is excited to join Warnell’s NRRT team. “With growing interest of Americans in nature-based recreation and outdoor activities, developing an excellent teaching and research program on outdoor recreation has become now more important than ever,” Poudyal said. “I look forward to working with faculty, staff and students at the Warnell School to strengthen the program around NRRT.”

**Dr. Michael J. Chamberlain**

Dr. Michael J. Chamberlain is joining the Warnell School’s faculty next year as a new associate professor of wildlife management. Chamberlain, currently an associate professor at Louisiana State University, is scheduled to begin work at Warnell on March 14. Dean Clutter said he chose Chamberlain from a strong pool of candidates for the position, which will teach classes in wildlife technique and waterfowl and shore bird management. “Dr. Chamberlain brings a wealth of experience in wildlife management experience to our school and will continue to pursue his interests in game bird management and carnivore reintroduction and management here in the eastern United States,” Clutter said. Chamberlain’s duties will also include supervising graduate students and research. Chamberlain received both his Ph.D. in forest resources and M.S. in wildlife ecology from Mississippi State University, and his B.S. in wildlife science from Virginia Tech University. He has been at LSU since March 2000, and since 2005 has instructed classes and researched the ecology and management of mammalian carnivores, upland game bird ecology and management and wildlife habitats. “I look forward to joining the faculty at the Warnell School and am excited about the possibilities to contribute to the University of Georgia community,” Chamberlain said.
A Slick Problem on the Horizon

Can BP do to Mississippi marshes what Hurricane Katrina couldn’t?

By SANDI MARTIN
Bob Cooper has been here before. Not too long after he started a lengthy research project studying birds in the marshes of southern Mississippi, he saw disaster strike. Hurricane Katrina was devastating to the coast, but it provided the Warnell professor with invaluable data about how the native bird species at the heart of his research respond to natural disasters. Now he’s in a position to find out how they respond to man-made ones. The BP oil spill — which spewed untold millions of gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico — could lay waste to two areas Cooper’s research has focused on for half a decade: The Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, near Moss Point, Miss., and the mouth of the Pascagoula River, near the town of Pascagoula. “We’ve been surprised before at how resilient nature can be,” Cooper said. But could man do what nature couldn’t?

BP’s Blunder
The story is well known by now: A wellhead located 40 miles off of Louisiana in the Gulf of Mexico blows. An offshore oil rig explodes. Workers die, others are evacuated, and one of the worst man-made environmental disasters in American history is kicked off. It takes months before the well is shut down. But the damage is done — millions of barrels of oil have been pumped into the Gulf of Mexico, leaving scientists, government workers and experts scrambling to assess this situation. Since the Deepwater Horizon explosion in April, there has been very little agreement about how much damage the BP oil spill has caused to the Gulf of Mexico — or how easily the ecosystem in its path will be able to recover from the catastrophe. The immediate fallout was easily captured by the media – images of oil-soaked birds quickly circulated. Dead dolphins washed ashore. Oil has been washing ashore Gulf states for months, most recently in Louisiana and in marshes near the Mississippi River.

So far, Cooper’s marshes have been largely unaffected. But if more oil comes ashore in Mississippi, he says, he can easily see the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve being hit hard. And that puts Cooper in a unique position: Should that happen, Cooper has years of data that should show what effect the BP oil spill had on the fragile ecosystem. “It all depends on how much oil comes ashore,” he said. But if the marsh is heavily oiled the outcome would not be difficult to predict. Decomposing vegetation — detritus — which forms the basis of this ecosystem, would be soaked with oil. Plants might be killed as well. Invertebrates that depend on those plants and detritus would not be able to feed, or would be oiled themselves. If the oil kills fiddler crabs and other invertebrates, then the clapper rails that eat them will suffer. “I would be shocked if heavy oiling does not decimate fiddler crabs,” Cooper said.

Cooper’s collaborator in all of this work is Dr. Mark Woodrey of Mississippi State University and the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, or NERR. Since 2004, they have teamed up to develop a number of research projects on marsh birds of the northern Gulf Coast. Part NERR’s objective is to develop long-term monitoring programs for some of our most important estuaries, mostly focusing on aquatic resources. “But we are one of the few NERR sites to develop such a monitoring program for marsh birds,” said Woodrey, “and we are one of the few groups to have this sort of pre-oiling data on marsh birds in the entire Gulf of Mexico.”

Count ‘Em Up
A lot of Cooper’s research at Warnell orbits around bird populations — what affects them, how they’ve changed over the years, how abundant they are right now, and how to maintain them. When he first started looking in Mississippi at the clapper rails and seaside sparrows, species found only in tidal marshes, a population survey was definitely on the agenda. Cooper, who started the project with former Warnell graduate student Scott Rush and Mississippi State University colleague Dr. Mark Woodrey, made assessing bird abundance in those marshes a priority of the study. But they also wanted to
measure the vital signs of bird populations — studying reproduction and annual survival rate — work that is being done by Warnell graduate student Anna Joy Lehmicke. This year, at the suggestion of Warnell Assistant Professor Sonia Hernandez, Cooper and his students have also started assessing the general health of individual birds by taking blood samples and analyzing them for blood parasites and conducting red and white blood cell counts.

For five years funding from a variety of sources has made this possible, including from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration, UGA, Mississippi State University and the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources. In 2005, an important goal for this project of the bird species that depend on the marshes for survival was to develop a survey designed to assess long-term population trends. “We had in mind assessing effects of long-term phenomena such as climate change,” said Cooper, “but the design also works for assessing shorter term disturbances.” Although the marshes vary in salinity — and therefore vegetation — they are all influenced by tides and are the feeding grounds for scores of bird species because they are ripe with fiddler crabs, periwinkles and other small invertebrates. Even in the absence of environmental disasters such as hurricanes and oil spills, understanding how these important systems function and what roles birds play in them is valuable research. With the advent of such disasters, however, this background information is invaluable as a baseline for comparison in before/after and remediation studies. With Cooper’s data, scientists will be able to assess the effects of the disasters on bird populations, if populations are recovering, and if marsh restoration efforts are working.

Cooper’s team had just one season of data when Hurricane Katrina struck, slamming into Gulf coast states in August 2005. One of the worst hurricanes ever to strike the U.S., Hurricane Katrina’s initial impact and subsequent floods killed thousands and caused billions in property damage. Five years later, some impacted areas still struggle to recover from the fallout. The area Cooper’s research focuses on was in Katrina’s path. How did those marshes fare? “It depends on the exact location,” Cooper said. “Louisiana lost some marsh, but effects in Mississippi were pretty minimal, and the populations of marsh birds stayed pretty constant even after Katrina. Although populations declined in some areas, they have bounced back quickly, within 1 to 5 years depending on the location. These marshes and their organisms evolved with hurricanes and have been dealing with hurricanes for millennia.” Numbers will decline temporarily, but if the marsh is intact the birds will recover. “But I think this oil spill will be different,” he said.

**Now we wait**

Coastal salt marshes are important for more than just the species they contain. For example, not only are they resil-
Cooper, who took a team of students to the marshes in August to collect additional samples, is now waiting to see what happens with the oil slick, which is being tracked by multiple agencies. His greatest fear is that, should it make landfall at those marshes, it could alter the basic way that these ecosystems function. If the only effect was the killing of oiled birds, as tragic as that is, the overall effect on the system would be minimal because those populations could recover. But if large expanses of marsh are destroyed, that would be a different story. “The real concern is what happens to the basic structure and function of the ecosystem,” Cooper said. “And I don’t know how long it would take that system to recover if it is heavily oiled. But we should be in a position to find out.”
Because of the magnitude of the oil spill in the Gulf region and the fact that we have nothing to compare it to, the long-term implications of this event are very difficult to predict. However, there are a few things we may expect to be happening in the short and longterm. In the shortterm, water-based recreation and tourism along the impaired areas will drop as it did in case of the Valdez oil spill. A significant portion of Gulf recreationists will undoubtedly choose to visit alternative beaches and coastal sites that remain unimpaired or are located outside the impact zone such as Atlantic Coast. However, some recreationists with strong destination attachment and loyalty to the Gulf will continue to still visit this region. In any case, the public will experience a welfare loss, a measure of economic loss from the decrease in their recreational experience. For instance, people who choose to visit impaired beaches will witness declines in water quality, fish availability, sightings of sea birds etc. Conversely, people who visit alternatives sites may experience welfare loss because of increased travel costs and trip expenditures, and maybe the acceptance of a less than perfect substitute for their expected recreational experience. For example, saltwater recreationists may go for inland freshwater fishing but may not find it as enjoyable as saltwater fishing. From a management perspective, natural resource agencies will face challenges of not only restoring the recreation quality in impaired areas but also managing social (i.e., crowding, conflicts etc.) and environmental impacts (i.e., pollution, erosion etc.) in alternative sites as a result of dramatic increases in users from the Gulf area.

In the longterm, tourism will most likely bounce back. Some people may find new sites equally enjoyable and probably split their annual trips between new sites and restored Gulf areas. However, some new visitors may start making trips to Gulf beaches as a result of the increased publicity of what has been termed as “one of the world’s largest oil disasters.” Once the oil is cleaned-up by natural or artificial means, water, fish and wildlife resources will slowly recover along with recreation opportunities. Consequently, the tourism and recreation industry in the Gulf will bounce back, although to what extent remains unknown, as has been partially seen in the case of other coastal disasters such as Hurricane Katrina and its effects on tourism in New Orleans.
It’s impossible to predict the effects that oil will have in the Gulf ecosystem with any certainty because there are so many unknowns at this point, even months after the initial explosion. There remains a substantial discussion about how much oil was actually released. Without a good idea of how much oil is in the Gulf, and where, we really don’t have any idea what type of effects to expect. Most people are aware that the oil could be devastating to birds, fish, shellfish, turtles, aquatic mammals and other wildlife in the Gulf and along the coast, but most don’t consider the potential effects on phytoplankton and zooplankton that serve as the base of the food web. If these tiny organisms are adversely affected by the oil it is likely that effects will be amplified throughout the entire food web. Additionally, crude oil is a mixture of dozens of toxic compounds (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)), many of which are highly persistent (resistant to degradation) in the environment and also accumulate in animal tissues. These chemicals can cause a number of adverse health effects in the animals themselves as well as the animals (including humans) that may eat the contaminated organisms. Indeed, many of the smaller PAH compounds are volatile, subject to microbial degradation or to breakdown by sunlight but the use of dispersants may have greatly altered some of these degradation processes. It’s likely that we won’t fully realize the effects of this spill for years, if not decades to come. It is essentially an unprecedented experiment occurring at a scale the world has never seen.

The Gulf of Mexico oil spill on the Deepwater Horizon was a great teaching opportunity in my classes. I even quizzed my students on their soils and hydrology final in early May on what they would do if they were tasked with solving the leak – what would happen to the oil and how would it affect ecosystems? In the coming months, that very question became a major topic of discussion in the media. Trying to understand the mechanics of the oil spill was perhaps the silver lining on this dreadful event. We have few opportunities to test our theoretical understanding of nature, and having information that can help us sort out the complex impacts on marine ecosystems. My conceptual model was developed during the weeks after the final. I estimated that approximately 75,000 bbl/day (42-gallon barrels of oil per day) were being released, of which about one-third was crude oil, the rest being natural gas, primarily methane. The oil first rose as globules due to surface tension forces. These globules are an LNAPL (i.e., a light, non-aqueous phase liquid). Along the way, much of the crude dissolves in water, or forms a mist when dispersants are added to form an emulsion (an aqueous phase liquid). Only the heavier, less soluble oil molecules reach the surface, such as the paraffin and tars, which is why so little oil (5,000 bbl/day) was observed on the surface. The gas forms a gas hydrate which is a crystalline ice or snow at the great depth of the well. This snow (also an LNAPL) rises slowly, but then melts as the water warms and the pressure decreases. The gas then forms a foam that dissolves in the water column (APL) but never reaches the surface. Methanol (an APL) was added to keep the ice from forming, which helped dissolve the gas. The Top Kill mud had twice the density of water, so that it mixed with the oil and formed a DNAPL (dense, non-aqueous phase liquid) that sank and covered the bottom of the ocean for miles around.
To the casual observer, Daniel Markewitz looks like he’s stomping around the woods carrying a long yellow pipe for no particular reason. But that’s no stroll he’s taking. Markewitz will walk out of the woods with geo-referenced readings about the soil’s water, clay and nutrient contents — all courtesy of the bright yellow electromagnetic induction sensor. For the past two years, Markewitz has been testing and adapting an idea already commonly found in the agricultural world: precision forestry.

That yellow pipe he walks around with is coupled with a near-infrared reflectance spectrometer and by the time the Warnell professor is done, he has assessed soil chemical and physical attributes that can then be used in the management of the forest. Before, getting that information required using a hand auger to collect soil samples and transporting them back to his lab for later analysis. “This is very different from what we’ve done in the past in the soil sciences,” he says.

Using high-tech instruments to get instant readings is not new — the near-infrared equipment, for instance, has been used in laboratories since the 1950s, and use in the field has been under development since the late 1980s. And although not wildly popular in the agricultural field, these techniques are being slowly adopted by farmers to better assess which areas are in need of fertilizer or herbicides. It can even be used to quickly assess which areas of land have been contaminated by polluted runoff, Markewitz says. But is it right for forestry?

That’s what Markewitz, along with Warnell professors Laurie Schimleck and Pete Bettinger, is trying to find out. He already sees the distinct advantages of using such a system to manage a forest. The electromagnetic induction sensor measures water, clay and salt concentrations, while the infrared reflectance spectrometer gathers more detailed measurements on the nutrients in the soil. It’s faster, he says, and you can cover a lot more ground with far more detail. “You can just make a lot more measurements
Research Notes

The Warnell School has teamed up with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources to study northern yellow bats. One of 16 state bat species, the *Lasius intermedius* are a high-priority species in the State Wildlife Action Plan that guides DNR’s conservation efforts. Warnell student Laci Coleman is examining roosting habitats of the bats for her senior thesis and will conduct her work on Sapelo Island, using radio transmitters to find the elusive bats. Her project results will guide the DNR’s decisions about managing and conserving the bats.

Warnell water and soils graduate student Claire Ike is trying to figure out how land use and land cover will affect carbon storage. She and other researchers have been looking at the soil contents among differing land cover and soil types on the Dougherty Plain of the upper coastal plain, including burned longleaf pine woodlands. She is finding that carbon concentration varies mainly among land cover and agricultural use influencing depletion. Ike’s research comes as interest in carbon sequestration in forest soils and vegetation rises as concentrations of carbon dioxide increase in the atmosphere.

Summer camps are places of fun and adventure for children of all ages and backgrounds, but they are also valuable tools for environmental education. Through summer programs, children spend time outside, connect with nature, learn valuable outdoor and life skills, while creating new friendships and lasting memories. However, with such a diversity of programs and children attending these summer camps, it is difficult to know how effective certain programs are in teaching children about the environment. Under the direction of Drs. Gary T. Green and John P. Carroll, graduate student Ami Flowers is examining whether the use of art within summer programs helps to promote environmental education within children of different ages and backgrounds.

Warnell researchers Drs. Scott Harding and C.J. Tsai have won a $1.34 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Department of Energy to attempt to increase the productivity of trees by genetically modifying certain proteins critical to wood formation. The study could have important implications in using trees as biofuel. The pair will modify sucrose transporter proteins—which shuttle food from leaves throughout the rest of the tree—and gauge how positively or negatively they react. They hope that tweaking the proteins will modify the way trees divide their photosynthate between wood-forming and other organs like roots and bark.

Associate Professor Doug Peterson is sharing a $4.45 million grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to determine the status of shortnose and Atlantic sturgeon inhabiting large coastal rivers from North Carolina to Georgia. Shortnose sturgeon have been on the Endangered Species List since the 1960s and Atlantic sturgeon are currently under petition for listing as either threatened or endangered. The primary goal of their multi-agency study will be identify specific threats to each population in relation to seasonal patterns of movement and habitat use within riverine and near coastal habitats throughout the southeastern US. Peterson’s share of the grant totals nearly $1.4 million, allowing him to focus on populations of both species inhabiting the Satilla, Altamaha, Ogeechee and Savannah rivers.

over a much larger area,” Markewitz explains. The goal is to use all these measurements to create soil maps over hundreds of acres in managed forest stands and relate this information to how well the trees grow. In areas where trees are growing poorly, more fertilizer might be added or if soil nitrogen is high and trees are growing well maybe money could be saved by fertilizing less, which also benefits water quality by minimizing nitrogen runoff.

Similar soil mapping techniques are growing globally: A world digital soil map (globalsoilmap.net) is being developed, spearheaded by the International Union of Soil Sciences and research with near-infrared from Texas A&N and Virginia Tech Universities to measure oil hydrocarbons in soil is now being used to measure the effects of the BP oil spill.

But there are reasons why soil mapping for precision forestry might not catch on right away, he says. It’s not even that common in agriculture, where it is far easier to use the bulky equipment by just driving it around on a tractor. Foresters interested in analyzing their land by high-tech means would be required to carry the long electromagnetic induction sensor using a harness, while carrying a GPS and handheld datalogger, which integrates location with the data being collected. And the near-infrared reflectance spectrometer—while not heavy, also isn’t light. Furthermore, the extra time and effort will have to demonstrate clear benefits to forest management, and there is still some work to be done in this regard.

Markewitz is still in the testing phase and has tried the equipment out in three different types of stands—5-year-old loblolly pine near Athens and 6-year-old longleaf pine at the Warnell Center in Guyton. Although he has achieved success in mapping soils, he has not yet been completely satisfied with his ability to relate soils to tree growth. “The results were enticing, but not great,” he says. But next he hopes to try it out in seedling nurseries, because they are the closest to the agricultural model in having an annual crop. He also sees applications in shorter rotation bioenergy stands or Flexstand™ systems that will require greater precision in management inputs.
Wild Ambitions: Art History takes a back seat to cheetahs and grizzlies

In the end, the most shocking thing that Sarah Grigg learned after spending three months in Otjiwarongo, Namibia, wasn’t how different it is from the U.S., but how our problems with human-wildlife conflicts are the same. Grigg was there working for the Cheetah Conservation Fund as a graduate research assistant, helping assess trails and collecting data on black rhinos, giraffe identification and counting game. But while there she also worked with the people most affected by wildlife conflicts — the public, farmers and game ranchers. “The wildlife are obviously unique to southern Africa, but the basic livelihood practices of the people living there — ranching, hunting and eco-tourism — are remarkably similar to those of the stakeholder groups with which I have worked in the past,” she said.

It shouldn’t be a surprise that Grigg ended up in Namibia. The Warnell MNR student is a sucker for a new, challenging experience. But how does someone with dual undergraduate degrees in art history and Spanish end up at Warnell, much less working with cheetahs in Africa? It starts in Yellowstone. After she graduated from Washington and Lee University in 2004, Grigg moved to the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem for 5 ½ years, working several jobs that weren’t exactly on the path to a career in natural resources. But it did give her a diverse work history that helped her hone her communication skills, like her job helping organize the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival in Wyoming and her stint creating content in the online industry. “I’ve always pursued new experiences, and I’ve always been quick to accept interesting opportunities, which has resulted in some really great things and some really challenging things, but all have proven to be invaluable adventures in learning in the end,” she said. “Junior year of college I was looking at art business programs, and by senior year, after spending a summer in Idaho collecting data on trout, I knew I didn’t want to spend the rest of my life putting price tags on porcelain.”

It was in mid-2008 that she landed in southeast Idaho again, working for the U.S. Forest Service and Idaho Fish and Game Service as a public education specialist. The community there was experiencing human-grizzly conflicts, which resulted in the removal of several bears. Grigg took what she learned working in Wyoming and adapted it to the more rural area she was tasked with helping. “All the other jobs I had previously held approached conservation in a one-dimensional manner without taking proactive steps at the local level to make a concrete difference,” she says. “I saw how important it was to understand all sides of the problem, from a sociological, biological, economic and political standpoint in order to effectively and mindfully make a change for residents and wildlife in the region.”
Grigg was drawn to Warnell by her ambitions. She wanted to bridge her professional experience with her graduate studies, meshing her history with communication, art and science with her interests in the natural world. “I was weighing my options for graduate school, and it seemed that most programs offered degrees in wildlife sciences or public relations, and neither particularly suited my interests.” She found what she wanted in Warnell’s MNR program, which she says “offered the choice to shamelessly hybridize disciplines.”

The 28-year-old native of Wellsboro, Penn., has taken advantage of those opportunities, taking classes in public relations, education, anthropology and political ecology along with her Warnell studies of endangered and nongame species policy, urban/suburban deer management, wilderness management, and human dimensions of recreational resource management. At Warnell, she also found the encouragement and support from faculty to spur her into expanding her professional experience, particularly Dr. Robert Warren, her major advisor. “I’ve held a variety of jobs and have observed a broad spectrum of human behavior in the conservation world, ‘the good, the bad and the grizzly,’ so to speak,” she says.

“Dr. Warren’s professional and personal integrity definitely sets a standard for me. As he pointed out to me, we hold different professional backgrounds, but have arrived at the same point, working with people and wildlife. His big-picture approach to education has provided me the chance to explore human-wildlife conflict across disciplines, as well as an exciting opportunity to learn from someone with years of hands-on expertise in working with the public on controversial issues.”

Warren said Grigg has been a delight to mentor over the past year. “Sarah’s educational background and professional experiences make her unique among the nearly 70 graduate students that I’ve directed as major professor during the past 30 years,” he says. “The MNR degree in the Warnell School has enabled her to ‘customize’ her graduate education by merging her interests in wildlife policy, human dimensions, public relations, conservation education and environmental ethics. She interrupted her graduate studies this past summer to accept a challenging internship with the Cheetah Conservation Fund in Namibia, which exemplifies the degree to which she is willing to make sacrifices to further her education and experiences in wildlife conservation.”

“I’ve ... observed a broad spectrum of human behavior in the conservation world, ‘the good, the bad and the grizzly,’ so to speak.”

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SARAH GRIGG
Amos Tuck was in the sixth grade when he caught his very first Mooneye. Shortly thereafter, he bought his very first field guide to identify the mystery fish he’d just nabbed. Already hooked on fishing after many outings with his dad, the field guide launched him into a whole new area of interest. “This is when my curiosity expanded past bass, bream and catfish,” Tuck says. “From that point on, I knew I wanted to be some sort of scientist working with fish.”

Catching that Mooneye put Tuck on a path to Warnell. The 22-year-old senior is working towards a career in fish biology, majoring in fisheries and wildlife with an emphasis on aquatic sciences. Being a fish biologist is his ideal job, he says, because he wants to “learn more and more about what’s going on below the surface. I have fallen in love with the world of fishes and I cannot imagine working in any other field.” It was his dad, Tony Tuck, who took the young Warnell student fishing as a child, prompting a lifelong love encouraged by his mom, Gwen. His love of the outdoors doesn’t stop with pulling fish out of lakes – he snorkels, kayaks and hikes. The Cedartown, Ga.-native wanted to attend UGA, so when the time came in high school, he said, he researched fish science programs in Athens. Attending Warnell became a no-brainer.

Since joining Warnell’s family, Tuck’s dreams have started to turn to reality. He spent his summer break this year working as an aquatic technician for Georgia’s Department of Natural Resources’ Nongame Conservation division. “The job had me in rivers all over the state gathering fish and freshwater mussel samples,” he says. “The best part about the summer is getting to play an active role in the conservation of rare and endangered fish and mussel species.”

Tuck could ultimately be one of Warnell’s most valuable voices. Tuck has been doing a number of environmental education programs while serving as a Warnell student ambassador, including lecturing high schoolers on invasive species, teaching wildlife safety courses and talking about wildlife on a university talk show. He’s trained in Project Wet and Project Wild. He won the Rotaract Student Service Award given to the top 12 students at UGA demonstrating service to the community. He organizes outreach events for Warnell ambassadors and is an elected officer in the Wildlife Society, where he runs the outreach and service projects. “I am committed to outdoor education and environmental outreach,” he says. “I love to share my view of nature with anyone willing to listen.”

Tuck’s DNR job has reignited old passions, as well. “My time with the DNR has really got me in a snorkeling phase,” he says. “I search for fish much like someone who goes bird watching – keeping a list of species. I also have started keeping an extensive mussel shell collection.”
THE UGA FORESTRY CLUB WILL HOST

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warnell.uga.edu
Spring Awards Banquet

Warnell held its annual Spring Awards Banquet in April, awarding scholarships and honors to undergraduates, graduate students and faculty members.

Recognized were:

**Warnell Student Ambassadors**
Andrew Brannon, Mike Cherry, Josh Goodman, Jeff Hendricks, Christian Hoadley, Micah Hollis, Lincoln Larson, Tim MacKay, Elizabeth Miller, Katie Moore, Nicki Pinnell, Emily Reed, Drew Ruttinger, Stephen Spurlock, Matt Stokes, Matt Streich, Tara Thomson, Andrew Taylor, Amos Tuck, Lindsay Ward, Meg Williams, Tiffany Williams, Jennifer Williams

**Students Presented at Honors Day**
Timothy Boatright, David Cohen, Tyler Hale, Jason McMullen, Elizabeth Moser, Catherine Mullen, Anakela Popp, Emily Reed, Kelsey Robinson, Tara Thomson, W. Amos Tuck, Andrew Yonkofski

**Xi Sigma Pi Inductees**
Ashley Alred, Katherine Bell, Michael Bender, Brian Crawford, David Garrett, Sarah Grigg, John Hopkins, Graham Marsh, Sarah Mills, Russell Parr, Allison Robillard, James Ruttinger, Jacqueline Sherry, Austin Smith, Derek Stanfield, James Terrell, Rebecca Todd, Willard “Amos” Tuck, Claude Vaughn, Zach Walton, Tiffany Williams

**Southeastern Wildlife Conclave Participants**
Sarah Arnold, Robert Brown, Megan Carter, Gresham Cash, Marissa Cent, Mike Cherry, Derek Colbert, Laci Coleman, Annie Davis, Amy Flowers, Morgan Hickson, Robert Horan, Brianne Lapietre, Will McCranie, Theron Menken, Elizabeth Miller, Katie Moore, Kathryn Pearlman, Nicki Pinnell, Beth Oxford, Drew Ruttinger, Josh Seehorn, Jackie Sherry, Matt Streich, Tara Thomson, W. Amos Tuck, Zach Walton, Meg Williams, Sheila Wright

**Southeastern Forestry Conclave Participants**
Ian Bullard, Tyler English, Jonathan Lee, Blake McMichael, Jason McMullen, Morgan Newman, Michael Pigott, Allen Simms, Austin Smith, Clayton Smith, Amy Sonnier, Matt Tisdistas, Jacob White, Reid Yates

**Judith Fitzgerald Brooks Memorial Scholarship**
Carter Coe

**E.L. Cheatum Award**
Vanessa Lane

**Forestry Alumni Pre-Professional Scholarship**
New: Ronnie Hilburn
Continuing: Noah Shealy & M. Eliese Ronke

**Forestry Alumni Professional Scholarship**
New: Sarah Hardeman, Cassandra Skaggs, Jonathan Owens
Continuing: David Garrett, W. Amos Tuck, Timothy Boatright, Allison Robillard

**Fulbright Fellowship**
April Conway

**Georgia Forestry Association/Georgia Forestry Foundation Fellowship**
David Garrett

**Earl Jenkins/Gladys Beach Memorial Award**
J. Brad Terrell

**Fred W. Haeuessler Scholarship**
Denise Bailey

**Fredrick William Kinard, Jr. Scholarship**
Christine Holtz

**Charles A. & Rose Lane Leavell Scholarship**
Sean Sterrett

**Arnett C. and Ruth Mace Memorial Scholarship**
Cory Dukes

**Martha Love May Memorial Scholarship**
Kerrie Anne Loyd, Elizabeth Miller & Beth Oxford

**Arlene C. & Tilden L. Norris Scholarship**
Joel Vinson

**N.E. Georgia Quail Unlimited Scholarship**
Michael Cherry

**Archie E. Patterson Scholarship**
Michael Cherry, James “Drew” Ruttinger, Amos Tuck, Lindsay Ward & Robert White

**Robert W. & June C. Porterfield Memorial Scholarship Fund**
Brittany Trushel

**Ernie E. Provost Scholarship**
Claude Vaughn

**William Tyler Ray Scholarship**
New: Mark Butler & Brynn Davis
Continuing: Sarah Arnold, Laci Coleman, Morgan Hickson, Jeff Hendricks, Sarah Mills, Elizabeth Moser & Joseph Styga

**Gerald B. & Charlotte Alexander Saunders Scholarship**
Timothy Wertin

**Society of American Foresters Georgia Division Award**
Clayton Smith

**Stoddard-Burleigh-Sutton Award**
Ornithology: Kirk Stodola
Wildlife Conservation: Susan Ellis-Felege

**C.M. & Bernice C. Stripling Scholarships**
Freshman Scholarship: Daniel Robinson
Professional Scholarship: Dylan Layfield

**Superior Pine Products Scholarship**
Austin Smith

**William N. Thompson Scholarship**
Jason Bland

**Trout Unlimited Cold Water Fisheries Scholarship**
Undergraduate: Andrew Page
Graduate: Josh Seehorn

**Wyatt Memorial Forestry and Natural Resources Scholarship**
Angela Romito

**Gordie J. Yancey Scholarship**
April Conway

**Young Alumni Scholarship for Leadership and Training**
Mark Butler, Lindsay Ward, Margaret “Meg” Williams, & Andrew Yonkofski

**AGHON**
Jason Bland & Michael Ransom

**Blue Key Honor Society**
W. Amos Tuck

**Rotoaract Student Service Award**
W. Amos Tuck

**Forestry Faculty Award**
Emily Reed

**Outstanding Senior in Forestry**
Michael Ransom

**Outstanding Senior in Wildlife**
Mike Cherry

**UGA Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award**
Shannon Albeke and Anna McKee

**Warnell School Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award**
Jayna DeVore and Lincoln Larson

**Warnell School Ambassador of the Year**
Micah Hollis & Nicki Pinnell
Donors make Young Alumni Scholarship a reality

When the Warnell School’s Young Alumni Committee first created an Endowment for Leadership Training fund in October 2005, its members wanted to help undergraduate and graduate students enhance their leadership abilities by participating in leadership conferences and research seminars. After diligent fundraising by the Young Alumni Committee and the support of alumni and friends of Warnell, the first group of five students was awarded scholarships from the fund. Committee member Jan Forrest Kent was on hand to award the scholarships to Mark Butler, Lindsay Ward, Meg Williams and Andrew Yonkoski, who will benefit from the generous support of donors. Also contributing to make this first batch of scholarships possible are the sponsors and players of the annual Alumni Golf Tournament, who have generously supported the endowment over the years, and the sponsors and players of the Plum Creek Golf Tournament, who made significant donations to the fund in 2009 and 2010. The Warnell School thanks our supporters for making this endowment possible.

Please contact Emily Hayes Nuckolls, Alumni Coordinator at (706) 542-0713 or enuckolls@warnell.uga.edu.

Reconnect your Warnell classmates

The Warnell School is still looking for alumni who want to support their alma mater and catch up with old friends by signing up to become a Warnell Class Agent. This new program from Warnell’s Alumni Relations and Development Office hopes to reacquaint classmates by spreading news of marriages, births, moves and new jobs among graduates from each class year. By writing to your classmates, you can help the Warnell School contact alumni, give your friends an update on your life after graduation and encourage financial and volunteer support for your alma mater.

All we ask for is a bit of your time and a desire to seek out classmates. Interested?

Reunite with your class

The Warnell School is happy to help organize class reunions. Contact the Alumni Relations office for assistance with finding a location, mailing invitations, catering and hotel bookings. If you would like to help organize a class reunion.
Without alumni & friends like you, we would not be able to provide our students and faculty with outstanding academic programs and opportunities. Consider supporting the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources. We have giving opportunities to fit your needs and would love to guide you to the opportunity which suits you best. Learn more online at warnell.uga.edu/giving or contact the Office of Alumni Relations and Development. Giving back to Warnell is exciting and rewarding, and your gift will make a difference!

Kim Holt, Director of Development
(706)542-3098 • kholt@warnell.uga.edu

Emily Nuckolls, Alumni Relations and Annual Giving
(706)542-0713 • enuckolls@warnell.uga.edu
NEW INITIATIVES
to bolster graduate student support

By KIM HOLT

Warnell has long been known as an outstanding institution for graduate education. The Warnell graduate program offers three degrees — the Ph.D., M.S. and MFR/MNR — that encompass eight major programs and 31 fields of study. Fundamental to our success in graduate education has been an outstanding faculty, an exceptionally gifted group of graduate students and an overall commitment to follow innovative intellectual pursuits. Also crucial to our success is an increase in private funding for our Warnell supported graduate assistantships.

We have recently created two new funds to support our graduate students. The Ernest E. Provost Graduate Support Fund was created in honor of Professor Emeritus Ernie Provost, a wildlife professor who challenged Warnell students for almost 30 years. This fund will award and assist a student pursuing a wildlife graduate degree that demonstrates exceptional potential for contributing to the achievement of their professions and provides leadership and a fine example to his fellow students.

The second new fund is the Center for Forest Business Graduate Support Fund. The purpose of this fund is to support graduate students in Forest Business Master of Forest Resources (MFR). The MFR in Forest Business is designed to help students develop the necessary skills for positions of leadership in forest operations management, timberland investing, or education in the private or public sector. Thanks to a unique partnership, all business courses are taken through the University of Georgia’s Terry College of Business. In addition to rigorous academic preparation, our MFR students participate in a range of formative experiences including internships, forestry operations tours and forest investment conferences. Many of these opportunities are international, reflecting the global nature of today’s forest business environment.

In order to endow these funds so that they exist in perpetuity, a minimum of $300,000 is needed to support each fund. We would like to invite you to make a contribution so that we may meet our goal of fully endowing these funds and providing ongoing opportunities to our fine graduate students. Please contact me to make a donation or for additional information. We are certain that your support will have a lasting effect on the education of students with a desire to advance the forestry and natural resources professions.

As always, and on behalf of the students and faculty of the Warnell School, we thank all of our alumni and friends for the confidence you have shown in our pursuit of excellence through the academic programs and opportunities we provide to our students. Your generosity and support make possible many achievements that help secure the future of Warnell!

If you’re interested in creating your Warnell legacy, please contact Kim Holt, Director of Development, at (706) 542-3098 or kholt@warnell.uga.edu.

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**1960s**

David E. Tyre (BSF ’60) recently attended his 50-year class reunion and noted that he was “amazed at the growth of South Campus!”

Du V. Le (BSF ’61) attended Yale after graduating from Warnell, which is where he received his M.F. He returned to Vietnam where he worked for the Directorate of Forestry, serving as the Director from 1974-1975.

James “Jim” Alfriend (BSFR ’69) took the position of southern director at the July 2010 ACF National Conference in Louisville, Ky., representing the ACF membership in seven southeastern states. The Association of Consulting Foresters is the only national organization for consulting foresters and was founded in 1948.

**1970s**

Peter S. Bischoff (BSF ’70) retired from the South Carolina Forestry Commission in January 2006 after 36 years of service. He is currently the owner of Bischoff’s Forestry Services LLC.

David Jennings (BSFR ’79) was named the 2009 Volunteer of the Year by REEF – Reef Environmental Education Association. Now living in Olympia, Wash., Jennings has been a REEF member since 2006 and has conducted more than 154 surveys in California and Washington, including the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. He is also a member of the Pacific Advanced Assessment Team, and was appointed in 2009 to a six-year term as one of Washington’s nine fish and wildlife commissioners by the state governor.

**1980s**

Robert Farris (BSFR ’84) was named an “Agribusiness Mover & Shaker” by Georgia Trend magazine in its August 2010 issue. Farris is currently the director of the Georgia Forestry Commission.

Wayne Worsham (BSFR ’84) has been elected chairman of the Georgia Chapter Association of Consulting Foresters.

**1990s**

Matt Payne (BSFR ’95) is now the program manager for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources’ forest management unit, which oversees all timber management activities on state-owned wildlife management areas, natural areas and parks.

Ross R. Pritchett (BSFR ’99) accepted a position with Timberland Investment Resources LLC as the Central Gulf Region Investment Forester. Ross manages clients’ properties in Alabama, Mississippi and Florida, and is responsible for land planning, timber productivity and marketing, regulatory compliance and environmental stewardship.

**2000s**

James “Jamie” P. Alfriend (BSFR ’01) has been elected chairman-elect of the Georgia Chapter Association of Consulting Foresters.

Kurt Moseley (BSFR ’01, MS ’04) earned a Ph.D. in Forest Resource Sciences from West Virginia University in 2008. He currently works as a wildlife biologist for the Marine Corps Base in Quantico, Va. He married fellow UGA-grad Heather Kling in 2007.

Megan Dempster (BSFR ’07) married Grant Howell (BSFR ’03) on St. Simon’s island on June 19, 2010.

Chad Lincoln (BSFR ’03, MS ’05) and Erin Moore (BSFR ’05) married on May 14, 2010.

Christina Alessi Hacker (BSFR ’04) is living in Atlanta with her husband, Michael. The couple, who married in 2004, is expecting their first child, a girl.

Justin Tyson (BSFR ’05, MS ’07) married Casie Parrott on May 22, 2010, at Wedgefield Plantation in South Carolina. The couple honeymooned in Yosemite National Park and are now living in North Augusta, S.C. Justin is working for Bartlett Tree Experts in Augusta, and Casie is a special education teacher in Aiken, S.C.

Emily Brown Rushton (BSFR ’06, MS ’08) and Cliff Rushton (BSFR ’06) were married on June 27, 2009, in Athens. They currently live in St. Cloud, Fla., and are both biologists with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Adam Speir (BSFR ’06, MS ’08) and wife Kelly welcomed son Noah McLendon Speir on June 28, 2010.
**Former Warnell dean honored for UGA service**

The UGA Alumni Association honored former provost Arnett C. Mace Jr. at its annual awards luncheon on April 23 for his service to the University of Georgia. Mace was honored with other distinguished alumni and supporters of UGA. “With these awards, the association expresses its deep appreciation and admiration to people who, through their service, contributions and accomplishments, bring distinction and honor to the University of Georgia, our state, nation and the world,” said Deborah Dietzler, executive director of the Alumni Association.

The Faculty Service Award, created in 1969, is given to active or retired faculty or staff members in recognition of long and dedicated service to the university and exceptional performance and achievement in the recipient’s field. Since this award was established, 80 faculty and staff members have been honored.

Mace, this year’s recipient of the award, retired from UGA in December 2009 after serving as senior vice president for academic affairs and provost for seven years. Prior to that, he was dean of the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources for 11 years. Following his retirement, Mace worked as a special assistant to UGA President Michael F. Adams to get the university’s medical education partnership with the Medical College of Georgia in place at the Navy Supply Corps School property. Mace has led UGA’s efforts to establish the partnership, which will train new physicians and health workers for the state.

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William Hoyt Haley (BSF ’38), 100, of Elberton, Ga., died Sunday, April 18, 2010, at Elbert Memorial Hospital. The son of the late Ira S. Haley and Minnie Gaines Haley of Elberton, Mr. Haley was born and raised in Hart County, later living in Birmingham, Ala., and West Palm Beach, Fla. After graduating from Warnell in 1938, Mr. Haley worked in Camden County, Ga., as a forester, which is where he married Wilhelmina Stafford in 1940. In 1941, the couple moved to Hazelhurst, Ga., where he lived for 54 years and was a forester, a Dodge and Plymouth dealer, a pulpwood dealer and a high school teacher. He also served as a surveyor and timber cruiser. In 1995, he moved to Magnolia Estates in Elberton. Mr. Haley was preceded in death by his wife, Wilhelmina, and a son, William Jackson “Jack” Haley. He is survived by one son, Bob Haley of Orlando, Fla.; three sisters, one brother and a sister-in-law. Mr. Haley was put to rest at Palms Memorial Gardens in Hazelhurst.

Eileen Cox Langdale, 91, passed away on Friday, Sept. 3, 2010, at South Georgia Medical Center. She is survived by her husband of 67 years, Harley Langdale Jr. (BSF ’37), and was a longtime supporter of the Warnell School. Born in Santa Rosa County, Fla., to the late Decar Covington Cox Sr. and Minnie Gibson Cox, she had been a life-long resident of the Valdosta area. Mrs. Langdale attended Valdosta State University and graduated from Brenau College. She was a homemaker and taught school in the Lowndes County School System for a few years, was also an honorary life member of the Camellia Garden Club and a member of the South Georgia Medical Center Auxiliary. She was a devoted member of the First Baptist Church of Valdosta.

She is also survived by a sister-in-law, Betty Terry Cox of Thomasville; two nephews, Stanley Covington Cox of Valdosta and Clement C. Greene of Valdosta; two nieces, Peggy Cox Carter of Hahira and Betsy Cox of Jacksonville, Fla. and many cousins, great nieces and great nephews. She is preceded in death by a sister, Jeannette Holmes Winter; two brothers, Decar Cox, Jr. and Robert Lee Cox; and a niece, Jean Holmes Greene.

The Warnell School awarded Marc Taylor Gregg a posthumous bachelor’s degree during spring’s graduation ceremony. Gregg, a popular undergraduate forestry student, was involved in a fatal automobile accident on Sept. 18, 2009, in Oglethorpe County. The 23-year-old was on track to graduate with the Warnell class of 2010, and was also honored at the university-wide memorial service in late April. Gregg’s family accepted his posthumous BSFR degree during the ceremony. Following graduation, classmates, professors and family members dedicated a Shumard Oak from Warnell students and the UGA Forestry Club in his memory at Flinchum’s Phoenix at Whitehall Forest.
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