A Consummate Professional:
Jim Alfriend
2007 Distinguished Alumnus
The Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources continues to grow and prosper thanks to our students, faculty, staff, alumni and supporters. Last fall, I mentioned that we were planning several new faculty hires to fill vacant positions in Forest Ecology (Ron Hendrick’s former position), Forest Finance (Mike Clutter’s former position), and Forest Economics replacing the retired professor Coleman Dangerfield. Additionally, our ongoing search for a Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar in Forest Biotechnology has come to a successful end. We are most pleased to announce that Warnell has retained Dr. Chung-Jui (CJ) Tsai, an accomplished cell wall biochemist, for this prestigious position. Along with Dr. Tsai comes Dr. Scott Harding, who is also a forest biotechnologist focusing on similar topics. These individuals bring a wealth of expertise in a variety of areas that will raise the productivity and stature of our Forest Biotechnology programs. Please join me in welcoming CJ and Scott to our Warnell family.

The other searches are underway with interviews for several positions scheduled in the spring. We expect to have all of our current vacancies filled by fall semester, 2008. We also have had several changes to our staff. Both Ali Gant, Director of Development, and Eugene MacIntyre, Public Relations Coordinator, will be leaving Warnell. Ali has chosen to return to the UGA Development Office, while Eugene is relocating with his family to Washington, D.C. We thank both Ali and Eugene for their efforts in making the Warnell School a better place to work and learn.

One of the primary attributes of a strong university program is the continued involvement of its alumni. These individuals recognize that giving back to the program is an important way to ensure its future success and continued opportunities for its future students. In fact, UGA tracks the involvement of alumni for all of its programs—it’s a primary measure that the senior administration uses to assess performance of schools and colleges here at UGA. The other day, Provost Mace reminded me that my wife’s academic unit, the UGA Law School, traditionally does better in percent involvement of its alumni than we do here at Warnell. Well, for obvious reasons, I can’t have that! And none of us, I’m sure, want Warnell to be outdone by lawyers?

So I need your help! Our current donor participation rate is about 15%, while the Law School’s is about 20%. We need to show the Provost, and particularly my wife, Warnell’s true level of commitment. Please consider a gift to support our programs and get involved here at the School! Let’s see if we can’t surpass the Law School’s participation level by next year. Your donations go to a variety of important projects like student scholarships and field trips, supporting research here at the School, and enhancing our teaching opportunities for students. And even more importantly, they help to further strengthen the already strong relationships between our alumni, our faculty and staff, and our students.

And you’ll be helping me settle an argument with my lawyer wife!

Sincerely,

Michael Clutter,
Dean, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources
Cooper helps develop ivory-billed woodpecker recovery plan

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released a 185-page draft recovery plan for the recently re-discovered ivory-billed woodpecker in August 2007 that is intended to identify the continued existence of this majestic bird, and develop a sound, ecologically based recovery plan once ivory-billed woodpecker populations are identified. The plan, which recommends spending more than $27 million on recovery efforts for the woodpecker, was drafted by the USFWS ivory-billed woodpecker recovery team that includes Bob Cooper, professor of wildlife management and ecology at the Warnell School.

The initial draft recovery plan, which outlines habitat needs and future conservation efforts intended to protect the woodpecker, underwent public hearings through October 2007 and is being revised for final inclusion as part of the USFWS’s 2008-09 budget, according to Cooper. Proposed recovery efforts include research on the bird’s status and ecology, developing new surveying techniques, conducting forest inventories in the Cache and White River basins in Arkansas and developing population estimates, among other measures.

Center for Forest Business hosts international forestland investment conference

The Center for Forest Business continued its successful series of forestland investment conferences with International Forest Investment: An Executive Education Conference, held at the Bayerischer Hof Hotel in Munich, Germany, on February 22, 2008. More than four dozen institutional investment professionals representing more than 28 foreign institutional investment firms and 18 U.S. TIMO’s and law firms attended the executive conference to learn more about how forestland can be a highly profitable and reliable asset class.

The conference agenda focused on global investors and markets, and included such topics as Foundations of Forestland Investments (How does it work), Return and Risk in Forestland Investments, Conservation and Certification, and Carbon Sequestration and Markets. For more information visit the conference website: www.ugatimberlandinvestment.com.
Student Ambassadors attend Forestry Day at the Capitol

Warnell School Student Ambassadors made their annual pilgrimage to Atlanta in support of the Georgia Forestry Association’s Forestry Day at the Capitol on Wednesday, January 30. The Ambassadors first toured the capitol, met with state officials (including Governor Perdue and House of Representatives legislative monitor Catherine Varlo), watched legislative sessions, and then moved over to the Railroad Depot and served as escorts for guests invited to GFA’s legislative luncheon. These dedicated students represented the Warnell School well with their professionalism and received a first-hand view of their state government at work.

UGA Student Chapter of SAF wins southeastern quiz bowl

The UGA student chapter of the Society of American Foresters was victorious in the quiz bowl competition held at the annual meeting of the Southeastern section of SAF from Sept. 23-25 in Destin, Fl. The team, consisting of Patrick Work, Nathan Jensrud, Stephen Purvis and Morgen Ingerson, were overwhelming victors against the Florida team (UFla) and the Alabama team (Auburn, Alabama A&M). Unfortunately the UGA chapter lost to a powerful and eventually victorious Penn State chapter in the first round of the national quiz bowl.

Never Forgotten:
John Garrett Gardner recognized for his sacrifice

John Garrett Gardner (BSF ’64), was added to the Warnell School’s Vietnam Conflict memorial plaque this past fall thanks largely to the tenacity of his classmate and best man, Guy Hurlburt (BSF ’64). Gardner was a Marine helicopter pilot who was shot down in Laos on June 3, 1967. He was listed as MIA until his remains were recovered and returned on February 16, 1999. His remains are now interred at Arlington National Cemetery. Gardner was a First Lieutenant at the time of the crash, but was promoted to Captain while on MIA status. The Warnell School’s Vietnam Conflict memorial plaque can be found in the foyer of the “Classic Building” (Building One).
**2007 Distinguished Young Alumnus**

The 2007 Distinguished Young Alumnus Award was presented to Brian Stone (BSFR ’99; MFR ’01) Director of Appraisal Services for Forest Resource Consultants, Inc. Stone currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Georgia Chapter of the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers, chairman of the Georgia Forestry Association’s Young Professionals Group, and as a member of the Warnell Young Alumni Advisory Committee where he was chairman of the 2007 Alumni Golf Tournament Committee.

**Sporting Clay Shoot added as new Warnell School Homecoming event**

Tom Harris, professor of forest business and management, organized a sporting clays shoot at the Brush Creek facility in Madison County as a new event for the Warnell School’s annual Homecoming celebration. The inaugural shoot kicked-off on a clear, cool morning with close to a dozen faculty, alumni and friends participating. This event was organized as an alternative for alumni and friends who do not play in the annual golf tournament. All participants had a great experience and agree the sporting clays shoot should be continued for future Homecoming celebrations. So, if you would rather shoot clay targets than chase a little white ball around the UGA golf course, look for this event again at 2008 Homecoming.
Stripling Family Supports Cogongrass Research

The family of C.M. and Bernice Stripling has once again shown their tremendous generosity with another significant gift to the Univ. of Ga. Foundation in the form of a $60,000 Entrepreneurial Gift for SW Georgia as a way to honor the family patriarch. This contribution is to be split three ways between the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences (for student internships), Academic Affairs (for economic development in SW Georgia), and the Warnell School (to support Dr. David Morehead’s research on managing the invasive species cogongrass).

C.M. (who passed away in 2006) and Bernice Stripling are avid supporters of education, agriculture and forestry in Georgia. Mr. Stripling was the 1986 Georgia Tree Farmer of the Year and the 1987-88 National Tree Farmer of the Year. Long-time residents of Camilla, Georgia, the Striplings have fought with much success for timber tax relief and have been major contributors to the success of the School and the forestry community in the state. To date, the Stripling family has funded two separate student scholarships at the Warnell School. This most recent gift was organized by the couples’ son Charles, and presented to UGA officials on August 28 at the Stripling Irrigation Park in Camilla, Ga.

David Moorhead, professor of silviculture and invasive species specialist, will begin cogongrass management training sessions with the county road/works crews in southwest Georgia this spring with the support of the Stripling award. For more information on cogongrass and its presence in Georgia visit http://www.cogongrass.org/

Warnell School Hosts 2008 SEPARC Annual Meeting

The Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources hosted the 2008 Southeastern Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (SEPARC) Annual Meeting from February 21-24, 2008 at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education Conference Center and Hotel. Events for the 2008 meeting were organized by John Maerz, assistant professor of wildlife management and ecology, around the theme “tools for amphibian and reptile conservation,” and included an organized symposium covering land use and management, habitat protection, coastal conservation, relocations and headstarting, emerging infectious diseases, tools for monitoring and inventory, and outreach.

The 2008 meeting offered a range of workshops on land acquisition and management for conservation, web tools for inventory and monitoring, detection and diagnosis of diseases, estimating species detection for assessing and planning wildlife inventories and research, and how to be effective at outreach. A poster session was also held allowing many Warnell School graduate students to present their research before an audience of amphibian and reptile conservation professionals. For more information on this conference and amphibian and reptile conservation please visit the SEPARC website at www.separc.org.
The Consummate Professional: Jim Alfriend Receives 2007 Distinguished Alumni Award

As Alumni of the Warnell School well know, teaching students how to conduct themselves in a “professional” manner is a point of pride for faculty members. This includes an expert knowledge of practiced discipline, a work ethic that inspires others, and a code of conduct that requires courteous and sincere attention be given to the job at hand and towards co-workers and associates.

When present day students struggle to fully understand the challenges and efforts that are required to gain recognition as a “professional,” faculty are fortunate to have many alumni they can identify as strong role-models. One alumnus, however, frequently rises as the cream of the crop when discussing “professionalism,” and the Warnell School Alumni Association is pleased to have recognized Jim Alfriend (BSF ’69) during this past year’s Homecoming Celebration as the 2007 Distinguished Alumnus Award Winner.

According to Bob Lazenby (BSF ’69), a former classmate who retired as deputy director after 32 years with the Georgia Forestry Commission, “[Jim’s] reputation as a professional consulting forester has always been stellar. I have known and talked with many of his clients and they have the highest regard for him.”

Bob Izlar (BSF ’71, MSF ’72), Director of the Center for Forest Business at the Warnell School, also recognizes Alfriend as “highly respected” among members of Georgia’s forest industry.

It appears Alfriend’s time at the Warnell School did not begin in such stellar fashion though. As a small town boy from Sparta, Ga. with little exposure to the lifestyle of the state university, Alfriend reveals that being a student at UGA was a “fun experience for the first half of the first quarter.” Soon after, however, his “daddy” received a letter from Dean Herrick expressing concerns about Jim’s commitment to his education. Alfriend says his “daddy” made sure he recognized this as “a wake-up call,” and from there forward he followed the straight and narrow.

“In our forestry school I was surrounded by professors who provided all the help and support you needed,” Alfriend said. And while he saw “friends on north campus that went to school three hours a day,” Alfriend says the combination of ROTC, lectures and labs required his attention from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm every day.
After earning his degree, Alfriend was commissioned a second lieutenant through Army ROTC and served as a combat engineer spending 1970 in Vietnam. After returning stateside, the company he worked for while a student, Continental Can, offered him an immediate position as a management forester. Alfriend was “not quite ready to go to Pembroke,” he said, and instead extended his service for a year in Washington D.C. It was there he met his wife Ellen, whom he married in 1972.

Ready to settle down and raise a family, Alfriend accepted a second offer from Continental Can in 1972 and moved to Swainesboro, Ga. to train under senior area forester H.G. “Red” Harris. Three months later he found himself transferred to Wrens, Ga., and six months after that to Warrenton, Ga. where he spent the next five years. By 1977, Alfriend “left the woods and went to a staff forester position” in the district office in Augusta, Ga.

“I knew I needed to take advantage of any opportunity that came along,” he said. But before long, “The new wore off and I knew I wanted something other than being a staff forester.”

Fortunately, Dan Crumpton, a UGA forester and associate at Continental Can, had established a successful consulting business in Warrenton, “Forest and Land Services,” and offered Alfriend an opportunity to join his business in 1978. After a few years learning the trade of a consulting forester, “I made the decision I wanted to do this myself,” Alfriend explains. So he opened his own business in Thomson, Ga. in April 1983 and has earned a sterling reputation ever since.

“Being a consulting forester is a total commitment,” he said. “Responsibility to landowner clients drives you to work hard and succeed. I have been fortunate to work with landowners who have been exceptionally successful in their chosen fields and this association has been truly beneficial to me,” Alfriend continued. “In addition, being a consulting forester gives you the opportunity to work on interesting projects in locations that are beyond your normal operating territory. In 2005 I shared responsibility in valuing the 5.6 million acre International Paper sale. This led to a November meeting in Atlanta where I was part of a 10 man group that included Warren Buffet as an investor. This was a remarkable experience that I was able to participate in. However, you must never lose sight of the fact that one landowner’s 50 acres are just as important to him as a 500 acre ownership is to the next owner.”

As a hobby, bird dogs and quail hunting have been a passion he has carried his entire life. Jim recalls an unbelievable but true story about his family pet and personal bird dog, an English setter named Sport. “Two friends and I, with six bird dogs left for West Texas on Sunday, January 2, 2005, for a week’s bird hunt. The dogs were secure in individual kennels with hay, an air vent, and a locked kennel gate. We left Thomson and hit 1-20 en route to Texas. After a quick coffee break just west of Atlanta, I checked the kennels and found that Sport had pulled the wire mesh from his vent and somehow got his 60 pound frame out of the 8 x 10 opening and was somewhere on 1-20 between Thomson and Douglasville. We performed an unsuccessful search in the area and I told the guys to head to Texas without me. My wife Ellen picked me up and on Sunday and Monday I was up and down 1-20 searching for Sport, knowing his fate. Wednesday morning around 9:30, I received a call. A lady in Atlanta had picked him up off the interstate after hearing him barking along the fence on I-20 where he had been for three days. I immediately went to Atlanta to pick him up. I graciously thanked the lady and walked Sport to the pickup, and he jumped in the dog box as if nothing had happened. The pads on his front feet were worn from sliding along 1-20 at 60 miles per hour but no other signs shown from his three day experience. At 10 years old, Sport continues to be a productive bird dog and he made a safe and successful trip to Texas in 2006.”

In addition, Alfriend feels a degree of responsibility as he believes the quality of his work also reflects on the School’s reputation. “There are high expectations for UGA foresters,” he said. “Like others, the School gave me the opportunity to be successful and I do not want to fall short.”

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Sarah Covert named AAAS Fellow

Sarah Covert, associate professor of forest biotechnology, was one of four UGA faculty members selected to be a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). In 2007, 471 AAAS members were awarded this honor as a result of scientifically distinguished efforts to advance science or its applications, according to the Association. New fellows were presented with a certificate and a gold and blue rosette pin (the colors represent science and engineering respectively) at a ceremony on Saturday, Feb. 16, during the 2008 AAAS Annual Meeting in Boston. According to the Association, Covert was recognized for “basic studies in plant pathology concerning plant-fungal interactions and for innovative educational activities in course development for practical skills in becoming a scientist.” AAAS is the world’s largest general scientific society and publisher of the journal Science. AAAS was founded in 1848 and includes some 262 affiliated societies and academies of science, serving 10 million individuals.

The additional UGA faculty members recognized by AAAS include R. Kelly Dawe, professor and Georgia Research Alliance Lars G. Ljungdahl Distinguished Investigator in Plant Biology and Genetics; Daniel Promislow, professor of genetics; and Ying Xu, Regents Professor and Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar of Bioinformatics.

Greene inducted into Georgia Forester’s Hall of Fame

Dale Greene, professor of forest operations and timber harvesting, was inducted into the Georgia Forester’s Hall of Fame by the Georgia division of the Society of American Foresters (SAF). Greene, also current chair of the Georgia State Board of Registration for Foresters, was inducted for his career-long efforts at research and education improving timber harvesting and forest operations. Dr. Greene was inducted in 2007 along with Mr. Charles M. Tarver, founding principal and president of Forest Investment Associates, Inc, and Mr. Charles B. Place, Jr., forest education specialist for the Georgia Forestry Commission for many years. Congratulations to all of the 2007 inductees into the Georgia Forester’s Hall of Fame.

Green has been a dedicated servant to Georgia’s forestry community for more than twenty years working with the Georgia Forestry Association (Logging Operations Committee, 1989-92; Board of Directors, 1991-present; Treasurer, 1993-2001), the Georgia State Board of Registration for Foresters (Member, 1994-present; Chair, 1997-present), the Forestry Best Management Practices (BMP) Revision Task Force, the Forest Resources Association Supplier Relationships Committee, Georgia Forestry Foundation (Treasurer, 2005-present), and the Council on Forest Engineering (National Chair, 1993; National Co-Chair, 2007-08; Southern Chair 1990).
Pete Bettinger, associate professor of harvest scheduling, Eric Cox (FORSight Resources LLC) and Michael Wing (Oregon State University) received the Working Group Merit Award for their E2 (Land use planning, organization, and management) Working Group in recognition of a significant contribution to the Society of American Foresters Science Program.

Bruce Borders, professor of biometrics and mensuration, was one of ten UGA faculty recognized at the annual Student Government Association Professor Recognition Banquet held at the Georgia Museum of Art. The purpose of the Professor Recognition Banquet is to honor excellence in teaching at the University of Georgia. He was nominated by students of the Warnell School and selected by the UGA Student Government Association.

John Carroll, professor of wildlife management and ecology and leader of Warnell’s study abroad program in South Africa, has been asked to serve on the Board of Directors for UGA’s African Study Institute.

Kim D. Coder, professor of community forestry and tree health, was invited to give the keynote address at the 43rd annual conference of the Society of Municipal Arborists (SMA) in Hollywood, Florida. SMA is a North American organization of professional city foresters and public sector community arborists representing all population sizes of the continent’s municipalities. Dr. Coder’s message was about finding professional time to do more for our communities and committing to professional change.

Dick Daniels, professor of quantitative forest management and wood quality, and Scott Merkle, professor of forest biotechnology, have been invited to present at the 2008 IEG-40 conference, which will focus on “Incorporating Genetic Advances into Forest Productivity Systems: Value for All Landowners” and be held in Charleston, SC on July 22-25, 2008.

Rhett Jackson, professor of forest hydrology, and his children starred in a water conservation video created by the Athens-Clarke County government. The 30 second video was developed as a community public service announcement to raise awareness about water conservation during the current drought. The PSA ran on the local cable channel, several local commercial television stations and was posted on the ACC website.

Gail Lutowski, public service specialist managing the Mary Kahrs Warnell Forest Education Center in Guyton, Ga., hosted the Savannah SAF’s 6th Annual “Walk in the Warnell Forest Field Day” in October 2007. The purpose of the Walk is to educate Savannah area 4th grade students, teachers and parents about forestry as a profession, the need for and benefits of sustainable forest management and the natural patterns and processes of forest ecosystems.

Craig Miller, assistant professor of human dimensions of natural resources, was recently appointed to a 3-year term as associate editor for the Journal of Wildlife Management. Miller will be responsible for manuscripts addressing human dimensions of wildlife and wildlife management.

Karl Miller, professor of wildlife management and ecology, will be co-hosting Quality Whitetails TV, a weekly program aired on the Outdoor Channel that will provide information on deer biology, deer management, and deer behavior. The show is produced by the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA).

Sara Schweitzer, professor of wildlife ecology and management, was recognized at the annual conference of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA), and annual meeting of the Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society (SE TWS) this past October for her two years of service as Secretary / Treasurer of SE TWS (2006-07).

Col. Bob Izlar (U.S. Army, Ret.), Director of the Center for Forest Business, was awarded the Legion of Merit Medal on January 17, 2008. This is the highest award a non-combatant officer can receive. Izlar joined the Army in 1967 as an ROTC cadet and was commissioned in June 1971. Through his time in service he rose to the rank of Colonel. Izlar retired from the Army in Fall 2006.
The Warnell School Alumni Association recognized Ms. Joyce Black, Mr. Matthew Head and Ms. Morgan Nolan with alumni staff awards at this year’s annual homecoming celebration for their continuous support of Warnell School faculty and students.

Ms. Black has served as administrative office manager for the School for seven years and is the “black gold” who keeps the day-to-day operations of the school running efficiently and effectively. Her ever present sense of humor never overshadows her tenacity in making sure faculty receive the support services necessary to effectively do their job.

Mr. Head has served the School as undergraduate student advisor for more than ten years and is the go-to person for all students as they develop their academic schedule and work toward graduation. Day after day lines form outside his office as he weaves his magic to make sure students fulfill their academic requirements, while supporting faculty and administration through many curriculum changes and revisions.

Ms. Nolan has been the School technology guru for more than twelve years and remains responsible for keeping faculty and students on the cutting edge as new technologies continue to rapidly evolve. Whether supporting students and faculty in their use of WebCT, providing video of important seminar presentations, or developing home spun presentations of Warnell School family members, Morgan has become a vital member of the School’s support staff.
Whether wading in cold, clear North Georgia mountain streams or sewage-laden, polluted urban streams, Professor Todd Rasmussen loves teaching the basics of hydrology. “People think that water’s important only when there’s a drought,” he says. “They don’t understand that water’s important to the environment and to every industry. Forest streams provide for endangered species, electricity, urban lawns, and swimming pools – we need the forests for the clean water they provide.”

Growing up in the forests of northern California, water and recreation became synonymous to Rasmussen. “Fun was an outdoor activity as we’d always fish and play in rivers and streams,” he says. “I was always building dams and then breaking them to watch the floods they caused.” As a kid, he also discovered streams that disappeared into caves, following them as far as his flashlight would allow.

It was at this time that he became conscious of his passion for water. “My hydrology and caving interests fed each other,” he explains. So he enrolled into the University of California - Berkeley and found himself at the forestry school studying under Dr. Paul Zinke, a leader in the hydrology field. “Knowing how important water is to society, and that finding clean water is not easy, I knew I’d found my career.”

After college Rasmussen worked as a wilderness guard in the Klamath National Forest. The region is tunneled with caves, creating conditions that allow “this part of California to be hailed as having the best water on earth,” he says. Frequently, he and a few forest service friends would climb through the local area caves on their free time, actually achieving the record for the deepest cave drop by the mid-1970’s.

Rasmussen then joined the Peace Corps and worked on hydrology projects in Honduras, including establishment of the first nationwide water monitoring system. Upon completion of his service in 1979, he enrolled in graduate school at the University of Arizona. “They have a great hydrology program in both surface and ground water,” he says.

Rasmussen relocated to the University of Georgia in 1992. After a bit of exploration, it did not take him long to feel right at home. “I’m fascinated by how much north Georgia is like northern California,” he says. “The terrain, vegetation and hydrology are all very similar to where I grew up.” This includes the caves in the corner of Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee, which he says are very similar to the caves he explored back home.

Fifteen years later, Rasmussen is recognized as an authority on Georgia’s water resources, and is interviewed frequently by reporters writing about Georgia’s current drought. Using editorials, newspaper articles and public hearings, he is a vocal advocate supporting development of a comprehensive statewide water management plan as “a means for getting the information needed to make educated water allocation decisions.”

Related research he directs students into includes water efficiency, the role of forest protection for water supply and incentives to promote private land conservation.

While Rasmussen is pleased to influence today’s water discussion, he also stresses that, “we need more students trained in water-management.” Besides teaching a wide range of water classes, he also advises students on a variety of river, lake, and groundwater topics, and hopes to build a small population of experienced water managers who can continue to help guide the state in its efforts to manage this valuable natural resource.
Directly below Sinclair Dam, where the Oconee River tail-waters fall onto the upper coastal plain, Dr. Cecil Jennings is fulfilling the mission of the Georgia Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit by guiding University of Georgia graduate students in research on fish species survival in habitat conditions controlled by the Georgia Power Company.

In his position as leader of the Georgia Unit, Jennings and his two associates have many responsibilities to several different constituencies, not the least of which is educating the next generation of wildlife and fisheries biologists to oversee the proper stewardship of Georgia's fish and wildlife resources.

"We mentor graduate students by providing instruction and work experience in the conduct of sound science, taking them to conferences, helping them publish their research findings, and helping establish them as effective scientists when they fledge the nest," Jennings says.

In 1935, the Biological Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) established cooperative units in many states across the nation to fill a desperate shortage of wildlife biologists. The cooperative unit program was designed to provide teaching, research, and extension opportunities for wildlife and fisheries biologists. The cooperative unit program was established to fill a desperate shortage of wildlife biologists. The cooperative unit program was designed to provide teaching, research, and extension opportunities for wildlife and fisheries biologists.
formally sanctioned by Congress in 1960, and today operates more than forty-four units in forty states. Many of these units were developed out of pre-existing research programs of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

A successful example of the cooperative unit program is the Georgia Unit housed at the University of Georgia’s Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources. It was initially established as a fisheries-only unit in 1962. A wildlife unit was then developed in 1979, and the two units were combined in 1984 to create a multi-disciplinary unit.

The Georgia Unit exists under a cooperative agreement between USGS/BRD, The University of Georgia, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GaDNR), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Wildlife Management Institute. In addition to Jennings, the Georgia Unit is also served by assistant unit leaders Dr. Michael Conroy (wildlife) and Dr. James Peterson (fisheries). All three federal scientists also serve as adjunct faculty at the Warnell School by chairing or serving on graduate student committees, training graduate students by involving them in research projects, and teaching graduate level courses and seminars.

“Federal scientists function as faculty on the university level and we have created seamless integration between us and the University faculty at the Warnell School,” Jennings explains. “We are value-added for Warnell as we compliment existing resources at a very small cost to the School.”

The three scientists operating the Georgia’s Unit are paid by the USGS and receive operation funds largely from federal grants and the GaDNR. The only cost to the University is for providing an academic home and limited staff support.

Federal scientists typically work on federal issues, according to Jennings, so “it’s a big deal to have federal scientists working on state issues.” Cooperative research scientists are unique according to Peterson as “our primary objective is to meet the needs of the state.”

“… we have created seamless integration between us and the University faculty at the Warnell School,”

- Cecil Jennings

And the needs of the state are extensive. The list of clients served by Georgia Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit scientists includes many state agencies, such as sections of GaDNR (fish, non-game, wildlife, natural heritage, coastal resources), the Georgia Ports Authority, and Georgia Sea Grant; federal agencies like the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and non-governmental interests such as the Georgia Power Company.

“Technically we cannot work simply as a paid consultant,” Peterson says. “There must be a research and education component included in any contract we service.”

Historically, federal scientists served as the exclusive scientific research entity in many of the states where units are located, according to Jennings. However, as the population of university fish and wildlife scientists has increased dramatically over many decades, federal
cooperative scientists now are selected for their area of expertise to augment or complement the existing faculty at the host institution.

Conroy, an internationally acclaimed expert in statistical wildlife modeling, is a prime example of the expanded role filled by federal cooperative scientists. “Mike brings a very specialized talent to the program as he is internationally known for his population estimation and modeling programs,” Jennings explains. When Conroy arrived at UGA 22 years ago, his role serving students was of primary importance because the number of wildlife management faculty was much smaller than today.

“When I arrived the wildlife faculty included Drs. Johnson, Marchinton, Provost and Warren, but I was responsible for bringing a quantitative influence to the wildlife group,” Conroy says. “The quantitative strength attracted top-flight students.”

Some of the wildlife management research projects Conroy has recently led include habitat and population models for Black Bears in central and south Georgia; harvest management of Black Ducks and Western Mallards; adaptive monitoring of forest wildlife on the Piedmont National Wildlife Reserve; and a geographical approach to planning for biological diversity. On each of these projects, he either finds interested graduate students to conduct much of the research on previously identified projects, or a project is developed around a students research interests and then funding sources are identified to support the research

“This method has been successful in getting students started on a professional path,” Conroy says. “Many of the students I have worked with have continued to build strong reputations in the field of statistical modeling. I am always pleased when students I work with achieve higher acclaim than I do.”

On the fisheries side, Jennings conducts extensive research into Georgia’s populations of Striped Bass. “We’ve been involved in recovery efforts for both the Atlantic and Gulf strains.” He says. This includes monitoring the success of stocking programs, timing and distribution of eggs and larvae, reproductive status, and current and historic spawning locations along the Savannah, Ogeechee, Canoochee and Chattahoochee Rivers.

Peterson developed stream-flow models for the lower Flint River in a GaDNR project to better project the ecological effects of disturbances within the basin. “We build reputable models and stakeholders choose scenarios to process,” Peterson explains. His modeling exercise was so successful that the USGS determined it would only take a small amount of additional funding to expand the model for use in the upper Flint River Basin. “The state loves for us to

“The state loves for us to bring federal funding to such projects. This allows state funds to be saved for future research projects.”

- Jim Peterson

Robust Redhorse (Moxostoma robustum) photo by Paul Vecsei
bring federal funding to such projects,” he says. “This allows state funds to be saved for future research projects.”

In addition to the research and education duties of the unit’s mission, cooperative scientists are also responsible for advising parties who have legitimate interests in natural resource issues – such as the Georgia Power Company. When the company filed for a new operating license on its Sinclair Dam, environmental analysis discovered a rare and endangered fish species living in the downstream waters. As part of federal re-licensing rules, Georgia Power was required to investigate how the dam impacted the lifecycles of this fish population.

According to Jennings, the Robust Redhorse was identified and briefly described in an 1869 scientific journal, but “after that it fell off the planet.” It was not until 1991 that the fish was rediscovered. And with no scientific history, much needed to be learned before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission could continue to review Georgia Power’s dam re-licensing application. While the company has a team of natural resource scientists on staff to conduct research on important fish and wildlife issues related to operation of its many hydro-electric dams, it frequently requests additional research be conducted by the Georgia Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit to confirm initial findings, or to conduct research beyond the scope of staff professionals.

With baby-boomer scientists rapidly reaching the age of retirement, the mission for cooperative fish and wildlife units has expanded to increase the number of professional scientists available to fill the ranks vacated by retirees. “The needs are growing, not declining,” Jennings says. And the scope of training has expanded beyond the science to include “policy and political sensitivity” for students hoping to serve in federal or state agencies, according to Jennings.

Students who enroll in the Warnell School are fortunate to receive their educational training in one of the most reputable forestry and natural resource higher education programs in the nation. Thanks to the School’s many dedicated alumni, the School has plentiful resources to fulfill its mission. However, students also benefit from the many cooperative agreements the School participates in, with the Georgia Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit providing some of the greatest additional value at virtually no additional cost to Georgia’s taxpayers. For more information about the Georgia Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, visit the unit website at http://coopunit.forestry.uga.edu/unit_homepage/

“When I arrived the wildlife faculty included Drs. Johnson, Marchinton, Provost and Warren, but I was responsible for bringing a quantitative influence to the wildlife group,”

- Mike Conroy
Warnell School welcomes Chung-Jui Tsai, Ph.D.; Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar in Forest Biotechnology

“With Georgia Research Alliance support we will continue to place a priority on research that supports economic development in the state.”

Warnell School welcomes Chung-Jui Tsai, Ph.D.; Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar in Forest Biotechnology

When it comes to growing trees, time can be an advantage for landowners and forest managers. Allowing trees to increase in size and strength usually results in increased value and marketability. While the same does not often hold true for filling faculty vacancies, occasionally a little more time can allow for candidate pools to increase in size and strength. Such has been the case for Warnell School faculty and administration as they have searched tenaciously to fill the Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar position in Forest Biotechnology.

Dean Michael Clutter is pleased to announce the successful recruitment of one of the nation’s premier forest biotechnologists, Dr. Chung-Jui Tsai, as the newest member of the Warnell School’s faculty. “The addition of Dr. Tsai will undoubtedly strengthen the School’s forest biotechnology program into one of the most accomplished in the nation,” Clutter says.

Tsai spent the past 16 years at the Michigan Technological University School of Forest Resources and Environmental Sciences where she successfully turned a small, single discipline biotechnology lab into one of the nation’s premiere biotechnology laboratories: the Michigan Tech Biotechnology Research Center. As director, Tsai conducts research on trees that “centers around the theme of dissecting molecular mechanisms underpinning tree fitness and biomass productivity,” she states. “I am particularly interested in phenolic metabolism as it impacts tree development and defense, wood quality and ecosystem function. My research and teaching scales gene to tree, laboratory to habitat, and basic research to industrial utilization and ecosystem investigation.”

Tsai is a native of Taiwan and studied silviculture in the Department of Forestry at National Taiwan University.

It was at the forest research institute that she met Prof. Vincent Chiang who was on sabbatical from Michigan Tech University (now at N.C. State). Chiang convinced Tsai to come to the United States for her Ph.D. studies “to expand my training into molecular biology,” she says. Chiang also professed that Michigan Tech could use someone with Tsai’s expertise in tree transformation to participate in their forest biotechnology program.

After completion of her Ph.D., Tsai continued her lignin research in a brief post-doctoral program, until “a member of the wood science faculty announced his retirement,” Tsai says. She was encouraged to apply for the vacant position and accepted an offer as an assistant professor shortly thereafter. Since then, Tsai has attracted more than $12 million in research funding from federal and state agencies and industry as both a lead principal investigator and co-principal investigator.

In 2002, Tsai was appointed Director of the Michigan Tech Biotechnology Research Center. “It was small with only three to four faculty members when I began,” she says. “But I saw opportunities for additional interdisciplinary collaboration across the small campus.” So she expanded faculty participation to 23 members from the College of Engineering (biomedical and chemical) and the College of Sciences and Arts (mathematics, biology and chemistry), to work alongside members from the School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science. Other work included improvement of life science infrastructure and development of a governance structure. Over her term as director, the Center saw steady growth in research projects and expenditures.

Now that Tsai is relocating to UGA, she understands some changes in her research focus may be necessary. “Ten years
ago research was all about pulp and paper, but now bioenergy is recognized as a high priority research initiative,” she says. “With Georgia Research Alliance support, we will continue to place a priority on research that supports economic development in the state.”

“We have to look at any species that has human benefits,” she says.

In a two-for-one arrangement, the Warnell School is also excited to be hiring Tsai’s husband, Dr. Scott Harding, as a senior research scientist to help manage their genomics program. “He is a key player in the success of our research accomplishments,” she says. “He brings complimentary expertise to the research agenda and is the lead principle investigator on our Department of Energy funded carbon sequestration research project.”

Among others, Jeff Dean, professor of forest biotechnology, is excited about Tsai’s appointment. “She was a very big fish in a small pond at Michigan Tech,” he says. “She has the experience of organizing large groups to conduct complex scientific research.”

For her part, Tsai is excited to work with a large faculty body with “a diverse expertise across a single campus.”

Among Tsai and her husband’s professional accomplishments are dozens of peer-reviewed articles and five patents; three of which involve methods for modifying lignin, the vital component presently complicating advancement in cellulosic-based biofuels.

As research priorities change over time, the Warnell School continues to adapt to insure it remains on the cutting edge. Today this means increased investment in biotechnology research of individual tree species for human use benefits. Thanks to the support of the Georgia Research Alliance, UGA has always planned with vision toward the future, and beginning July 1, Chung-Jui Tsai will bring Warnell School faculty one-step closer to making significant contributions to the future of research on tree genetics.

Jim Alfriend continued

For this reason, Alfriend also believes he has a responsibility to give back to the School, both monetarily and through service “to continue development of the next generation.” There is never enough time in a professional’s busy schedule, he says, “but this is important. There is need to provide continued alumni support.”

This is why he agreed to serve as president of the Warnell School Alumni Association in 1990 and has always responded to requests for assistance.

Alfriend is humbled to receive the Distinguished Alumnus Award saying, “it was a real professional benchmark for me. He reflected upon all the previous winners and said, “I am personally and professionally honored to be recognized among that group.”

Jim and his wife, Ellen, have been married 35 years. Julie, their daughter, is married to Bob Ferris and lives in Roswell with 2 children, Rob, 4, and Kathryn, 2. Son Jamie graduated from the Warnell School in 2001 and is beginning his seventh year in the family business. Jamie and his wife, Sarah, who is a teacher in McDuffie County, have a 2-year-old daughter, Emma Kate. “It is with a great deal of gratification and satisfaction that Jamie is part of our business and we have the opportunity to work together on a daily basis,” Alfriend concluded.

Many institutions are not so lucky to have members as committed to its future. Therefore, the Warnell School continues to be grateful for Jim Alfriend’s service and friendship.
Following the tradition of leadership established by Warnell School students over the past 100 years, graduate student Stephen Purvis (BSFR ’06) was recently elected as both the District-10 (SESAF-Al.,Ga.,Fl.) Representative to the Students Executive Committee and the Student Representative to the Professional Council for the Society of American Foresters (SAF), the national professional organization for the forest industry. Purvis’ election is especially significant because he will be the first student to ever serve an official role (non-voting) on the SAF Council.

In an effort to increase student participation in SAF, the organization established the Student Executive Committee this past year to serve as the governing organization that oversees the many student chapters of SAF found at colleges and universities across the nation. The SAF Student Executive Committee is made up of a single representative from each of the eleven districts, as defined by the SAF charter. Purvis was elected as the District-10 representative to the Student Executive Committee by his fellow student members from Alabama, Florida, and his home chapter at the University of Georgia.

This past December, the Student Executive Committee held its first official meeting in Portland, Oregon, at which the 13 members elected Purvis to represent them on the SAF Council.
James Goddard
Developing outdoor recreation enterprises in Nicaragua

After category-five Hurricane Mitch ravaged the eastern half of Nicaragua in 1999, James Goddard went on a mission to assist locals in this developing nation recovering from the devastation. Other than his three years as a specialist in the U.S. Army stationed in Alaska, Goddard has continued to assist a local Nicaraguan non-profit organization called “Amigos for Christ” each summer with reconstruction of homes, schools and clinics.

Now that most of the infrastructure has been rehabilitated, Goddard, a junior in the Warnell School’s Natural Resources Recreation and Tourism program, is helping “Amigos for Christ” establish sustainable and eco-friendly business ventures. Goddard envisions developing eco-adventure programs that can be handed over to local organizations for continued development of an eco-tourism industry benefiting local peoples, and protecting local resources from future exploitation. “We want to take local residents, train them in sustainable-use and eco-tourism and then give the whole venture over to them,” he explains. Goddard anticipates spending this year identifying which eco-adventures will attract paying participants. Such opportunities include exploring local volcanoes, horseback riding, or once opportunities are identified, Goddard will develop strategies to market these eco-tourism adventures to international customers looking for unique eco-tourism adventures.

Goddard is presently recruiting volunteers to assist in his Nicaraguan eco-tourism project. If you are interested, you can learn more at the “Amigos for Christ” website: www.amigosforchrist.org.
In the summer of 2006, frog tadpoles in ponds at the Warnell School’s Whitehall Forest began dying from an unknown disease. While conducting research on other amphibians in the area, PhD student Andy Davis and his advisor Dr. John Maerz witnessed this outbreak and subsequently conducted an investigation, in collaboration with Drs. Kevin Keel and Michael Yabsley from the UGA College of Veterinary Medicines’ Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, into the cause and magnitude of the disease. The results of this study were published in the journal, *EcoHealth* in September 2007, and were also highlighted in the magazine, *ScienceNews* in November.

The study provided important baseline information about this disease, which has been anecdotally reported by herpetologists in other states, and was first discovered by David Green at the National Wildlife Health Center in Wisconsin. The UGA study showed the disease is caused by infection with a protozoan distantly related to other pathogens in the genus *Perkinsus*, which are all parasites of marine mollusks. From examination of tissue sections of infected tadpoles, the microscopic organism appears as a round, spore-like parasite that invades all organs and can number in the hundreds of thousands within severely infected tadpoles. Infected tadpoles appeared bloated, lethargic, and actually weigh more than uninfected ones, presumably because of the edema and swelling of tissues associated with infection.

The UGA study also included a systematic survey of 5 ponds in the Whitehall Forest for the presence of the disease in tadpoles of the most common frog species, the southern leopard frog. Results showed the disease varied in prevalence, with only a few tadpoles being affected in certain ponds while in others nearly all tadpoles were sick, and later died, which left few, if any, tadpoles in these ponds. Interestingly, surveys of the same ponds the following summer revealed few tadpoles, when there normally should be many.

While the study was an important first step in describing this emerging disease, which appears capable of wiping out entire populations of frog larvae within ponds, the authors emphasized that future studies are needed to clarify the nature of transmission, the full geographic range of the pathogen in North America, as well as the potential for infected larvae to metamorphose into adult frogs and carry the disease from pond to pond. They also point out that given the current research focus on pathogen-related amphibian declines, including pathogens such as chytrid, ranavirus and trematodes, this emerging protozoan disease should be added to the suite of pathogens of concern and needs to be monitored closely in the future.
Warnell Young Alumni Committee Makes a Difference

By Bridget Harden

The 2007 Alumni Association Golf Tournament was a huge success thanks to the enthusiastic, hard work of our Young Alumni Committee members. The event took place during Homecoming Weekend at the University of Georgia Golf Course. More than 90 golfers participated and the event raised more than $10,000 in private dollars to benefit the Young Alumni Endowment for Leadership Training.

Established in 2005, the Young Alumni Committee set several goals to achieve its mission. The Committee agreed to support Warnell by raising money for the school, assisting in recruitment efforts and increasing participation among recent graduates. Shortly after its establishment the Committee made a commitment to raise $25,000 before 2010 to fund an Endowment for Leadership Training.

The group saw the golf tournament as a way to help achieve its goals. This event, much like the Warnell community, was based on tradition and fellowship and was a great way to support the school.

The funding raised in the golf tournament was fundamental in meeting the Young Alumni Committee’s goal of $25,000. Although the success of the tournament will make the committee’s end goal much more feasible, their will remains strong. The committee plans to host the Alumni Golf Tournament again during Homecoming 2008.


Thank you to the following members of the Young Alumni Committee: Shelda Addison, Andy Barrs, David Cartwright, Mary G. Griffin, Liberty Haray, Sharon V. Holbrooks, Jan Forrest Kent, Kevin Malone, Brian Stone and Heather Venter.

Alumni and friends like YOU can and are making a difference! If you would like more information on the how you can help with efforts such as this please contact, Bridget Harden at 706.542.0713 or bharden@warnell.uga.edu.
Mark Your Calendar!

Look for Homecoming Flyer in July. Contact the Alumni Relations Office at 706.542.7602.

Friday, October 17

Golf Tournament & Lunch
UGA Golf Course 8:30 Shotgun Start

Sporting Clays Shoot
9:00 am, location to be announced

Alumni School Tour
Guided tour of facilities and grounds.

Whitehall Mansion Open House
Visit the School’s historic gothic Victorian home at the entrance to Whitehall Forest.

Annual Alumni Association Meeting
Flinchum’s Phoenix basement 5:30 pm
*New day and time!

Alumni Dinner
Join fellow alumni, friends, faculty and staff for a buffet dinner and alumni awards program. Presentation will feature Distinguished Alumnus and Distinguished Young Alumnus Awards, Warnell Staff Awards. Pending visit from UGA’s Dance Dawgs.

Saturday, October 18

Game Day B-B-Q
Cheer on the Dawgs with family, friends, and a classic tailgating meal.

Shuttle Bus
From Flinchum’s to game and return.

UGA vs. Vanderbilt
1:00 pm (estimated kick-off)
For ticket information please call the UGA Athletic Association Ticket Office at 706.542.1231.

NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR THE

Distinguished Alumnus Award and Young Alumnus Award

Distinguished Alumnus Award
For contributions and commitment to the School, profession and respective community

Young Alumnus Award
Warnell School graduates 35 years old or younger who hold a position of responsibility with demonstrated success, and are active and supportive of the Warnell Alumni Association
Nominations must be received by August 1, 2008

Please mail letter of nomination to:
Attn: Dean Michael Clutter
Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602-2152

Nominations should include a summary of the nominee’s contributions to the natural resources profession and three references.

Lodging
There is a limited block of rooms available, so make reservations early. Requires a two night minimum stay (Thurs/Fri or Fri/Sat) depending on hotel policy. Be sure to mention that you are with Warnell alumni group.
Hilton Garden Inn 706.353.6800 • Holiday Inn 706.549.4433
Alumni on the Job:

Amy Parker

guides environmental policy for UGA

By Eugene MacIntyre

Six months into her position as program director for environmental policy at the Carl Vinson Institute of Government, Amy Parker (Ph.D. 2004) still has file boxes stacked around her office. “Now that the legislature is in session I spend a good amount of time in Atlanta,” she says. Before that she criss-crossed the state for months meeting state and local officials, building relationships and offering her service and expert advise on environmental matters great and small. “We need to better integrate management of all our natural resources so we don’t find ourselves in conflict,” Parker explains. “A more holistic framework needs to be developed.”

In August 2007, Parker accepted the environmental policy position at UGA’s Institute of Government, established by Jim Kundell from the School of Ecology more than two decades ago. This position is highly-regarded within Georgia’s environmental community thanks to his years of dedicated service.

Once Parker agreed to fill Kundell’s position, after his announced retirement, she became excited about the opportunity to “assist in a change from the two Georgias (Atlanta and the rest of the state) to an integrated model of resource management, especially in terms of water management,” she says. “I think I have the experience to do that.”

With degrees in biology, water ecology and hydrology, Parker went to work for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency two days after graduation in 2004. In Washington, DC, she was coordinator of the national program for nutrient water quality criteria and standards development in the Office of Water. There she worked with regional, state, tribal and territorial authorities to protect waters from nitrogen and phosphorus pollution, and collaborated on large projects such as the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Action Plan, nutrient trading programs, and internet-based support programs for state agencies. In this position, “I had to build good relationships with institutions and individuals to be effective.”

Now back in Georgia, she has similar ambitions for improving management of the state’s natural resources. “When I accepted the job I wanted to gain experience working with local government officials on natural resource matters,” she says. Parker brings a wealth of experience collaborating with state and federal leaders, but she also believes she has an ace up her sleeve that can help her resolve potential policy conflicts. “Being from Tifton I have an understanding of Georgia issues that helps in developing relationships,” she says. “I look forward to helping local and state officials through my understanding of science and policy options, which were developed through research experiences in Georgia and Florida.”

Her first large responsibility as program director is to support implementation of the statewide comprehensive water management plan adopted by the legislature. “I believe a strong implementation plan can increase the state’s ability for sustainable economic development while creating sustainability for our environmental resources,” she explains. “I don’t see these two issues as being in conflict.”

In addition to water management, Parker also has goals to improve and increase land conservation, recycling, solid waste management and air quality compliance.

Parker is proud of her degree and believes she can utilize her Warnell School education for the benefit of Georgia’s natural resources. At the same time, Warnell School alumni can be pleased they have yet another influential voice discussing the important natural resource policy issues facing the state.
A true “Forrest” wedding...

Jan Forrest Kent (BSFR ’04, MFR ‘07) married James Kent (BSFR ’06) on September 1, 2007 in Yatesville, GA. It was definitely a Warnell event. Two of the three groomsmen and two of the three bridesmaids were Warnell alumni. The flower girl was daughter of Warnell Alumnus and Professor, Steven Castleberry (BSFR ’93, MFR ’97). Photographer was Jared Flowers (BSFR ’04) and James’s father was the minister. The couple is living in Lakeland, GA. James is Rural Management Forester with GFC and Jan is teaching Biology at Valdosta State University.

1960
Harold Clark Kendrick, Jr. (BSF 1960) is still working in the field of forestry. He does forestry appraisals and real estate brokerage.

John Sherrod (BSF 1960) is now retired after 43 years with the US Forest Service at 11 locations, on seven National Forests, in six Northwestern states. John was recently elected to the City Assembly and serves as Deputy Mayor in Sitka, Alaska.

Charles Proctor Willson (BSF 1965) will retire from NewPage Corp in May 2008.

Joe Phillips (BSF 1962, M.S. 1966) has retired, after a rewarding career in South Carolina, to the family farm in LaGrange, GA.

David Stevenson (BSF 1967) retired in 2000 from the Lake City Forest Ranger School in Florida. David taught vocational forestry to 2 year ranger students. David still resides in Lake City, FL.

Robert A. Rees (BSF 1968, MS 1972) retired in 2001 after 30 years as senior fisheries biologist with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Robert was a recipient of a liver transplant in 2005. He has been married to Faye for over 44 years with whom he has 4 children and 4 grandchildren. He has always been active in church, and in Boy Scouts of America for 26 years. Robert’s hobbies include model railroading and woodworking.

John Webster (BSF 1969) retired after 36 years with the Florida Division of Forestry. John currently resides in Milton, Florida.

1970
Dale Higdon (BSFR 1974) was recently awarded the Georgia Urban Forest Council Individual Achievement Award in Urban Forestry at the annual awards meeting in Rome. He will be retiring in May 2008 from the Georgia Forestry Commission.

William Babcock (BSFR 1976) is the Vice President and part owner of Hole Products, LLC. Hole Products is a supplier of Geo/Environmental, Mineral Exploration, Water well drilling tools and supplies.

Marshall Jacobson (BSFR 1977, MS 1980) was elected to serve on the Warnell Alumni Steering Committee.

1980
Tim Gunter (BSFR 1981) was elected to serve on the Warnell Alumni Steering Committee.

Glenn Jones (BSFR 1984, MFR 1986) moved to Richmond, Virginia
in 2006 with MeadWestvaco’s Packaging Resources Group. Glenn and his wife Deborah have four children.

Steve Chapman (BSFR 1985) with his wife, Autumn, welcomes their newest addition, Mildred Gray Chapman. Millie Gray was born August 2, 2007.

Dean M. Simon (MS 1986) was selected “Wildlife Biologist of the Year” for 2007 by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

1990
Scott P. Jones (BSFR 1995) was elected to serve on the Warnell Alumni Steering Committee.

Obituaries

John Edward Hammond (BSFR 1948) died on October 20, 2007. Mr. Hammond was a resident of Macon, GA. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps where he was a member of a Marine defense unit which operated in the Elice and Gilbert Islands. He holds the Purple Heart, the Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with three Battle Stars, and American area ribbons and the American Defense Medal. He was employed by the Georgia Forestry Commission serving in Carrollton, Newman, Atlanta, Waycross and Macon. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Martha Harris Hammond, two daughters and three grandchildren.

Arne K. Kemp (BSFR 1948) died on November 12, 2007 at the age of 89. Arne was a resident of The Landings in Savannah, Georgia. He served honorably as a Lieutenant JG A1 in the United States Navy during World War II as a pilot. Arne was a member of Phi Kappa Phi, Gamma Alpha, and Xi Sigma Pi. His distinguished career held Professorships at Louisiana State University and Stephen F. Austin University. He was the Assistant Director at North Central Experiment Station for the U.S. Forest Service. His hobbies included woodworking and golf. He is survived by his wife Marie and his two sons.

U.S. District Judge Duross Fitzpatrick (BSF 1961) died Sunday, January 6, 2008 at his home in Twiggs County. Fitzpatrick was born in 1934 and called the Twiggs County crossroads of Tarversville home nearly all his life. He attended college at the University of the South at Sewanee, TN., from 1953 to 1954 before taking a detour to the U.S. Marine Corps from 1954 to 1957 where he achieved the rank of Sergeant. Afterward, Fitzpatrick enrolled in the University of Georgia, where he graduated with a degree in forestry and married his wife, Beverly.

Fitzpatrick worked for a timber company in South Georgia and later took a forestry job on the West Coast, but ultimately decided forestry was not his calling. He and family returned to Georgia in the early 1960s and he graduated from the University of Georgia’s Law School in 1966. His first legal position was with the Elliott & Davis law firm, but it was not long after that he started his own law office in Cochran.

In 1984, Fitzpatrick became president of the State Bar of Georgia. He was then appointed to the federal bench by President Reagan on Dec. 31, 1985. He became chief judge in 1995 and remained in that position until taking senior judge status in February 2001.

Fitzpatrick is survived by his wife, Beverly, two children and two grandchildren.

2000

Chad Lincoln (BSFR 2003, MS 2005) is now working with Forest Investment Associates in Jackson, Mississippi.


John Bryant (BSFR 2005) married Amanda Adams, a UGA graduate, on November 3, 2007 at The Walter’s Farm in Lula, GA. John and Amanda now reside in Cleveland, GA.

Audrey Owens (B.S.F.R 2006) is an Amphibian and Reptiles Biologist at the Arizona Game and Fish Department in Phoenix, AZ.

Jason Nedlo (Ph.D. 2007) is the Recreation Travel Management Coordinator with the US Forest Service. He is the route designation team leader in the Eldorado National Forest.

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Looking for New Employment?

A comprehensive listing of Forestry and Natural Resources job opportunities can be found on the Warnell School website at:

http://jobs.forestry.uga.edu