Help Wanted

Students go from classroom to the field

Alumni lands dream job: swimming with sharks

Trout fishing a $90 million value to Georgia
Plum Creek golf tournament a hole in one for Warnell

Plum Creek hosted its fifth annual charity golf tournament this fall, raising a significant windfall for the Warnell School. This annual fundraiser helps financially support student and faculty services and comes from one of Warnell’s most enthusiastic supporters. The Plum Creek Charity Golf Tournament is a popular annual outing held at the Georgia Club just outside of Athens, drawing alumni and Warnell supporters from across the country. The next tournament is set for Sept. 26, 2014. The 2013 tournament’s support came at a critical time for our programs, said Dean Mike Clutter. “This year we had a perfect fall day in the Piedmont,” he said. “For the first time, thanks to Plum Creek and our sponsors, we raised more than $100,000 for the Warnell School. These funds are used to support our undergraduate and graduate programs in a wide variety of ways — through scholarships, assistantships and funds for research and teaching activities. We continue to be overwhelmed by the support for our programs.”

Special Thanks to our Tournament Co-hosts:

Sponsors:

ArborGen, Inc.  
B & S Air  
BTG Pactual Timberland Investment Group LLC  
Deltic Timber Corporation  
Deax Biomass International  
Energy Launch Partners  
Enviva, LP  
F & W Forestry Services, Inc.  
Forest Investment Associates LP  
Forest Landowners Association, Inc.  
Forest Resource Consultants  
Fulghum Fibers, Inc.  
G & C Fertilizer Company, Inc.  
Gavilon  
Georgia-Pacific  
Gilman Building Products  
Green Diamond Resource Company  
Hanksva Natural Resource Group  
International Forest Company  
Interstate Resources  
Mead Westvaco  
Rentech, Inc.  
Resource Management Service  
Ryder System, Inc.  
Superior Pine Products Company  
The Campbell Group LLC  
Wells Timberland  
Timberland Investment Resources  
Tom Reed

Comments, Congrats and Goodbyes:

We are looking to the future

We need your input. Over the next several months Warnell will be soliciting comments on our programs as we develop our next 10-year strategic plan. This effort is the primary document that Warnell uses to shape its programs and focus resources on future directions for the school. Throughout December, January and February, we will be hosting a number of “listening sessions” to solicit input from students, faculty, alumni and supporters of Warnell. Hence, I ask each of you to think about those activities that you think have been important to your success as natural resources professionals. Additionally, we are interested in your views on where our profession may be headed and those skills necessary to be successful in the future. Any ideas, suggestions, criticisms, etc. are important to this process and the strategic plan. There will be a number of ways to pass along your thoughts including several meetings, a website to answer some questions and provide input, and, as always, you can pick up the phone and call me or any of the faculty here at Warnell. We need your input!

I want to thank Dr. Jim Sweener for his time here at Warnell. As many of you know, Jim has been our associate dean for research and service for the past 12 years and has done an admirable job in helping Warnell in these areas. Jim is retiring after a superlative career in both the public and private sector as a wildlife biologist and policymaker. Jim, thanks for all you have done for Warnell and our profession. Your colleagues at Warnell wish you every success as you approach retirement — and Sheila, good luck having Jim around every day!

Congratulations to Dr. Bob Warren in receiving The Wildlife Society’s national excellence in education award. Those who have had the opportunity to experience one of Dr. Warren’s lectures know he is a talented and passionate educator. Several years ago the University recognized this by awarding him the Josiah Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professorship — the highest teaching award at UGA. Bob, congratulations on this award and the recognition of your outstanding contributions to natural resources education both here at Warnell and nationally.

In closing, please take the time to provide us with some feedback about our profession and our programs here at Warnell. We look forward to hearing from you.
On the cover: Representing different careers, pictured from left to right (back row): Seth Sullivan, fisheries biologist; Price Barnett, forest business; Mary Reuter, Bear Hollow Zoo environmental educator; (front row) Krisha Faw, forestry consultant; and Gordon Grizzle, U.S. Forest Service. Photo by Wade Newbury

Table of Contents photo: Photos are courtesy of Kathleen Ann Garcia

The Log magazine staff:
Editor/Writer
Sandi Martin
Contributing Writer
Sarah Arnold
David Verdery
Todd Mullis
Senior Graphic Designer
Wade Newbury

How are we doing?
We welcome letters to the editor and feedback from our readers. Submit news items, questions or address changes to:
thalog@warnell.uga.edu
The Log
Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources
180 E. Green St.
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602

The Log is an Alumni Association publication. It is published twice a year in the fall and spring.

Warnell on the Web:
www.warnell.uga.edu

In compliance with federal law, including the provisions of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the University of Georgia does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, color, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, or military service in its administration of educational policies, programs, or activities; its admissions policies; scholarship and loan programs; athletic or other University-administered programs; or employment. In addition, the University does not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation consistent with the University non-discrimination policy. Inquiries or complaints should be directed to the director of the Equal Opportunity Office, Peabody Hall, 290 South Jackson Street, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602. Telephone 706-542-7912 (V/TDD). Fax 706-542-2822.

Warnell’s Timberdawgs placed third in the 2013 Lumberjack Day this fall. The annual competition, held at Rock Ranch south of Atlanta, took place on Oct. 5, and the UGA Forestry Club tied Clemson for the most overall 1st place finishes.

INDIVIDUAL PLACES:
1st place in log birling: Sam Varn
1st place in Jack and Jill crosscut: Robin Studdard and Cody Dunagan (9.7 seconds)
1st place in axe throwing: Dewey Sherrer
1st place in underhand chop: Robert Dangle (2 minutes and 15 seconds)
3rd place in knife throwing: Dewey Sherrer
3rd place in women’s crosscut: Robin Studdard and Kathleen Garcia (16.3 seconds)

The Timberdawgs are working hard preparing for the 2014 Southern Forestry Conclave, which will be hosted by Virginia Tech in March.

Features:
10 A teaching moment: New aquaponics system at local middle school offers unique learning opportunity
11 Cypress in Georgia: a limited resource or a new opportunity?
12 Valuable trout: Public value of trout fishing in Georgia almost $90 million
13 Tracking from orbit: New study looks at how satellites can be used to grow switchgrass
14 From student to professional: How Warnell is preparing students for life after graduation and how alumni can help

In every issue:
4 School News
8 Faculty Q&A: Kamal Gandhi
18 Student News
22 Alumni News: Tim MacKay, Alumni on the Job
27 A Word from the Alumni Office: Todd Mullis
28 Class Notes
32 Obituaries

School News

Faculty Q&A: Kamal Gandhi

Student News

Alumni News: Tim MacKay, Alumni on the Job

A Word from the Alumni Office: Todd Mullis

Class Notes

Obituaries

On the cover: Representing different careers, pictured from left to right (back row): Seth Sullivan, fisheries biologist; Price Barnett, forest business; Mary Reuter, Bear Hollow Zoo environmental educator; (front row) Krisha Faw, forestry consultant; and Gordon Grizzle, U.S. Forest Service. Photo by Wade Newbury
**Lumberjack Ball 2013**

Xi Sigma Pi’s annual Lumberjack Ball was a rousing success this past April. Students competed for bragging rights by making it through an obstacle course, arm wrestling, corn hole, tug-o-war, and the always popular Lumberjack and Lumberjill pageant. Some students paid to throw pies in professors’ faces, with the proceeds donated to Georgia Envirotion. The 2014 North American Envirothon competition will be hosted by the Warnell School next summer.

**Pictured are:** Dr. Gary Greer’s children take the opportunity to pie him in the face; Marv Griffin dons his best lumberjack duds for the pageant; and Katie McCollum, Erin Daughtrey, Rebekah Tuck, and Gordon Grizzle line up for some pageant fun.

**Sustainable forestry work honored by Georgia Forestry Association**

The Georgia Forestry Association singled out a Warnell sustainable forestry coordinator for one of its highest honors at its annual convention this past summer, recognizing Donna Gallaher for her years of service to the industry. The advocacy organization also honored the committees she coordinates for, honoring its efforts to promote sustainable forestry in the state.

Gallaher, who is the coordinator for the Georgia Sustainable Forestry Initiative Implementation Committee, won the “Wise Owl” award from the organization, only the second woman to be given the honor in its 15-year history. The Georgia Sustainable Forestry Initiative’s Implementation Committee won the “Evergreen Award,” just the third time it has been awarded to an organization that has made a significant impact on the forestry community. The SFI encourages responsible forestry management so that we can meet the needs of the present without compromising future generations’ own needs. It promotes a balanced coexistence between the management and business of forestry, and recently raised more than $110,000 to build a Habitat for Humanity home and for creating a documentary, “The Sustainable Forest — A Georgia Success Story.”

Gallaher was chosen for the Wise Owl honor for her years of service and contributions to the forestry community. Gallaher said she was shocked by winning the Wise Owl award, but deeply appreciative. “I am humbled to have been chosen for such an incredible honor,” Gallaher said. “The Wise Owl Award has been given to people who have truly made such positive impacts on the forest community — people I very much admire. To be included in this group is an amazing surprise.” The Wise Owl Award has been given out since 1980. Previous Warnell winners include Center for Forest Business Director Bob Izlar and Professor Dale Greene. Several Warnell alumni have also been given the honor.

 Warnell donates research sturgeon to Atlanta Community Food Bank, Tennessee Aquarium

When Dr. Doug Peterson wrapped up a sturgeon swim study this past summer, the Warnell School associate professor normally would have been required to dispose of the fish in the landfill. But only their swimming ability was tested. Peterson said, so the quality of the meat from the sturgeon was perfectly fine. So with the blessing of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which funded his project, Peterson bucked disposal tradition. Instead of tossing them in the trash, the fisheries and aquaculture researcher helped donate 1,900 pounds of sturgeon to the Atlanta Community Food Bank. Three live sturgeons were also donated to the Tennessee Aquarium.

So rather than rotting away in a landfill, the sturgeon fed the poor and — once they get bigger — will be awaiting visitors to the River Giants Exhibit. “We didn’t just want these sturgeons to be thrown out,” Peterson said. “The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service really wanted to put them to good use, and Inland Seafood was happy to help make that happen.”

Peterson first obtained a hundred 35-pound sturgeons from a private California fish farm in 2011 to evaluate their swimming performance after the removal of a pectoral fin ray. Researchers commonly use this procedure to obtain a non-lethal bone sample that can be used to determine a fish’s age. After collecting the fin ray, researchers typically release sturgeon back into the water.

But Peterson believed this fin ray removal could affect the sturgeons’ swimming abilities and, consequently, their survival. His study focused on a less invasive method that requires a small biopsy of the fin ray rather than the entire appendage. His team conducted swimming trials at the Cohutta Fisheries Center in northwest Georgia, and preliminary results suggest the new fin ray biopsy method is much less invasive, has fewer negative effects on the fish’s swimming ability, and that the biopsied tissue actually grows back within about six months.

Once Peterson was done, 95 of the sturgeon were transported to Inland Seafood, the Atlanta-based distributor that also sells UGA Premium Siberian Sturgeon Caviar. Using strict Food and Drug Administration rules, Inland Seafood then processed the sturgeon for consumption, yielding about 950 pounds of high-quality fillets for a total value of $9,025. The sturgeon’s protein content was welcomed by the food bank, which said that families struggling to afford food typically opt for canned nonperishables that are less expensive. High-quality protein is usually absent from their diets.

Inland Seafood then processed the sturgeon for consumption, yielding about 950 pounds of high-quality fillets for a total value of $9,025. The sturgeon’s protein content was welcomed by the food bank, which said that families struggling to afford food typically opt for canned nonperishables that are less expensive. High-quality protein is usually absent from their diets.

The Tennessee Aquarium will display the three remaining live sturgeons once they are big enough. Currently, they are only about 30 pounds each, but the aquarium hopes to display them within a year in the 90,000-gallon tank in the River Giants exhibit, which features freshwater fish that grow to enormous proportions in the wild.

**When Dr. Doug Peterson wrapped up a sturgeon swim study this past summer, the Warnell School associate professor normally would have been required to dispose of the fish in the landfill. But only their swimming ability was tested. Peterson said, so the quality of the meat from the sturgeon was perfectly fine. So with the blessing of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which funded his project, Peterson bucked disposal tradition. Instead of tossing them in the trash, the fisheries and aquaculture researcher helped donate 1,900 pounds of sturgeon to the Atlanta Community Food Bank. Three live sturgeons were also donated to the Tennessee Aquarium.**

**Sustainable forestry work honored by Georgia Forestry Association**

The Georgia Forestry Association singled out a Warnell sustainable forestry coordinator for one of its highest honors at its annual convention this past summer, recognizing Donna Gallaher for her years of service to the industry. The advocacy organization also honored the committee she coordinates for, honoring its efforts to promote sustainable forestry in the state.

Gallaher, who is the coordinator for the Georgia Sustainable Forestry Initiative Implementation Committee, won the “Wise Owl” award from the organization, only the second woman to be given the honor in its 15-year history. The Georgia Sustainable Forestry Initiative’s Implementation Committee won the “Evergreen Award,” just the third time it has been awarded to an organization that has made a significant impact on the forestry community. The SFI encourages responsible forestry management so that we can meet the needs of the present without compromising future generations’ own needs. It promotes a balanced coexistence between the management and business of forestry, and recently raised more than $110,000 to build a Habitat for Humanity home and for creating a documentary, “The Sustainable Forest — A Georgia Success Story.”

Gallaher was chosen for the Wise Owl honor for her years of service and contributions to the forestry community. Gallaher said she was shocked by winning the Wise Owl award, but deeply appreciative. “I am humbled to have been chosen for such an incredible honor,” Gallaher said. “The Wise Owl Award has been given to people who have truly made such positive impacts on the forest community — people I very much admire. To be included in this group is an amazing surprise.” The Wise Owl Award has been given out since 1980. Previous Warnell winners include Center for Forest Business Director Bob Izlar and Professor Dale Greene. Several Warnell alumni have also been given the honor.

**Sustainable forestry work honored by Georgia Forestry Association**

When Dr. Doug Peterson wrapped up a sturgeon swim study this past summer, the Warnell School associate professor normally would have been required to dispose of the fish in the landfill. But only their swimming ability was tested. Peterson said, so the quality of the meat from the sturgeon was perfectly fine. So with the blessing of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which funded his project, Peterson bucked disposal tradition. Instead of tossing them in the trash, the fisheries and aquaculture researcher helped donate 1,900 pounds of sturgeon to the Atlanta Community Food Bank. Three live sturgeons were also donated to the Tennessee Aquarium.

So rather than rotting away in a landfill, the sturgeon fed the poor and — once they get bigger — will be awaiting visitors to the River Giants Exhibit. “We didn’t just want these sturgeons to be thrown out,” Peterson said. “The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service really wanted to put them to good use, and Inland Seafood was happy to help make that happen.”

Peterson first obtained a hundred 35-pound sturgeons from a private California fish farm in 2011 to evaluate their swimming performance after the removal of a pectoral fin ray. Researchers commonly use this procedure to obtain a non-lethal bone sample that can be used to determine a fish’s age. After collecting the fin ray, researchers typically release sturgeon back into the water.

But Peterson believed this fin ray removal could affect the sturgeons’ swimming abilities and, consequently, their survival. His study focused on a less invasive method that requires a small biopsy of the fin ray rather than the entire appendage. His team conducted swimming trials at the Cohutta Fisheries Center in northwest Georgia, and preliminary results suggest the new fin ray biopsy method is much less invasive, has fewer negative effects on the fish’s swimming ability, and the biopsied tissue actually grows back within about six months.

Once Peterson was done, 95 of the sturgeon were transported to Inland Seafood, the Atlanta-based distributor that also sells UGA Premium Siberian Sturgeon Caviar. Using strict Food and Drug Administration rules, Inland Seafood then processed the sturgeon for consumption, yielding about 950 pounds of high-quality fillets for a total value of $9,025. The sturgeon’s protein content was welcomed by the food bank, which said that families struggling to afford food typically opt for canned nonperishables that are less expensive. High-quality protein is usually absent from their diets.

Inland Seafood then processed the sturgeon for consumption, yielding about 950 pounds of high-quality fillets for a total value of $9,025. The sturgeon’s protein content was welcomed by the food bank, which said that families struggling to afford food typically opt for canned nonperishables that are less expensive. High-quality protein is usually absent from their diets.

The Tennessee Aquarium will display the three remaining live sturgeons once they are big enough. Currently, they are only about 30 pounds each, but the aquarium hopes to display them within a year in the 90,000-gallon tank in the River Giants exhibit, which features freshwater fish that grow to enormous proportions in the wild.
Warnell welcomes two new professors to the team

The Warnell School has grown by two professors. Drs. Richard Chandler and Puneet Dwivedi have joined on conservation-poverty-energy issues in developing sustainable utilization of woody feedstocks for bioenergy research.

Richard Chandler

Title: Assistant Professor of Wildlife Management
Education: BS ’02, University of Vermont
MS ’06, PhD ’11, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Dr. Richard Chandler joins the Warnell faculty as an assistant professor of wildlife management. He was most recently a postdoctoral research associate with the U.S. Geological Survey, but has also been a research assistant at the University of Massachusetts, where he earned two degrees. An accomplished author or co-author of dozens of journal publications, Chandler has won several awards, including recognition by the U.S. Forest Service for efforts to protect migratory birds and their habitats. Chandler said his research interests focus on understanding the effects of forest management and agricultural practices on wildlife population dynamics. He is currently co-instructing JANR 6750 (Experimental Design) with Dr. Bob Cooper and will be teaching Applied Population Dynamics in the spring. “The caliber of the faculty and the students makes Warnell the ideal place for me to conduct applied ecological research and influence the next generation of natural resource managers,” Chandler said. “It’s an honor to be a part of such a great school.”

Puneet Dwivedi

Title: Assistant Professor of Sustainability Sciences
Education: BE ’03, Devi Ahilya University, Indore, Madhya Pradesh
MBA ’05, Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
PhD ’10, University of Florida

Dr. Puneet Dwivedi comes to the Warnell School from a postdoctoral research associate position with the Energy Biosciences Institute at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Before that, he was a Climate and Energy Institute postdoc fellow at Yale University’s School of Forestry and Environmental Studies for two years. He is an accomplished author or co-author of dozens of journal publications, including recognition by the U.S. Forest Service for efforts to protect migratory birds and their habitats. Chandler said his research interests focus on understanding the effects of forest management and agricultural practices on wildlife population dynamics. He is currently co-instructing JANR 6750 (Experimental Design) with Dr. Bob Cooper and will be teaching Applied Population Dynamics in the spring. “The caliber of the faculty and the students makes Warnell the ideal place for me to conduct applied ecological research and influence the next generation of natural resource managers,” Chandler said. “It’s an honor to be a part of such a great school.”

Castleberry named assistant dean of Warnell School

Dr. Steven Castleberry, one of Warnell’s most popular wildlife professors, has been named assistant dean of academic affairs. The new position means Castleberry will cut back on his research to tackle the new administrative duties, becoming more involved in student services and academic development. “As an alumnus, I am excited about the opportunity to give back to Warnell,” Castleberry said. “Warnell has given so much to me, both as a student and faculty member.”

Sarah Covert, associate dean for academic affairs, said the new assistant dean position was created to better ensure the school’s administration of student services and to broaden the number of Warnell faculty with administrative experience. “Steven is an excellent addition to our administrative team,” Covert said. “His previous work as a highly engaged club supervisor and as chair of the Honors and Awards committee makes him particularly well prepared for an expanded role in student services.”

Warren wins national wildlife teaching award

Dr. Robert Warren recently won the 2013 Excellence in Wildlife Education Award, a prestigious national award from The Wildlife Society that recognizes exemplary teaching of wildlife education. Warren, a Josiah Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professor, accepted his award at the organization’s annual conference in Milwaukee in October.

Warren, who teaches wildlife ecology and management, said he was surprised and humbled to receive the award, given out for just the first time in 2011. “Helping to educate and advise students as they strive to become wildlife professionals has always been the most rewarding part of my work at UGA,” he said. “Therefore, to receive this national-level recognition from my professional peers is absolutely the greatest honor that I could receive in my career as a university wildlife educator.”

This national teaching award recognizes faculty members who have taught undergraduate or graduate courses related to wildlife education, excelling in both the classroom and the professional development of the students eager to enter wildlife fields. Sarah Covert, Warnell’s associate dean for academic affairs, said Warren possesses a unique teaching style that incorporates the key critical thinking skills that future graduates need. “Dr. Warren is a superb teaching-scholar whose focus throughout his 34-year career has been on the education of wildlife students,” Covert said. “Above all, he has excelled in the classroom and supported the professional development of countless wildlife students in very personal ways.”

Warren, who has been with the Warnell School since 1983, has been a certified wildlife biologist since 1982, and he is heavily involved with the state, regional and national levels of The Wildlife Society. He focuses his research on the ecology and management of wildlife populations, particularly in urban and suburban areas. He also researches predation, wildlife damage management, and wildlife genetics. Dean Mike Clutter said the recognition is well deserved. “It recognizes what we here at Warnell have known for many years — he is simply one of the best natural resources educators on this planet,” Clutter said. “Thanks Bob for all that you do for Warnell and our profession.”
Now the emerald ash borer, another tree killer, has spread from the Midwestern U.S. to Georgia. How worried should we be about this invasive species?

Emerald ash borer has killed tens of millions of ash trees in the northeastern region of the U.S., and so it is a major pest species that kills ombrotrophic trees. Estimates indicate that ash trees are a minor component of our forested landscapes in Georgia. However, ash trees (especially green ash) have been widely planted in urban areas. Both urban for- esters and property owners should keep a lookout for dieback of ash trees, and promptly report health issues to the state agencies.

Loblolly trees aren’t the only pines in danger. What are scale insects doing to white pines, and what has your research shown about them told you?

We are finding that relatively higher temperatures along with heat waves found in the southern-most range of the Appalachians may adversely affect the survivorship of hemlock woolly adelgid. This may mean that hemlock trees at relatively lower elevations may persist for a longer period of time, al- lowing us to use these trees for regen- eration activities and establishment of released biocontrol agents.

You’re also looking at management issues. How effective is biocontrol of the exotic wood- wasp turning out to be?

The exotic woodwasp is currently not in the southeastern U.S. However, studies in the northern latitudes and in Southern Hemisphere where the woodwasp has been introduced indicates that parasitoid wasps can be an effective biocontrol agent. Our studies have focused on the host preference of the exotic woodwasp on the endemic southern pines, and to find better ways to trap and rear parasitoids for effective biocontrol methods in the future.

You do a lot of work on pine health issues, including ambrosia beetles. What have you found about these exotic wood-boring ambrosia beetles that Georgia landowners should be prepared for?

I would suggest that Georgia landown- ers attempt to reduce stress on their trees and monitor their for any unusual signs of mortality. Signs of ambrosia beetles would include toothpick-like boring dust and small holes on bark, and tree symptoms would include branch dieback, reduction in growth, and mortality. Reports can be made directly to forest health specialists at either the University of Georgia or Georgia Forestry Commission so that the presence of exotic ambrosia beetles could be verified.

Third time’s the charm: Longtime Associate Dean Jim Sweeney retiring

Jim Sweeney is retiring again, but this time Warnell’s associate dean swears it’s going to stick. Technically, this will be the third time Sweeney has tried retirement, but at 67 he said it’s time to move from working at Warnell to supporting the school from the sidelines. “What’s he going to do with all his new free time? Nothing,” Sweeney joked. “And when I get tired of doing nothing, I plan to do nothing for a while longer!”

Sweeney will leave a big hole on the fourth floor of Building 4, where he’s been housed for the past 11 years, overseeing the school’s research and service. He even served as interim dean for more than a year after former Dean Amett Mace became UGA’s Provost. Dean Mike Clutter said Sweeney will be missed. “I wish to thank Dr. Sweeney for his many years of service to Warnell and our profession,” he said. “Jim has had a superlative career as a wildlife biologist, policymaker and colleague doting his many years in the public and private sectors. We will miss his wisdom and sage advice here at Warnell.”

Sweeney’s foray into forestry began with a career placement test in high school. He and his twin brother, John, grew up in Baltimore, Md., and Sweeney had intended to become an engineer, inspired by the space race of the 1960s. But that test indicated that both he and John would be happy in a natural resources field, a novel idea to two teens who’d grown up in the city. They went with it, and both attended UGA. John retired from Clemson University as associate dean of the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences in 2009, Sweeney said. “Now it’s his turn.”

Sweeney has two degrees from the Warnell School — BSF ’67 and MS ’71 — and earned his Ph.D. from Colorado State University in 1975. He’s worked in both the public and private sector, and his career includes a stint in the U.S. Forest Service, several years as director of wildlife issues for the American Forest and Paper Association in Washington, D.C., and later as wildlife manager for Champion International Corporation, where he directed the fisheries and wildlife program on 5.5 million acres of commercial forest land. He’s an author of more than 75 articles, is an invited presenter at scientific meetings and workshops, and has been on national committees on everything ranging from biodiversity to the Endangered Species Act. He returned to Warnell when Champion International was taken over by International Paper Company, and he and wife Sheila made themselves at home in Georgia.

Sweeney says he’s retiring, but he has no plans to disappear from Warnell. “I am a Double Dawg, and I do plan to continue to be an active alum of the Warnell School and UGA,” he vowed.
New aquaponics food production system comes online at Athens middle school

Joint UGA-Boy Scouts project a new learning tool for middle schoolers

Robby Ratajczak was looking for a Boy Scouts project this past summer, but he didn’t have to look far for inspiration: his dad’s work. Bob Ratajczak, a Warnell research coordinator, talked a lot about the new aquaponics food production systems he’d helped build in Whitehall Forest and at UGA’s UGArden. The simple, yet elegant, systems use basic supplies including a fish tank, filters, PVC pipe and grow beds. Fish waste feeds and nurtures plants, which cleans the water for the fish. “I was pretty excited, because Dad is always working with it,” the 13-year-old Ratajczak said. “So I wanted to incorporate it into my Boy Scouts Life project.”

So he built an aquaponics system at Hilsman Middle School with the help of his dad, some fellow Boy Scouts from Troop 22, and basic equipment and tilapia from Warnell. Now the middle school not only has a unique teaching tool for students, but Warnell students are developing lesson plans for teachers to use in science and math classes. It’s an amazing opportunity for the school, said Selena Blankenship, principal of Hilsman Middle School. “The lessons that are developed around it are interdisciplinary, and the kids love it,” she said.

An aquaponics food production system works like this: Tilapia growing in a tank produce waste into the water. This water flows out of the tank first through a filter to remove solids — uneaten food and feces — and then into gravel-filled grow beds where beneficial bacteria convert the dissolved waste into non-toxic nitrate. This nitrate is then taken up by the roots of plants in the beds. The water, cleaned by the plants, then flows out of the beds and gets pumped back to the tilapia tank to start the cycle over. The Hilsman Middle School system consists of a 200-gallon tank with 55 tilapia and two 10-foot-long grow beds filled with flourishing tomato, lettuce, cabbage, broccoli and strawberry plants. Three Warnell students — Kevin Dunn, Kathy Riordan and Alex Vann — are developing lesson plans Hilsman science teachers can use with the system.

Bringolf is excited about the possibilities an aquaponics system offers for research into sustainable food production — and how Hilsman Middle can use it to teach students about everything from biology to agriculture to math. “The deepest levels of learning occur when information is combined with hands-on experience,” he said. “A system like this provides students with a unique and valuable opportunity to connect the theories they learn in the classroom with something tangible — and edible.”

Cypress in Georgia: A limited resource or a new opportunity?

Cypress trees are common in the Coastal Plain from Delaware to Texas, and more than three million acres of cypress-tupelo forests are in Florida, Louisiana and Georgia. Georgia has an estimated 24.8 million acres of forestland and cypress forests make up just over 1 percent of that land, about 300,000 acres. Around 250,000 of those acres are privately owned.

Cypress lumber is relatively resistant to decay and it is valued for structural lumber, shingles and paneling. Cypress mulch for use in landscaping was largely considered a by-product of these other products until the 1990s. However, in the last 20 years cypress mulch has become a very popular landscaping material. The value of cypress mulch increases each year, and this low-value by-product has become a major forest product in its own right.

As the popularity of cypress mulch has grown, so has concern that cypress is being overharvested and it is not regenerating. Regeneration of cypress, whether by natural seedling and sprouting or by planting, requires a specific combination of moisture conditions. Moist — but not flooded — conditions are necessary for seedling and sprout regeneration to become established but, afterward, flooding gives cypress a competitive advantage. The debate about cypress, whether it is being overharvested, whether it is regenerating and whether it is being sustainably managed is ongoing. So, Dr. Larry Morris and Research Coordinator Lee Ogden are concluding a study of cypress use and management in Georgia.

Morris and Ogden are trying to find out what’s going on in Georgia’s cypress resource by surveying landowners and registered foresters about their harvesting and regeneration practices and their perceptions about changes in cypress availability. With funding from the National Council on Air and Stream Improvement and the cooperation of the Georgia Forestry Commission, they hope to answer some of the questions surrounding the harvesting of cypress. They are most interested in finding out how many landowners harvest and manage cypress, when and how cypress is harvested and what landowners are doing to encourage regeneration. “There’s a perception out there that cypress will regenerate itself, and that’s not always the case,” Ogden said. Ogden said they mailed surveys to approximately 1,400 landowners and 350 registered foresters in Georgia, and so far they’ve received 460 back — 123 from landowners with cypress on their property, and 337 with no cypress. Surveys from registered foresters are still filtering back in, she said. They are planning on completing their work this fall and will have a report available early next year.
Public value of trout fishing in Georgia almost $90 million, new Warnell study finds

By SARAH ARNOLD

I magine standing in the middle of a pristine mountain stream. It’s the first weekend of March. The air is cold enough to make your cheeks tingle, but you don’t mind. All you’re focused on is the rhythmic, arcing swing of your fly rod as you try to get that perfect cast. You’ve been coming to this same spot in the mountains to go trout fishing. They bring friends, they enjoy themselves, and they also spend money.

But just how valuable is trout fishing? With trout management agencies facing tighter budgets and trout habitat under threat from pollution and stream warming, it is now financially challenging to provide enough trout fishing to meet demand. Dr. Neelam Poudyal, a natural resources recreation and tourism professor in Warnell, teamed up with graduate student Adrienne Dorison, a then-Warnell M.S. student, and U.S. Forest Service adjunct professor at Warnell programs. “It looks like a lot of wasted space. Between rows and gaps of pine trees lies lots of potential for growing switch grass, but only if landowners can make sure the trees don’t suffer from water competition. Researchers at the Warnell School are taking a long look at whether growing switch grass between pines will affect loblolly forest growth — a really long look. They want to know if one can use satellites to track water usage in pine forests, and thus the health of trees who are sharing space with bioenergy crops.

The project, jointly funded by Chevron and Weyerhaeuser Company, is seeking out the best way to use satellite imagery to tell landowners and researchers whether a loblolly pine is OK, or if the switchgrass planted in its row is using up too much of the water moving through the system. It’s a valid concern, said Kyle Dalton, a Ph.D. student in the Warnell School. Bioenergy crops are already being planted on a large scale as demand for alternative energy increases, and many companies are looking for ways to use existing forests to grow them, maximizing growth in space they already own.

But it’s not clear yet how these biofuel crops can affect environmental conditions within pine plantations, including altering the water balance or soil conditions. The biggest concern is that switch grass would drastically alter evapotranspiration rates, or how much water vapor leaves plants through transpiration, the canopy density, and canopy temperature.

If researchers can successfully translate the satellite imagery into applied data, Dalton said, there are a number of advantages to this method, including the ability to measure large areas that would normally be a time-consuming and labor-intensive task. For example, it would take two people working full time to adequately measure just two watersheds, whereas a remote measuring system would allow them to measure an entire state in just one day. “The method is rapid and scalable,” Dalton said. “It can be done quickly but also at a much higher return rate. The equipment purchase and upkeep costs are no longer a factor in monitoring remotely. If you can see it you can measure it.”

Orbiting Switchgrass: Can satellite imagery predict effects on pines?

The project began last year on several sites in North Carolina, Alabama and Mississippi with Drs. Sudhamshu Panda at the University of North Georgia, Devendra Amatya at the U.S. Forest Service, and Warnell’s Rhett Jackson leading this part of overall project. Some sites have switchgrass planted between pine trees, whereas others have just the natural understory, and researchers are monitoring environmental conditions as the crop grows. Researchers also visit the sites every three weeks to physically collect samples and monitor conditions. And in a new, innovative approach, they’re incorporating satellite and aerial imagery, they can estimate the evapotranspiration, how much water vapor leaves plants through transpiration, the canopy density, and canopy temperature.

If researchers can successfully translate the satellite imagery into applied data, Dalton said, there are a number of advantages to this method, including the ability to measure large areas that would normally be a time-consuming and labor-intensive task. For example, it would take two people working full time to adequately measure just two watersheds, whereas a remote measuring system would allow them to measure an entire state in just one day. “The method is rapid and scalable,” Dalton said. “It can be done quickly but also at a much higher return rate. The equipment purchase and upkeep costs are no longer a factor in monitoring remotely. If you can see it you can measure it.”
They’re also determined to help students find jobs.

Atkins, who earned his BSFR in 2012 and is now wrapping up his master’s degree in forest resources, has had three internships, the latest with Plum Creek Timber Company. And he credits the people working behind the scenes at Warnell with helping him land all three — and the full-time job that awaits him. “Because of the time and effort the Warnell staff put in, I seized an opportunity and was hired full-time at the completion of my academic career,” he said.

College students — and their parents — are understandably concerned about job prospects once graduation rolls around, as the United States’ unemployment rate has been tied to the rocky economy. And while a college degree at one time all but guaranteed employment, that’s not the case anymore, with the percentage of college graduates out of work hovering around the national unemployment rate. Although other colleges on campus try to help students find jobs post-graduation, Warnell has been stepping up its efforts to put jobs and employment opportunities out there — it’s just up to students to take advantage of it all. Warnell may be one of the few colleges on campus who has student services staff members dedicated to helping students find jobs — and that’s before professors and alumni relations and graduate student staff get involved.

And the list of what they do is long. Warnell’s student services staff sends out information about internships, post-job openings on Warnell’s job board, hold professional development workshops and classes, and encourage students to join the professional societies — all year long. Staff members will even look at a student’s — or alumna’s — resume and give advice on how to improve it. Even better, they also recruit alumni to mentor current students and bring employers, who are often alumni, here to recruit for jobs. Networking, said Student and Career Services Coordinator Ami Flowers, is absolutely key to landing a job after graduation, and every year she urges students to attend Roundtable. Held every year by the student chapter of the Society of American Foresters, Roundtable is a popular networking event where students can meet the professionals out in the field now who may be looking to hire. If a student isn’t taking advantage of all of Warnell’s job-related services, Flowers said, they’re missing out. “Their tuition funds the student services staff, which is put in place for them to use,” Flowers said. “We are free to them, so if they’re not taking advantage of it they are not taking advantage of the benefits of attending a major university. We are literally here for them.”

Will Burge certainly took notice. Last spring, the senior said, it hit home that he really needed some experience on his resume. He’d wanted to do an internship the summer before that, but had to take a class. Staff members like Flowers, Burge said, are pretty persistent in letting students know about internships, post-job openings, and that’s before professors and alumni relations and graduate student staff get involved.

Daniel Atkins thought he knew what he was getting into when he enrolled at the Warnell School. “Go to class, pay attention, memorize notes, pass exam,” he said. Most schools at UGA teach you to do one thing, he said: Pass tests. But he quickly learned that Warnell was “one of a kind,” and certainly not what he expected. “The goal of every teacher is to prepare you to be a leader within your chosen profession,” Atkins said. “The faculty and staff at Warnell is top tier, second to none in their backgrounds, experience, and overwhelming desire to mold young professionals into future leaders of our natural resources.”
and doing office work two days a week until he graduates in December with his BSFR. After that, he said, he plans to attend graduate school, possibly in Maine. After that, “Internships are very beneficial, and it exposes you to the field of study, and it’s very practical,” Burge said. “In class you are learning about the concepts, but with internships, you’re tying it all together.”

A recent study proves the importance of internships. Although the unemployment rate for college graduates over the past several years has lowered as high as the 10 percent mark, some degrees are worth more in the job market than others, according to a recent study by Georgetown University. The study found that graduates holding degrees in agriculture and natural resources, as well as those in the sciences, had better luck finding jobs than those in other fields — and those unemployment numbers dropped considerably with experience and graduate degrees. A recent graduate in agriculture and natural resources, for instance, would fall into a group with 6.1 percent unemployment rate. Add in experience, and that number drops to 3.4 percent. With a graduate degree, the rate drops to 2.3 percent.

“Employers like to see applicants who have a degree in their discipline but also have first-hand experience in the field as well,” Flowers said. “Internships allow you to gain that professional experience while you are pursuing your degree. That study proves what we’ve known all along — internships are essential to getting hired.”

Kristen Black, a junior from Peachtree City, is already thinking about helping herself get hired after she graduates in the fall of 2015 with a degree in wildlife. She recently attended the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies as a student worker, networking for four days with potential future employers and seeking out advice. And she’s already applying for internships for next summer, even if it means missing out on an optional field course, because that’s what’s going to help her land a job, she said. “What are my future employers going to look for?” she asked. “A field course or an internship?”

In Warnell, the one major that practically guarantees employment is forestry. “We have more forestry jobs than we have students,” Flowers said. Emily Saunders, Warnell’s alumni relations and student leadership director, agreed. “Most forestry majors can easily get a job in forestry as a forester — whether it’s pursuing a MFR in forest business and working in a high rise in Atlanta or managing forestlands as a consultant. Our forestry majors are very marketable, especially if they are willing to travel.”

Many of Warnell’s forestry undergraduates do seek out a master’s degree, and that works out to their benefit, particularly if they earn an MFR through the Center for Forest Business. “The Center for Forest Business has compiled an enviable track record in graduate placement,” said Bob Izlar, director of the CFB. “Since the Center’s founding in 1997 and even before, we have been able to place 99 percent of our forest business graduate students in jobs. Many have had multiple job offers even before graduation. This speaks to the regard with which our degree program and graduates are held. At a recent meeting, I heard the cadre of our forest business alumni in the timberland investment world referred to as the ‘Warnell mafia.’ I take that as a complement to our efforts. It is a reflection of dedicated faculty and staff, an active advisory committee and supportive employers.”

Michael Westbrook (BSFR ’95, MS ’08), the Atlantic Region Manager for the Westervelt Company, has come back to Warnell to recruit future potential employers. Warnell students, he said, certainly have an advantage — although he admits to being biased toward his alma mater. “I think alumni mentoring is a great way for students to gain insight into business, but also a great way for alumni to serve the continued growth of their school,” Westbrook said. “Higher education has allowed alumni to become the person they are today and where they are today, so I think it is important they stay involved. The school we graduated from was defined by those who graduated before us, so we must refine it for those who graduate next.”

Warnell encourages its students to pursue internship opportunities during the summer to gain valuable field experience—some internships even lead to full-time positions or research opportunities in graduate school.

The accompanying graph indicates the number of students enrolled in the Warnell Internship and Practicum Course (Fanr3900/3910) for the past nine years and show the distribution by career field. Note: The graph does not reflect students who had summer internships, but chose not to enroll in the course.

### Natural Resources – Agriculture Graduates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unemployment Rates*</th>
<th>Graduates</th>
<th>Experience</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.1% recent graduates</td>
<td>3.4% with experience</td>
<td>2.3% with graduate degree</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Georgetown University study, 2013

### POST-GRADUATION PLANS FOR WARNELL STUDENTS

#### Undergraduate Students *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Career Field</th>
<th>Number of Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Job secured</td>
<td>32.94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attending grad school</td>
<td>21.18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Found temporary/seasonal jobs</td>
<td>16.47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent jobs</td>
<td>51.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Based on 85 survey responses, two weeks prior to graduation

#### Graduate Students *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Career Field</th>
<th>Number of Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Job secured</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attending grad school</td>
<td>32.94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Found temporary/seasonal jobs</td>
<td>21.18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent jobs</td>
<td>51.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Graduate student exit interviews conducted during last semester

#### Internships by Career Field

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Career Field</th>
<th>Number of Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture &amp; Forestry</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water &amp; Soil</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fisheries &amp; Wildlife</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interdisciplinary</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fall 2013
Graduate PROFILE

Kristin Kraseski

Kristin Kraseski took quite a circuitous route to Warnell. The Long Island native was studying psychology at Binghamton University when she realized that although she was very interested in research, she had no desire to do clinical work. So after the 29-year-old graduated with her bachelor’s in 2005, she took a year off to work at a wildlife refuge in Thailand because, “I wanted to have an experience living somewhere with local people and volunteering.” This didn’t spur a strong desire to work in wildlife — instead she was inspired to study water quality. There was such a lack of clean drinking water in Thailand, Kraseski said, that clean water was trucked in for use at the refuge. It was so eyeopening, she said. “Water quality is interesting because it influences all use of water, both from a human use perspective (drinking water, recreation, etc.) and from an ecosystem perspective,” Kraseski said. “Also I think it’s an interesting aspect of hydrology to study because as humans are often responsible for these changes in quality through pollution and land-use changes, and I think we have a responsibility to help mitigate some of these adverse effects. I think clean water is one of those basic human needs and it something a lot of people in this country often take for granted, but not everyone has access to it.”

Something a lot of people in this country often take for granted, I think clean water is one of those basic human needs and it’s something a lot of people in this country often take for granted, but not everyone has access to it. She’s trying to use temperature itself to quantify heat exchange in a controlled experiment, and she wants to figure out how long water has to remain in the hyporheic zone to have an appreciable effect on the resulting stream water temperature when it reenters the channel. “Studies have shown that hyporheic flow can often dampen out fluctuations in stream temperature by having an averaging effect,” Kraseski said, “for example by warming cooler stream water or cooling warmer stream water slightly, and this experiment would hopefully serve to better quantify those effects.”

Kraseski’s long-term goal is to work for a non-profit organization, already having gotten a taste for it while working for Wild Animal Rescue Foundation of Thailand and by fostering dogs for the Athens Area Humane Society. “I think that most jobs in the field can only hope to advance water quality in an applied way on a local scale, and I would imagine that working for a non-profit would be much, much more,” Kraseski said. “Projects on the local scale will probably be most achievable and effective, and are the scale that you are most likely to have an impact.”

Undergraduate PROFILE

Harry Sanders III

Family business spurs Warnell education

Logging just might be in Harry Sanders III’s blood. His grandfather was a logger. His father, Harry Sanders Jr., owns and operates Sanders Logging. So it’s no surprise that not only has the youngest Sanders been working for his dad for years, but he plans to return to Cochran, Ga., after graduation and immerse himself in the family business. His father would like to move into consulting, while “Little Harry” would like to handle the logging side. “He has been logging for more than 40 years, and it can take a toll on you,” Sanders said. “Logging when he first started was a lot of manual labor dealing with chainsaws because big machines weren’t invented. Returning home and joining the family business would take a lot of stress off him. In doing that, we have the potential to grow larger in the future because it will be the both of us instead of just him.”

Sanders, 21, transferred to Warnell last fall after attending Middle Georgia College in Cochran because he said he wanted a more well-rounded education and the networking connections UGA’s forestry school offers. He’s immersed himself in the Warnell family since enrolling, becoming the treasurer of the UGA Forestry Club, signing on to be a student ambassador, and serving on the Ducks Unlimited committee. He’s also a member of Alpha Gamma Rho, an agriculture-based fraternity, and is on its operational committee. Immersing himself into UGA and Warnell activities has really helped him become acclimated to living Cochran, Sanders said.

“Being involved in Warnell is one of the best decisions I made,” he said. “You meet all types of people in clubs that you could also potentially work with one day. It also opens you to many opportunities such as meeting representatives from big companies such as Plum Creek from guest lectures in the club meetings. Another thing is we have such helpful coordinators that can help you with anything from resumes, classes and even internships.”

Sanders has two sisters in Cochran, and he owns two dogs, a chocolate lab named Sadie and a dachshund named Costa. His first love will always be logging. He’s done it his whole life, he said. “From playing with little toy tractors to going to work with my dad.” Sanders said. “I loved riding the equipment when I was smaller because it made me feel on top of the world. Being around when I was smaller, I saw it was a way to take care of my family, a way to put bread on the table. But when I first got in my teens something snapped, and I fell in love with it.” I got a different outlook on logging. I knew when I grew up I wanted to be a logger. To me, there is nothing better in this world than seeing a load of wood leaving the woods that you know that you cut and hauled yourself.”
Alums, mentors helping undergrads find direction

An expanded fundraising project has spared new incoming professional students the burden of not purchasing $40 compasses, but it has also landed them mentors who will help guide them to successful careers post-graduation. With generous donations from alumni, the project raised enough money to supply 71 students this semester with compasses, required for the field measurement class. Also, 47 alums signed on to be mentors — offering wisdom, expertise and encouragement to our newest students.

As Warnell’s student body grows, the need for more contributions to the compass project fund increases — the incoming class of 2013 is three times the size of the Class of 2003. Meg Streich (BS ’10, MS ’12) didn’t hesitate to help out with the project. “As an alumna, I understand the importance of a good compass and an even better mentor,” Streich said. “While at Warnell, I was able to benefit from many mentors. I look forward to mentoring an undergraduate throughout this exciting time in their lives, and I hope that they enjoy their time at Warnell as much as I did!”

To be a mentor, one must donate $40 to purchase a compass for an incoming student, write a letter of welcome to their entering family with as much support and enthusiasm as this one!”

Interested in contributing to the compass project or becoming a mentor?
Contact: Emily Saunders
Director of Alumni Relations & Student Leadership
esander@uga.edu
(706) 542-1465

Warnell senior named UGA Student Employee of the Year

With more than 5,000 student workers on UGA’s campus, the annual National Student Employee of the Year competition is pretty intense. But Warnell student Menya Smith topped them all for the 2012-13 school year, placing first among the 100 top student workers recognized annually by the UGA Career Center. Smith, a Kennesaw native who has a pre-vet emphasis, said the award surprised her. “I am very happy that I received the award,” Smith said. “It really was an honor to just be nominated. I never expected that I would get as far as I did, but now of course I have to work even harder!”

Smith graduated from Kennesaw Mountain High School in 2009 and works as an at-large assistant to the pathology department at UGA’s College of Veterinary Medicine, doing laboratory work such as processing tissue research and diagnostic services, helping create teaching aids, and assisting office personnel. Drs. Keith Harris and Rita McMammon nominated her for the award.

Harris wrote in his nomination letter that Smith is thorough and reliable, and uses her student job “as an opportunity to further her own education through asking insightful questions about her work.” He also complimented her pleasant attitude and ability to work independently.

Smith, who is majoring in wildlife biology with a pre-vet emphasis, plans to attend the College of Vet Med after graduation.

Awards Banquet honors scholarship, award winners

Dozens of scholarships and award winners took the spotlight at the Warnell School’s 82nd Annual Spring Awards Banquet last April, thanking the donors who help fund their education through generous donations to scholarships. Also recognized at the awards banquet were faculty members who have won several recent distinguished honors. “The Warnell School and our students are very fortunate to have such generous donors whose financial support helps with tuition and other assistance for worthy pupils,” said Alumni Director Emily Saunders. “Our students, faculty and alumni and friends are the best. Thank you to everyone who supports our Warnell family!”

Trot Unlimited Cold Water Fisheries Scholarship
Garon Brandon & Seth Sullivan

U.S. Land and Farms, LLC Scholarship
Devon Baker

Knox and Kathryn Wyatt Memorial Forestry & Natural Resources Scholarship
Samantha York

Goodin J. Yancey Scholarship
Emily Jolly

Young Alumni Scholarship for Leadership & Scholarship
Price Barnett, Kevin Fouts, Jared Green, John Gross, Ben Harris, Cassandra Jamich, Beny Kuzmo-Berchaki, Ably Sterling, Jim Stickleler & Anna Taylor

AGHN
Rebekah Tuck

Blue Key Honor Society
Marian Griffin, Angela Mech & Rebekah Tuck

Outstanding Senior in Forestry
Ethan Robertson

Outstanding Senior in Wildlife
Ani Popp

Outstanding Student in Natural Resources Recreation and Tourism
Robyn Albrighton, Breezy Clay

Rotoact Student Service Award
Angela Mech & Ani Popp

Warnell Faculty Award
Michelle Webber

UGA Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award
Joanna Hart & Angela Mech

Warnell Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award
Brian Crawford & Sean Sterrett

Warnell Ambassador of the Year
Gordon Gayle

Warnell Outstanding Student of 2013
Ethan Robertson

B.E. Allen Scholarship
Gordon Grizzle

Alumni Scholarships
New Freshman: Hunter Pruitt, Jordan Sijler

New Professional: Samantha Dean, Beny Kuzmo-Berchaki, Shawn Mehrap
Continuing: Emily Jolly, Valerie Navarro, Mary Reuter, Clay Stroud, Rebekah Tuck & Michelle Webber

Earl D. & Wanda Taylor Bars
Entrepreneur and Leadership Scholarship
Daniel Arkins

Judith Fitzgerald Brooks Memorial Scholarship
Karleens Garcia & Jenny Staeben

E.L. Chevron Award
Jessica Gontyos-McGaugre

Georgia Forestry Association Foundation Fellowship
Matthew Reynolds

Fred W. Harrisburger Scholarship
Robin Straddick

Elmo C. Hester, Jr. Scholarship
Greg Gokalp

Hogan Graduate Support Scholarship
Verne Tran

Hal Hollier Forestry Scholarship
Serth Hawkins

Earl Jenkins/Gladys Beach Memorial Scholarship
Emily Jennings

Frederick C. Kinard, Jr., Scholarship
Shelby Sutton

Charles A. & Rose Lane Leavell Scholarship
Shannon Carrey & Cody Dunagan

Amstutz & Ruth Mace Memorial Scholarship
Corey Green

Martha Love May Memorial Scholarship
Kristen Black, Danielle Hernandez & Lauren Satterfield

Robert Goudling McAlpine Scholarship
Angela Mech

Arlene C. & Tilden L. Norris Endowed Scholarship
Mason Georze & Jennifer McDaniel

J. Reid Parker Memorial Merit Scholarship
Jessica Tihaw

Archie E. Patterson Endowed Scholarship
Sarah Arnold, Brian Crawford, Rebekah Tuck & Kelery Turner

Robert W. & June C. Porterfield Memorial Scholarship
David Stene

Ernie E. Purvost Scholarship
Jacob Dalton & Clay Stroud

N.E. Georgia Quail Unlimited Scholarship
Shef Sofferin

William Tyler Ray Scholarship
Newt Hayley Glassic, Elizabeth Hernandez & Natasha Peat
Continuing: Emily Amsley, Matt Atkinson, Alex Bond, Rachel King & Michelle MacKinstie

Gerald B. & Charlotte Alexander Saunders Scholarship
Dana Bloomer & Derek Robertson

Society of American Foresters, Georgia Division Scholarship
Marvin Griffin

Stoddard-Burleigh-Sutton Award, Excellence in Wildlife
April Conway & Brian Crawford

C.M. & Bernice C. Stripling Freshman Scholarship
Nicholas Stinks

Studorf Award Scholarship
Eva Drayton, Cassie Jordan & Kimin Vales

Superior Pine Products Scholarship
Serenia Larrison

H.M. “Mac” Thompson Scholarship
Brian Crawford & Sean Sterrett

William N. Thompson Distinguished Scholarship
William Bute

Trot Unlimited Cold Water Fisheries Scholarship
Garon Brandon & Seth Sullivan

U.S. Land and Farms, LLC Scholarship
Devon Baker

Knox and Kathryn Wyatt Memorial Forestry & Natural Resources Scholarship
Samantha York

Goodin J. Yancey Scholarship
Emily Jolly

Young Alumni Scholarship for Leadership & Scholarship
Price Barnett, Kevin Fouts, Jared Green, John Gross, Ben Harris, Cassandra Jamich, Beny Kuzmo-Berchaki, Ably Sterling, Jim Stickleler & Anna Taylor

AGHN
Rebekah Tuck

Blue Key Honor Society
Marian Griffin, Angela Mech & Rebekah Tuck

Outstanding Senior in Forestry
Ethan Robertson

Outstanding Senior in Wildlife
Ani Popp

Outstanding Student in Natural Resources Recreation and Tourism
Robyn Albrighton, Breezy Clay

Rotoact Student Service Award
Angela Mech & Ani Popp

Warnell Faculty Award
Michelle Webber

UGA Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award
Joanna Hart & Angela Mech

Warnell Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award
Brian Crawford & Sean Sterrett

Warnell Ambassador of the Year
Gordon Gayle

Warnell Outstanding Student of 2013
Ethan Robertson
What do you do for the Georgia Aquarium?
I work as an aquarist in the Ocean Voyager gallery. I take care of a variety of animals inside the world’s largest indoor enclosure, which is 6.3 million gallons and roughly the size of an American football field. Our trademark animals in Ocean Voyager are of course the world’s largest fish, the whale shark, as well as manta rays, mobulas, other elasmobranchs, and tetras. I also scuba dive inside this exhibit to perform routine maintenance and general upkeep.

Did you think you’d be doing this when you graduated?
I have wanted to work with animals since I was a young boy, but back then I was under the impression I’d be working in a zoo. When one of the world’s largest aquariums opens in your back yard, it was an opportunity I definitely could not pass up.

What’s the best part about your job?
I’d say knowing that I take care of the animals that put smiles and gawking faces on the guests that visit us. It’s extremely rewarding. Diving with sharks is a close second though.

How did you get the job at the Aquarium?
Through lots of time, hard work and determination to succeed in this field. I started off as a volunteer more than three years ago, and then I worked in various departments to get where I am now.

What advice would you give to a student interested in following in your footsteps?
I would tell them to stay dedicated to the dream and to always work hard. Some things that will help are interning now while they are in school, or at least volunteer to gain some experience. That way when they graduate they will know the right people.

What spurred your interest in a zoological/aquarium career?
Like I said, I have always been interested in working with animals, they are an important part of my life and will always be.

What are your ultimate career goals?
I would like to stay on this career path for a while and gradually move up the ladder and possibly even help run an aquarium or zoo one day. I would also like to work with polar bears at some point in my life.

Are there any personal goals you hope to reach in the next 10 years?
I would like to go to Australia and New Zealand to explore the local terrain and animal species. I also hope to witness a UGA Football National Championship within these next 10 years.

What’s your best job-related story?
One of the coolest things I get to do is feed one of our whale sharks while diving. We get to lead him around the exhibit using squeeze bottles, which is an amazing thing to experience. On a side note I did get to appear with Jeff Corwin in an episode of Ocean Mysteries; I grew up watching his shows on TV so this was very cool.

What is your best memory of Warnell?
My best memory of Warnell was just Warnell in general. It was an amazing school with amazing people. My classmates and I spent many long nights in that building studying for tests and doing projects. I am sure if we actually spent more time studying and working on the projects, we would not have had to spend as much time there, but we definitely had a good time together. One of my most exciting memories was being the only group to catch an alligator on one of our field trips with the WILD347/00 Techniques/Wildlife Class.

Name: Tim MacKay (BSFR ’10, Wildlife)
Occupation: Aquarist, Georgia Aquarium
Years doing that: One
Hometown: Lawrenceville, Ga.
Interesting Facts About Tim: I have a rescued Aussie/German Shepherd mix named Bailey, after UGA’s famous players, Boss and Champ Bailey. I play ultimate frisbee in the Atlanta Flying Disc League, and I’m an avid geocacher. My favorite animal is the polar bear.
A “Weekend” of fun, food for the Warnell family

Come back to Warnell — and bring your parents! Warnell Weekend, the school’s new open house for parents and alumni, is set for a third year of fun, as visitors are treated to tours, class lectures, food and the annual spring awards banquet. The third annual Warnell Weekend is set for April 4-5, 2014, and will coincide with the Spring Awards Banquet, a hog roast and a celebration for the 100th Year of the UGA Forestry Club. The Spring Awards Banquet will already be a big draw for parents, because the Warnell School honors students with scholarships and awards, while thanking the alumni and donors who make these educational funds possible.

The Society for Conservation Biology’s Invasive Species Hog Roast will be at Flinchum’s Phoenix, where the motto of the night will be “fighting invasive species one bite at a time,” but another main highlight of the event is a nature-themed art show. Visitors shouldn’t miss the UGA Forestry Club celebration of its 100th Year, which starts at 10 a.m. at Flinchum’s Phoenix on April 5. The 100 Year Celebration will feature a walking museum that displays club memorabilia since its inception, including photographs and forestry equipment through the generations. There will also be a time capsule ceremony at 5 p.m. to honor the industry and the Timberdaws. The Hog Roast will follow at 6 p.m., with a cake cutting to end the night. The Guests of Honor for the 100 Year Celebration are the Class of 1964.

“When students and alumni get together, it doesn’t take long for them to bond over their passions and stories,” said Emily Saunders, alumni director. “Although our technology and classes evolve, our core values, our outstanding faculty and the amazing learning opportunities we offer our students stay the same. Our students appreciate that the ‘Warnell experience’ is unlike anything at UGA, and I think parents yearn to have a piece of that.”

Attendees get to see Warnell’s famous small classes, the school’s state-of-the-art labs, and the vast research forest that distinguish us from other colleges at UGA.

PHILMONT TREK MEMORIES: ALUM GOES BACK TO BOY SCOUT RANCH TO HELP NEW GENERATION

By DAVID VERDERY (BSFR ’09)

Watching the sunrise over the plains from the Tooth of Time, my friends and I recounted our 10-day trek through the New Mexico mountains. We were hiking into basecamp that day swearing we would each eat an entire pizza for dinner and never touch an energy bar again. We were 14 and had completed one of the greatest and most challenging trips of our lives. Now, 11 years later, I am married and have two energetic kids, but I still search for any opportunity to get back to Philmont. I have been a resource forester with Plum Creek Timber Company since August 2012, and life has been such an adventure over the past year: Moving from Georgia to Fordyce, Arkansas, starting a new and exciting career, and providing for a growing family. To add to the adventure, I found my opportunity and volunteered with Philmont Scout Ranch as a visiting forester for one week this past summer.

Philmont is a 137,500-acre Scouting Paradise situated on the edge of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains outside Camaroon, New Mexico, with peaks reaching well above tree line to higher than 12,000 feet. More than 950,000 scouts and scout leaders have trekked through Philmont since it opened in 1939, and it is the Boy Scout’s largest national High Adventure Base. Being involved in the Boy Scouts of America was a cornerstone of my childhood, as my dad, Tyler Verdery (BSFR ’78), was our Scout Leader growing up. We went on a trek to Philmont in 2002, and I went again in 2006 to work for the summer.

I enjoyed visiting Philmont again this year, but this time as a visiting forester. I appreciated seeing so many of the scouts interested in the management of our natural resources. The Visiting Forester Program was a great opportunity to inform scouts on the history and process of forestry, and to encourage them to enter into a natural resources profession. My dad and I decided that volunteering as visiting foresters would be a great opportunity to help the organization that meant so much to us both. The Visiting Forester Program provides for two foresters per week to stay at the Hunting Lodge, an interpretive backcountry camp, and walk to the demonstration forest every day to give an overview of forestry to crews hiking through. We spent most of our days at the forestry pavilion above Cathedral Rock — one of Philmont’s iconic views. We encountered an average of 250 scouts passing through each day. Our presentations consisted of topics such as tree structure, fire history, forestry instruments, and sustainability certifications. I explained that both Philmont and Plum Creek are Sustainable Forestry Initiative certified, but that each has distinctly different objectives. I showed the crews a 400 year-old Ponderosa Pine “cookie” with fire scars to illustrate that area’s fire history. Finally, the scouts could guess a tree’s age and then use an increment borer and count rings to determine its true age.

My experiences at Philmont made me realize not only the importance of managing our natural resources, but passing along the knowledge and passion for their continued management as well. Being involved in the Scouts was pivotal in my decision to enter into the forestry profession. The fundamentals I learned in the Scouts led to the knowledge acquired at Warnell, which led to its application in my career. I enjoyed being a part of that process for other scouts, and I cannot wait to get back to Philmont.
It seems like it was just yesterday I was contemplating which electives to take during my senior year of high school. One option was a forestry class that sounded interesting. Why not sign up? I was a small-town guy who grew up outdoors, and I loved hunting and fishing. Little did I know what a profound effect that simple choice I made as a 16-year-old would have on the rest of my life.

I am guessing many of you have a similar story about your introduction to forestry or to your particular field of natural resources management. A simple conversation with a teacher, forester, wildlife biologist, or other natural resources professional may have had a life-changing impact on you. I encourage you all to consider getting involved and returning the favor. There are numerous avenues to advance your profession and introduce natural resources management to children. Every school system in our state facilitates 4-H and National FFA clubs. Churches in every county support the Girl Scouts and The Boy Scouts of America. You could also contribute to the annual Billy Lancaster Forestry Youth Camp sponsored by the Georgia Division of Society of American Foresters. It is a wonderful summer camp that introduces middle school children to all aspects of forestry, wildlife, and natural resources. The camp is always in need of financial support and volunteers to work during camp week.

One obvious way to facilitate the advancement of your chosen natural resources profession and help our younger generation is to support the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources. On numerous occasions I have heard Dean Clutter mention that alumni repeatedly ask, “How can I help you and Warnell?” His consistent response is that Warnell could use “your time” and “your money,” with “your time” being as important, if not more important, than “your money.” This could mean serving on a Warnell committee or speaking to a club or class. You can host a lab in your area or visit a high school career day to share your own experiences at Warnell, hopefully inspiring students to consider Warnell for college. One of the best things an alumnus can do for Warnell is help the school recruit a new student, a future leader in the natural resources field. Please consider giving in one area or all!

As you reflect personally on your career in the natural resources area and what led you to pursue your education at the Warnell School, I encourage you to consider two things: Make it a priority to give back to your chosen professional area in some way. Students today should have just as many opportunities to work and learn in the outdoors as we did! We have a responsibility to make sure that today’s crop of new students have the same opportunities — if not more — than we did, and that takes the support of a strong alumni base. Secondly, share your personal story with those younger than you. It only takes one personal connection, one introduction, or one event to introduce a youngster to a field of interest that could make a huge difference in the rest of his or her life. This could ripple throughout the natural resources field, as that student could help make strides in the conservation and management of our forests, our wildlife, our rivers and oceans. It just takes one person, one class, or one introduction to make a difference in the world. Believe me, I know.
1960s

Dick Mass (BSFR '65) retired in 2000 from the Air National Guard. Mass was the national resource program manager, responsible for program developments and implementation of all Air National Guard installations in the 50 states, Puerto Rico, Guam and Samoa.

Mike Pelton (MS '65, PhD '68) was recently honored with The Wildlife Society’s top international award for a career in wildlife research, the Caesar Kleberg Award. His research in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park helped to modernize black bear management around the world. Pelton retired as a professor in the University of Tennessee’s Department of Forestry, wildlife and fisheries in 1999 but continued his bear research in the Smokies as professor emeritus until 2009. Pelton and his students improved capturing techniques and developed predictive habitat and population models that still guide bear biologists throughout the Southern Appalachians. Though retired, Pelton still keeps a busy schedule lecturing, attending wildlife conferences and campaigning for land conservation in the Shenandoah Valley.

Harold E. Burkhart (MS '67, PhD '69) was selected as Virginia Tech’s 2013 Alumni Alumni Awards’ Outstanding Scientist of 2013 by the Governor’s Office and the Science Foundation. Burkhart is an associate professor in the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation. During his tenure, in addition to the traditional fish and wildlife related topics such as setting seasons and limits, he addressed more controversial issues including wolf recovery and management, salmon hatchery reform, moving gillnetting off of the main stem of the Columbia River, rockfish conservation, and managing Giant Pacific Octopuses as Watchable Wildlife.

1970s

David Jennings (BSFR ’79) finished his B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries in 1999 but continued his bear research in the Smokies as professor emeritus until 2009. Pelton and his students improved capturing techniques and developed predictive habitat and population models that still guide bear biologists throughout the Southern Appalachians. Though retired, Pelton still keeps a busy schedule lecturing, attending wildlife conferences and campaigning for land conservation in the Shenandoah Valley.

1980s

Barry Parrish (BSFR ’81) has been named fiber procurement and sustainability manager with Georgia Biomass. He will be responsible for procuring fiber for the largest wood pellets plant in the world and maintaining its commitment to the highest sustainability standards as mandated by its European customers. He has been with Georgia Biomass since its start up in 2010. Prior to that, he spent 29 years with Smartfin Stone Corporation. He has two daughters, Bailey who will graduate from Stone University in Spring of 2014, and Andrea who will graduate from UGA in December 2013. He has resided in Waycross for 27 years.

1990s

Robert Schoen (MS ’97) recently had some excitement while updating the biological inventory at the U.S. Air Force Academy north of Colorado Springs. He and partner Jeremy Semmers discovered about a dozen globally rare Hops Blue butterflies in patches of wild hops. Schoen presented the background on the Colorado Natural Heritage Program, where he works, and the biology of this butterfly to Odell Brewery. Odell has since introduced a new beer to help the CNHP study the butterfly. The Celastrina Saison was released in May in celebration of the butterfly, with some portions donated to CNHP to fund Schoen’s research of the butterfly.

2000s

Scott Stanfill (BSFR ‘95) and wife Amber welcomed daughter Grace Katherine on Sept. 26, 2013. She weighed 6 pounds, 14 ounces and was 20 inches long. Stanfill is pursuing a masters of divinity degree from Asbury Theological Seminary and is an associate minister at Albany First United Methodist Church.

Chelsey Ford Miniat (PhD ‘04) has been named research project leader and ecologist in the Southern Research Station at the Center for Forest Watershed Research, stationed at the Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory. As project leader, Miniat directs and leads research at the Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory in Otto, N.C.; the Coldwater Fisheries and Center for Aquatic Technology Transfer in Blacksburg, Va.; the Center for Forested Wetlands at the Santee Experimental Forest in Cordesville, S.C.; and Savannah River Site in Aiken, S.C. Miniat’s job also requires her to manage the overall day-to-day operations of the Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory. Current staff size at this Laboratory is 29 employees, including eight University of Georgia employees located on site. Miniat directly supervises seven scientists, one research engineer, one technology transfer specialist, one hydrologist, and one business management assistant. She works with the scientists to set priorities, approve study designs and review work. Miniat graduated from the Georgia Institute of Technology with a B.S. in applied biology in 1997 and from the University of South Florida in 1999 with a M.S. in botany.

Britt Clack (BSFR ‘06) and husband Buck Clack welcomed daughter Carolina-Lee on April 24, 2013 at 9:36 p.m. She was 12 pounds, eight ounces and was 22 inches long. The family lives in McDonough, Ga.

Monica Moss Watkins (MS ‘08) and husband Jason welcomed son August Wiley Moss Watkins on Aug. 31, 2012. He was 8 pounds, 9 ounces and 20.75 inches long.

Garrett D. Mack (BSFR ‘09, MFR ‘11) has relocated to Atlanta to work for Forest Investment Associates as a portfolio analyst.

Morgen Ingerson (BSFR ’08, MNR ’10) and his wife Katherine welcomed baby boy Tristan “Morgen” Rahaim Ingerson on March 21, 2013, in Athens, Ga. He weighed 9 pounds 2 ounces, and was 21 inches long. Ingerson says, “Tristan is not only born a healthy baby boy, but is a strong and intelligent child. We are grateful to God for being blessed to have a son as we are grateful to celebrate 13 years of marriage. My bride is very and my daughter is elated for her brother. Tristan may be not only a future Warnell student and alumni, but also an outstanding student-athlete. Go Dawgs!”

Ingerson has a special request for his fellow alumni: He needs some help replacing school items he lost when Hurricane Isaac hit New Orleans and flooded his home. He lost all his original coursework materials, including flashdrives, notes and textbooks. If any fellow classmate has copies they could share, he’d really appreciate the help replacing these items. He’s specifically looking for items related to these courses: Intro to Fish and Wildlife Management, Natural Resources Economics, Society and Natural Resources, Wildlife Disease Management, Wildlife Damage Management, Silviculture, Regional Silviculture, Ornithology, Harvesting and Roads, Urban Tree Management, Timber Inventory, Timber Management, Mammalogy, Forest Mensuration, Herpology, and Wildlife Habitat Management. Email Morgen at ingersonm@gmail.com if you can help out!
Andrew Taylor (BSFR ’09, MS ’12) and Kaitlin Spooner (BS ’10, BSEd ’11) tied the knot in Athens, Ga., on July 13, 2013. They recently moved to Stillwater, Okla., where Andrew will be pursuing a Ph.D. in fisheries at Oklahoma State University and Kaitlin will be teaching mathematics at Stillwater Junior High.

Barrs named to 40 under 40 class of 2013

Andy Barrs (MFR ’02) has been named as a member UGA’s 40 Under 40 Class of 2013. The program recognizes alumni who are under the age of 40, demonstrate commitment to the University of Georgia, and have made an impact in business, leadership, community, educational and philanthropic endeavors. Recipients for the award are nominated by their peers, and an external selection committee reviews those nominations and chooses the new class of 40 Under 40. Barrs is an accomplished entrepreneur with a simple philosophy: “Have the courage to make mistakes and the resolve to continue moving forward. This world does not owe you anything. Life is not fair, and that is just the way it is.”

From May 2002 to the present, Barrs has been president and managing partner of Principle Centered Investments in Athens, a real estate investment company specializing in the investment of timberland and natural resources throughout the expanded southeastern United States. To date he has overseen the acquisition and management of more than 300,000 acres of timberland. In October 2006, Barrs co-founded and currently serves as the chief executive officer of PharmD on Demand, a business offering remote order entry, management and clinical pharmacy services to hospitals within Georgia, Tennessee and West Virginia. He oversees the daily sales and development of this company. In August 2008, he founded and serves as the president of Vega Media Partners, a business he franchised specializing in digital media software. Prior to founding Principle Centered Investments, PharmD on Demand, and Vega Media Partners, Barrs worked as a timber market analyst with TimberMart South and as a civil engineer with Jordan, Jones & Goulding, both in Athens. He attended Middle Georgia College, where he played baseball and studied pre-engineering. He graduated from Auburn University in 2000 with a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering and with a master’s degree in forest resources from Warnell in 2002. Barrs holds several professional licenses, serves as a guest lecturer at both Auburn University and the University of Georgia, and is a member of several professional and university related committees.
Frank C. Thornton

Frank C. Thornton (MS ’77), of Charlottesville, N.C., died May 11, 2013, from complications of multiple sclerosis. He was 60. The son of the late Kate Robinson Thornton and William Norman Thornton Jr., Mr. Thornton grew up in Charlottesville and graduated from the University of Virginia in 1975 with a degree in Environmental Science before graduating from the University of Georgia and then attending North Carolina State University, where he earned his Ph.D. in forest soils in 1981. Mr. Thornton held post-doctoral positions at the University of Waikato in Hamilton, New Zealand, and State University of New York in Syracuse. In 1986 he moved to Alabama to work as an environmental scientist with the Tennessee Valley Authority before returning to his hometown in 1999. Mr. Thornton was an active participant in the forest and rangeland soils division of the Soil Science Society of America and the environmental quality division of the American Society of Agronomy. His research on the impacts of acid precipitation and ozone on forest ecosystems were recognized as meaningful contributions to the most recent revision of the national ambient air quality standards. He was also a frequent participant in national and international meetings and represented the TVA on several regional and national working groups. Mr. Thornton will be remembered for his wicked sense of humor and the grace with which he accepted his MS. He loved a good cigar, a cold beer and blues music. He is survived by his son, Whitney B. Thornton and his wife Erika, their daughters, Elizabeth and Samantha; his son, Garrett W. Thornton, and their mother, Walker J. Thornton; brother William Norman Thornton III; niece Heather T. Holt; and nephew William N. Thornton IV.

Mitchell Loren Gandy

Mitchell Loren Gandy (BSFR ’82) died Oct. 18, 2013. He was 56. He was a graduate of UGA with a bachelor’s degree in forestry. He remained a Bulldog fan the rest of his life. Mitch went to work with the U.S. Forest Service after graduation, working on a research team out of the regional office. He later worked on National Forests in Georgia, Tennessee and Kentucky. In Tennessee he was assistant district ranger, and in Kentucky he was district ranger of the Red Bird District of the Daniel Boone National Forest. He was employed at the time of death as fire management and control officer. Mitch was an outstanding forest firefighter. He was on the regional fire team that was dispatched to large fires on several National Forests in the United States. He is survived by his wife Peggy Gandy of Hazard, parents Roy and Barbara Gandy of Royston, Ga., sister Beverly Steffel of Chesapeake, Va., brother Don Gandy of Sydney, Australia; daughter Lela Gandy of Athens, Tenn., sons Brad and Mark Gandy of Madisonville, Tenn.; two step-daughters, Sasha Hendon of Hazard, and Ashley Miller of Lexington. He has one grandson, three step-grandchildren.

Alexi J. “A. J.” Owens

Alexi J. “A. J.” Owens, of Lawrenceville, Ga., died accidently on August 17, 2013. He was 22. He is survived by his parents, Mike and Chris Owens, and sister Sam Owens all of Lawrenceville; maternal grandparents, Valerio and Florence Federici of Langhorne, Penn.; aunts, uncles, cousins, other relatives and a host of friends. A.J. was born on July 17, 1991, in Durham, N.C. He was a survivor of brain cancer and was a 2009 graduate of Brookwood High School where he was a member of the ECOS Club. He attended Georgia Gwinnett College and was a junior at Warnell majoring in Fisheries and Wildlife. A.J. loved fishing and being outdoors. This kind, wonderful and resilient young man will be deeply missed by his family and friends. It would have been A.J.’s request to be laid to rest among nature.
LOOKING FOR GREAT EMPLOYEES?

SEARCH NO FURTHER!

Warnell’s online job postings can put you in touch with the talent and skill you need.

email your job posting to
ami@uga.edu