Dr. Bob Teskey retiring

Alumni on the Job: Lane Rivenbark

Dawgs give back
Warnell students volunteer outside the classroom
LOVE WARNELL?
Kendra does.

Choosing Warnell was easy, said Kendra Jenkins. As a student who relies on financial assistance to pay for school, Jenkins isn’t just grateful for the Warnell scholarship she won in 2017. She’s also grateful for the encouragement and enthusiasm from alumni and donors eager to help the next generation of natural resource leaders.

“We get to make the forest and nature our classrooms, where we have the chance to explore, research and develop new conservation and sustainability methods. Warnell prepares us well as we go out into the job force and make our mark in the natural resources fields, and I am so grateful to have a part in that.”

Kendra Jenkins, BSFR ’18
Fisheries & Wildlife, Pre-Vet

PRESERVE THE FUTURE

There are many ways to give back, and we would love to help you discover how you can make a meaningful impact.

warnell.uga.edu/giving

WARNELL CHANGING WITH THE TIMES: NEW MAJOR, NEW INITIATIVES

Fall is here once again, and we’ve enjoyed the opportunity to see many of you on football weekends and during our Homecoming activities. We also hear from others regularly on our social media sites. I find it hard to believe that I am already in the middle of my third year serving the school as dean. Time does indeed fly when you are having fun.

I’m happy to announce some new changes and initiatives we’re undertaking here at Warnell.

This semester we began offering a new major named Natural Resource Management and Sustainability, but much of it will be familiar to you. Our former Water and Soil Resources major is now an area of emphasis under this more broadly named major. Alongside it is an area of emphasis in Geospatial Information Sciences—another area that continues to grow in importance to managers in all of our disciplines. We are examining other potential study areas to include under this revised major and will report those to you as they are approved. While we add some new offerings to keep our curriculum relevant to societal changes, we remain committed to our strong programs in traditional forestry, fisheries and wildlife. (See Page 10 for more details about our new major.)

Our fall entering undergraduate class was one of our largest in years, and graduate enrollment continues to climb steadily and is again approaching 200. As always, we ask you to point young people to our programs who have an interest in the outdoors and in sustainable management. You will find a new recruiting video on our website that you can share with them as well to further kindle their interest. If we can get them to visit on campus, we find most of them enroll. Thanks for your help in sending us these great young people.

Efforts are underway led by the President’s Office to make improvements to the Lake Herrick area and reopen the lake for recreation by next fall. We have renovated Flinchum’s Phoenix and our conference rooms, and also have plans to add overnight facilities upstairs in the Whitehall Mansion if possible. We are also taking the lead to remove more of the old dam below Flinchum’s to improve fish passage and reduce navigation hazards. This is an example of experiential learning actually coming to life and not just being a class exercise.

Finally, we will soon miss seeing Dr. Robert Teskey as he plans to retire in December. Bob has been one of the most productive research faculty members in our history and has led by example in so many ways. We wish Bob the best and are conducting interviews this fall for a new forest ecophysiologist. (We wish Bob well on Page 11.)

As the winter holidays approach, we wish you all the best and thank you for your continued support of our programs in so many ways. Go Dawgs!

Dale Greene, Dean, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources
On the cover:
Warnell students often dedicate their time outside of the classroom to various volunteer opportunities around the Athens community. Illustration by Wade Newbury.

Table of Contents photo:
Hairy Dawg visited the Warnell School during its first-ever “Warnell Dawg Days,” a celebration of being a member of the Warnell family. Photo by Sandi Martin.

The Log magazine staff:
Editor/Writer
Sandi Martin
Contributing Writer
Bridget Flaherty
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: thelog@warnell.uga.edu

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Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources
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Athens, GA 30602

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

 Warnell professors win high UGA honors

Water and soils major changing for student, employer demands

Longtime Professor Bob Teskey retires

Warnell Dawgs Give Back: Students making a difference outside of classroom

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Thank you to our donors

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IN EVERY ISSUE

Fall 2017

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 intercollegiate athletic programs, employment, or real estate. 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.
PMRC takes on new leadership
Kane steps down after a decade as director

Four decades ago, something momentous happened: Forward thinking scientists established the Plantation Management Research Cooperative at the Warnell School. Members of this research cooperative now own or manage more than 50 percent of the planted pine stands in the southern U.S.

And for more than a decade, one person had a lot to do with the PMRC’s success: Director Mike Kane. The PMRC has now welcomed two new co-directors—Drs. Bronson Bullock and Cristian Montes. After more than a decade as director, Dr. Kane stepped down this summer and was honored at the organization’s annual meeting for his years of service. Kane served as director from 2006 to 2017.

“It was my pleasure to serve as PMRC director and work with a great team at Warnell and our supportive and engaged cooperators,” Kane said. “The PMRC is an excellent example of how much we can accomplish through cooperative efforts.”

Bullock and Montes are excited about the future of the PMRC. Montes said he is “looking forward to introducing new technologies to manage southern pine plantations with a lower cost and higher profitability.” The major changes will come with the inclusion of big-data analysis, newer growth and yield systems, and the incorporation of spatially explicit information as part of the decision process.

“The condition of the PMRC is excellent, we have a very strong group of researchers, a dedicated staff working to ensure timely and precise measurements and treatments applied to the research trials South-wide, and a growing group of graduate students to help analyze all of the data being collected,” Bullock said. “The value of the results from PMRC research efforts will continue to grow for our members, the state of Georgia, and forest managers across the southeast.”

McGuire retires after nearly 20 years with Warnell

There are days, Mary Anne McGuire says, that she misses driving to campus and settling into her office. “Sometimes I miss coming there every day,” she says.

But then again, being retired at the beach is nice, too.

McGuire, who began her career at Warnell in Dr. Bob Teskey’s lab in 1998, said goodbye to university life earlier this year. She and her husband, Ed Levine, have moved to St. George Island, Florida, with their standard poodle, Bluebell. “It’s fantastic,” she said. “It’s beautiful here. We’re really enjoying the beach community and all it has to offer.”

Starting out as a research coordinator in Teskey’s lab, McGuire got a lot of encouragement from Warnell’s Distinguished Research Professor to get her PhD, which she did from Warnell in 2009. By the time she retired nearly two decades later, she was a research scientist working with students and teaching dendrology, all while working in Teskey’s lab researching the transport of dissolved carbon dioxide in tree stems and the effects of climate change on tree growth and physiology.

Teskey, who retires this year, said McGuire has been missed. “Mary Anne is an excellent scientist and a great collaborator, so working with her was a wonderful experience,” he said.

McGuire and her spouse may spend a lot of time walking on the beach and fishing, but that doesn’t mean she’s given up on science. She and Ed plan to volunteer for the island’s “turtle patrol” next spring—going out every morning, identifying and marking new sea turtle nests, monitoring them through the summer for new hatchlings, and then excavating the nests at the end of the season to determine the number of eggs laid and the percent that hatched.

“There’s plenty of volunteer work down here to keep me busy and involved,” she said.
The Warnell School hosted the Wildlife Habitat Education Program (WHEP) National competition at Rock Eagle 4-H Center recently. High school kids from 14 states attended to test their skills in wildlife management. Sponsored by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources’ Wildlife Resources Division, the program taught kids about moist soil and dove management.

Dr. John Maerz was recently honored at the international joint meeting between the Herpetologists’ League, Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles, and the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists. Maerz was surprised with the Meritorious Teaching Award in Herpetology in recognition of “exceptional teaching and mentoring.”

Warnell welcomed a new class of students this fall, and each one received a shiny new compass, courtesy of the alumni who participate in the Alumni Compass Project. Alumni who donate to this project also agree to be mentors to an assigned student. If you’d like to become a mentor, please visit this page for more information:

www.warnell.uga.edu/alumni/connect/alumni-compass-project

Emily Ayscue, a PhD candidate in integrative conservation, won a 2017 Innovative and Interdisciplinary Research Grant from the UGA Graduate School. Ayscue was one of a few chosen by the Graduate School for the grant program, and she will receive $2,500 to help fund her research activities at the Warnell School. Ayscue’s dissertation focuses on understanding the impacts of short-term vacation rentals such as Airbnb on urban neighborhoods. She is conducting door-to-door surveys of residents in Savannah, Georgia, to explore the perceptions of the social, financial and environmental impacts of these types of vacation rentals. Ayscue’s project also focuses on conducting interviews with short-term vacation rental hosts or owners to understand “who they are as residents and members of their community, as well as their perspective on the impacts” of these rentals in the neighborhoods in which they exist.

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Warnell was represented well at the 2017 Southern Forest Insect Work Conference in Melbourne, Florida, with some wins. From left to right: Brittany Barnes won “best overall photo;” Thomas Whitney won second place for his oral presentation on white pine research, and Holly Munro won first place for her photo in the “Forest Health Damage” category.

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Susan Wilde
Current Position: Associate Professor
Education: BS, University of Illinois; MS & PhD, University of Georgia; Post-Doctorate, University of South Carolina
Classes Teaching: Natural Resource Conservation; Lake Ecology; Senior Project; Soils, Hydrology, and Geology of Georgia; Georgia Fishes Field Course; Aquatic Biology; Introduction to Wetlands
Personal Info: I love to hike with my family, run with my dogs, swim in a lake, river or ocean and sing and play guitar. I was single. I married a fun geneticist, or ocean and sing and play guitar.

Introduction to Wetlands

I collaborate with the UGA Extension Agriculture and Environmental Services Lab to test pond and lake water for toxic algae that may harm cattle, pets or even people swimming in recreational lakes. Citizens and lake managers can learn more on the website http://aasl.ces.uga.edu/

While conducting fisheries dissertation research on the Savannah River from 1994-96, you always stopped to watch bald eagles on Clarks Hill Reservoir. And then while working as a research scientist at the Marine Lab in Charleston, you followed news reports about eagle deaths on Clarks Hill. How did this lead to your discovery of what was causing avian vacuolar myelinopathy?

When the SCDCR eagle biologist took me to Clarks Hill Reservoir in 2001 to investigate, I noticed the expansion of an aquatic invasive weed, hydrilla, and found a new species of cyanobacteria growing on the leaves. Eagles die when they eat waterfowl that have eaten hydrilla with toxic cyanobacteria growing on the leaves.

Now that you’ve identified and named that cyanobacteria, what’s next?

We named the new species, Aequorothrix nos hydriilloides, “eagle killer—living on hydrilla.” We still need to characterize the new neurotransmitter that this cyanobacterial species is producing and track it through the food web to determine whether it presents a risk to fisherman and waterfowl hunters.

You’re also tracking a number of harmful algal blooms across Georgia that are dangerous to animals and humans. What’s happening with this?

I collaborate with the UGA Extension Agriculture and Environmental Services Lab to test pond and lake water for harmful algal blooms across the state. But the research stories hold the attention of students. They retain the basics of water chemistry and physics so much better if I frame it in a “real-life” application of those fundamentals. My Warnell students inspire me everyday, and my goal is to demonstrate to them that a career in natural resources is fulfilling, and our planet’s future depends on their success.

For example: A forester assigned to monitor an ongoing forest operation could deploy drones to capture photographs or videos of the forest’s current state—identify what has been harvested, the remaining sites to harvest, and existing or new areas of concern.

The future of forestry is in the sky. And Warnell has taken flight with drones. Drones are not just some fun class exercise, said Tripp Lowe, assistant professor and GIS Lab Manager. It’s teaching students about a valuable new technology that could one day change how they manage forestland.

“I have talked with folks using these small aircraft for tasks ranging from capturing current aerial photographs of a site to include in their GIS, to creating a 15-second video of the timberland they’re trying to sell, to those estimating the volume of chip piles at the mill and residual slash after harvest,” he said. “If you take some time and think about your management process, you’ll figure out two or three different ways using drone data can help you be more efficient.”

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For example: A forester assigned to monitor an ongoing forest operation could deploy drones to capture photographs or videos of the forest’s current state—identify what has been harvested, the remaining sites to harvest, and existing or new areas of concern.

“This type of information would be valuable not only during harvest checks but afterwards as photo/video documentation showing what an area looked like before, during, and after an operation—video evidence that BMPs were followed, that downstream water quality was not affected, that the poorly growing trees in the back-40 were harvested,” Lowe said. “Those are the types of applications we are teaching.”

Lowe taught himself how to use the drones, watching “a lot of YouTube videos” and reading manuals, he said. “With a little practice, these aircraft are quite simple to fly—up, down, left, right.” But it wasn’t without some trial and error, especially figuring out what to do when something goes wrong, he said.

“You’re also tracking a number of harmful algal blooms across Georgia that are dangerous to animals and humans. What’s happening with this?”

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“During one of my first flights, I lost sight of the aircraft and panicked,” he said. “Instead of pressing the ‘return-to-home’ button, I hit the ‘stop-and-hover’ button and the aircraft did exactly that. After an anxious hike through the woods I found it hovering just above the tree line patiently waiting on its next set of commands.”

Lowe said students have had a good reaction to the drone classes. “Most of our students realize the importance of fresh data in the natural resource management workflow, and they recognize that these aircraft can be an excellent source for this information,” he said. “I think they’re a little surprised, though, that they have to be certified by the FAA if they want to take flight for business. I think they were also surprised by the amount of pre-planning each flight requires.”

“My research experiences influenced my work,” she said. “When the SCDCR eagle biologist took me to Clarks Hill Reservoir in 2001 to investigate, I noticed the expansion of an aquatic invasive weed, hydrilla, and found a new species of cyanobacteria growing on the leaves. Eagles die when they eat waterfowl that have eaten hydrilla with toxic cyanobacteria growing on the leaves.

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Changing with the times: Restructuring major will align with student, employer demand

Students contemplating what they want to major in got a new choice starting with the Fall 2017 semester: Natural Resource Management and Sustainability.

To meet student and employer demand, the Warnell School received permission from the Board of Regents to restructure its longtime Water and Soil Resources major, changing its name and adding a new area of emphasis. Students who enroll in the new major can still choose to study Water and Soil Resources, but now they can also pick a new Geospatial Information Science area of emphasis.

It was time to refresh that major, said Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Steven Castleberry. “Water and soil is an essential component of everything we do in the Warnell School,” Castleberry said. “But the major had been consistently under enrolled based on Board of Regents criteria. For several years now, we have had to justify keeping it, and in time we would have been asked to eliminate the major.”

Renaming it and adding an area of emphasis will not only increase enrollment, Castleberry said, but it will help the Warnell School meet student and employer demand. The Geospatial Information Science area of emphasis will produce GIS analysts who also have a solid foundation in natural resource management that many of our employers desire. Restructuring it will also allow additional areas of emphasis to be added later.

Students already enrolled as Water and Soil Resources majors when the change took effect will graduate with the new major name but can complete their degrees following the previous curriculum. Students entering with the current fall semester were enrolled as Natural Resource Management and Sustainability majors and one of the areas of emphasis under the new curriculum.

“This academic year will be a transition period, but we believe this is a positive long-term change for Warnell,” Castleberry said.

“The Log”

“An Excellent Fit”
Teskey retires after 35 years at Warnell

Bob Teskey has seen enough of the rest of the world for now. It’s time to explore the U.S., he says. And after 35 years at the Warnell School, he and wife Barbara will finally have the time to do it.

Teskey, who has been with Warnell since before it was even called that, is retiring as of Dec. 31. It’s been a great 35 years, he said. “I have greatly enjoyed my time working here,” he said. “It has been a pleasure being a professor at UGA. It was an excellent fit, and it’s been a great place to work.”

Teskey and Barbara plan to travel the U.S., and they want to seek out the southwestern national parks in particular. He’s seen enough green trees, he joked, and the desert parks have always been on his bucket list.

But that’s not all he’s planning to do. He also wants to indulge in some fishing, gardening, and volunteering with the community—one of which he’s been able to fully engage in while teaching and conducting research at UGA. And he can’t ease into it before retirement, either. The Distinguished Research Professor plans to “finish on a high note,” publishing 14 papers this year before he leaves for good.

That’s not surprising—Teskey was a prolific author even as a student. After earning his bachelor’s degree from the University of Illinois in 1975 and his master’s from the University of Missouri in 1978, Teskey landed at the University of Washington in Seattle for his PhD. He graduated in 1982 and had published six papers while earning his doctorate. Teskey has also been honored multiple times for his work, including the Society of American Foresters Southeastern Society Research Award and UGA Honors Day Award for Outstanding Teaching.

He still loves the work, he said, and he’s very proud of the research he’s done. “The work we’ve done to better understand respiration of trees has been particularly satisfying,” he said. “We pioneered new techniques, and we made novel discoveries. That made us one of the premier labs in the world on this topic.”

It was after earning his PhD in 1982 that Teskey came south to UGA—and never left. He stayed, he said, “because during the time I’ve been here, the university has constantly been improving. This made it a good place to work.”

Warnell has also never stalled in the quality of education it offers, Teskey said. Teaching, he said, has always been a joy, and working with students will be something he will truly miss. “I like to see their professional development,” he said. “I greatly appreciate seeing them go on to be successful.”

But now it’s time to enjoy retirement with Barbara, who he met while a student at Illinois. The couple has two sons, Joe and William, who are now grown. Barbara is a retired staff member from the UGA School of Law, so they are making plans for their cross-country exploration. “I’m looking forward to retirement and starting a new chapter,” Teskey said.

Teskey will be missed by his colleagues, some of whom once sat in his class. “Bob is an outstanding scientist and mentor who has made enormous contributions to advance his field, and he has also kick-started many successful careers that will help continue his scientific legacy,” said Dr. Doug Aubrey, an assistant professor at Warnell and a former student of Teskey’s. “His skill at asking important questions, persistence at finding ways to address those questions, and clever insight into the world around him will be missed upon his retirement.”
Citizen scientists to map, locate invasive species

UGA’s Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health is partnering with the USDA Forest Service and Wildlife Forever to help locate and map hundreds of invasive plants, animals, pathogens, and other taxa in “high-value” areas of the 193-million acre National Forest System. Using a multi-faceted citizen science volunteer approach, this collaborative effort will be piloted in 2018, with an initial focus on Congressionally-designated wilderness areas, wild and scenic rivers, and priority research natural areas. Warnell’s Chuck Bargeron will lead the project for UGA and will adapt the EDDMapS platform to allow for forest-specific interfaces including customized species list, invasive species mapping protocols, and coordination and training of volunteers. New smartphone applications will be created to pull information from the web hub and allow reporting of species from the field. Mike Ielmini (BSFR ’88, MS ’92), the National Invasive Species Program Manager, leads the project for the Forest Service. Wildlife Forever will assist in establishing and implementing a national media communication strategy. This project is a major effort by the USDA Forest Service to build capacity to increase their effectiveness against the expanding threat from harmful invasive species.

Social media return can predict tourist travel

How much positive feedback travelers think they’ll get on social media can predict whether they intend to visit a tourism destination, a Warnell study has found. The research on “social return,” or the number of likes, shares, comments and overall positive feedback of posting their travel experiences.

Cuba was chosen as the destination of interest because the recent loosening of travel restrictions under the Obama administration resulted in a rush to see the country before increased U.S. tourism changed the nature of the experience. So it was of interest to see if the expected social return of traveling to Cuba would have a greater influence on intent to visit there in the short term versus long term.

Results show that across all three times (next year, next five years and next 10 years), the anticipated social return of traveling to Cuba was a good predictor of whether someone intended to visit the country. However, social return had the greatest influence on predicting travel within the next year, the study found.

Producing electricity with wood pellets will cost, new Warnell study finds

If the U.S. wants to start using wood pellets to produce energy, either the government or power customers will have to pay an extra cost, a new Warnell study has found.

Right now, “it’s just not economically feasible to use wood pellets in energy production,” said Bin Mei, associate professor of forest resource finance and economics in Warnell. Wood pellets are used heavily in European power plants because of a mandate to cut fossil fuel emissions, Mei said, but that energy production is heavily supported by government subsidies.

Should U.S. energy providers switch to a “co-firing” method—where a power plant burns both coal and wood pellets, switching between the two—they’d pass on the costs to not only convert to co-firing plants, but also to buy the pricier wood pellets. If a government subsidy won’t pay for the extra costs, Mei said, then consumers would have to pick up the tab.

In the U.S., power plants have traditionally used coal to produce electricity, but coal emits high levels of carbon dioxide and other pollutants. Although European companies have converted, U.S. electricity producers can’t simply abandon their coal-fired plants, Mei said. The plants are designed to last decades and are built at significant costs. But they can be modified to burn some biomass, and wood pellets are one of the easiest things to switch to, he said.

Mei found that a decline in wood pellet price may not immediately trigger the adoption of mixed fuel of a power plant because of the conversion cost. Producing power with a mixture of coal and wood pellets simply isn’t a “commercially viable option in most cases,” Mei said. The government would have to pay $8 billion to prompt power plants to convert to using both coal and wood pellets, and $2.7 billion to retain current co-firing power plants, Mei said.
Lyme disease forecasting map shows areas at risk

As the rate of Lyme disease grows rapidly across the United States, new research offers veterinarians a forecasting map that tells them which parts of the country are at risk of Lyme disease infections in dogs, which could also help track and predict Lyme disease in people.

The forecast map, created by Warnell’s Dr. Michael Yabsley and Christopher McMahan, an assistant professor of mathematical sciences at Clemson University, shows the predicted Lyme disease prevalence—the percentage of dogs who are likely to test positive—by county in each of the 48 contiguous states. It draws on monthly test data from veterinarians, providing the most timely picture of Lyme disease cases available.

Ticks that carry the disease-causing bacterium, Borrelia burgdorferi, were once thought to be limited to northern parts of the United States, but recent research shows they are now in half of the counties across the country, including Southern states. The research also has implications for Lyme disease in people. “Dogs really are the canary in the coal mine for human infection. Our research team has evidence that the relationship between canine disease and human disease is strong,” Yabsley said. “Because dogs are being tested for exposure during annual exams, these data are available on a national scale, something that is difficult to get when studying the ticks and environment directly.”

Initial symptoms of Lyme disease, which appear between five and 30 days in humans and two to five months in dogs, are flu-like: fatigue, low fever, achy muscles and joints. But if left undiagnosed or untreated, Lyme disease can cause long-term complications of the heart, nervous system and muscles.

The map can be found here: http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0174428

New UGA study focuses on the long-term economic sustainability of the Upper Floridan Aquifer

As concerns grow over the ability of the Upper Floridan Aquifer to keep up with demands for water from residents, farms and forests, four universities are teaming up to look at the economic sustainability of agriculture and forestry in North Florida and South Georgia that rely on this water supply.

The Upper Floridan Aquifer supports agricultural activities worth more than $7.5 billion and provides drinking water to 10 million people, said Puneet Dwivedi, assistant professor of sustainability sciences at the Warnell School. “But it is facing significant threats to water quantity and quality, which could potentially harm food security, fiber production and vital ecosystem services,” he said.

The researchers will focus on developing new best management practices and explore ways to increase adoption of developed and existing best management practices among farmers, leading to reduced water use and improved water quality in the aquifer.

Man-made barriers can stop terrapins from wandering into traffic

One of Georgia’s most colorful turtle species could be wiped out on Jekyll Island by simply wandering into traffic—but not if man-made barriers keep them off the road. A new study by Warnell researchers found that a man-made barrier erected along part of the Jekyll Island Causeway could keep nearly 58 percent of diamondback terrapins off that section of the road.

Nearly all terrapin fatalities are adult females looking for a place to lay their eggs, said Warnell post-doc Brian Crawford. They seek out areas above high tide lines, and that’s where roads tend to be. The summer nesting season—May through July—brings hundreds of terrapins onto causeways near Jekyll, St. Simons and Tybee islands in Georgia. Summer also brings peak traffic on coastal roads as people vacation.

In a paper recently published in Herpetological Conservation and Biology, Crawford and other authors say “hybrid barriers” could be key to helping terrapin populations recover on Jekyll Island and other areas where vehicles often kill them. The barriers are one part short fencing that prevents female terrapins from getting to the road and one part nest boxes that provide attractive nesting habitat and protection from predators.

Researchers tested a section of the Jekyll Island Causeway, a 55–mph road that connects the mainland with Jekyll Island that brings more than 3,400 cars every day, peaking between May and July during summer tourism season. After the barriers were constructed, they detected a 57.3 percent reduction in terrapins emerging onto the road at the site with the hybrid barriers while finding no change at two unblocked sites on the causeway.
Wildlife on the “trailing” edge: UGA study looks at climate change impact on Appalachian species

In the southern Appalachian Mountains, visitors can see wildlife normally found much farther north in parts of New England and Canada. These species can’t be found in the lower elevations of the southeastern U.S. — and as the climate changes, they may not be in the Appalachians much longer either.

In fact, many of these southern populations are already declining, and researchers at the Warnell School want to know if these declines are part of a process called a “climate-induced range shift,” said Dr. Richard Chandler.

“Climate change appears to be causing the ranges of many species to shift toward the poles and to higher elevations, but we know very little about the ecological processes that are involved,” Chandler said.

Chandler has been funded by the Faculty Early Career Development Program, known as the CAREER program, which is one of the National Science Foundation’s most prestigious awards. Through the CAREER program, Chandler has been awarded $716,000 for his five-year project, which will focus on collecting data and creating novel statistical models that can help researchers understand why species’ ranges are shifting and what can be done to conserve these species.

Previous studies have already shown that climate change can cause complex changes in species distribution, with most ranges shifting poleward and upward in elevation. Trailing-edge populations are those found near the warm edges of these ranges, at low latitudes and low elevations. Chandler’s project will focus on whether these trailing-edge populations will survive climate change, and if so, how.

Chandler and his research team have established research plots across species’ range boundaries in the Nantahala National Forest in western North Carolina where they have begun collecting data on reproduction, mortality, and movement rates.

In addition to assessing how environmental factors influence these population rates, they will also conduct experiments to figure out how other species, such as competitors and predators, influence trailing-edge populations.

Chandler’s team will also conduct experiments to determine if temperature and precipitation at lower elevations are too extreme for some species.

Chandler’s project also has a teaching component. As part of the CAREER award, he will integrate his research with ways to teach students and the general public about wildlife conservation and climate change. These lessons will include hands-on learning activities for students at Cedar Shoals High School in Athens. Chandler also plans to include global environmental change in a course he teaches at UGA, as well as develop a graduate course to teach the modeling techniques that he will develop as part of this study.

Warnell researchers developing new methods to assess sturgeon spawning runs in Georgia Rivers

Although previous work on Atlantic Sturgeon has provided important new baseline information regarding the species ecology and current reproductive success in Georgia rivers, Warnell researchers say they’re still missing critical information that will tell them how this federally endangered species is really recovering both in Georgia and elsewhere.

That’s because there’s almost no historic data on population abundance, said Dr. Doug Peterson, and the only systems where recent adult estimates have been conducted are the Hudson River in New York and the Altamaha River in Georgia. Peterson has won a grant to develop, evaluate and implement a “practical and reliable methodology for quantifying adult spawning runs of Atlantic Sturgeon in Georgia and other large coastal rivers.”

Specifically, Peterson and his team will use a combination of side-scan sonar and acoustic telemetry to quantify the annual spawning runs on the Altamaha River. Secondary objectives will include the documentation, description, and mapping of specific spawning habitats in upper Altamaha system, including both the Oconee and Ocmulgee tributaries where spawning runs have only recently been identified.

Basically, Peterson said, previous research has given them some valuable data—but now they need to build on those previous studies to obtain definitive information about how well the species is recovering. “We now know where and when they spawn, and it’s not when we thought,” he said. They spawn in the fall—not the spring as was previously thought based on commercial fishing records. And now that researchers know this, he said, we need to know how many are up there so that we can track spawning abundance as the population recovers.

Throughout their range, Atlantic Sturgeon population had been struggling—that’s why they were listed as endangered in 2012. But researchers really didn’t understand the extent of their declines because no one had conducted a population study when they were at their peak. Previous research by Peterson and researchers in other states suggested that many populations had become dangerously rare, or even extinct in some rivers. Over the past few years, however, Peterson’s team has been tracking a steady increase in juveniles in Georgia rivers, suggesting that the populations may be starting to recover.

Warnell researching whitetail decline from predators

In recent years, researchers have noted little early successional habitat on national forests, and that’s because of reductions in timber harvests. At the same time, predators like black bears and coyotes have increased in northern Georgia. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources has documented an 85 percent decline in the harvest of male white-tailed deer from 1979-2015 on eight Wildlife Management Areas in the North Georgia Mountains. But after cutting down the harvest of female deer, they saw that populations kept going down anyway.

It’s unknown whether the problem is caused by habitat, predators, or other factors, Warnell researchers say. Led by Dr. Gino D’Angelo and Dr. Karl Miller, Warnell researchers are studying: (1) survival and cause-specific mortality of deer fawns, (2) home ranges and habitat selection of deer, and (3) influence of acorns on space-use by deer. Researchers will GPS-collar 30 adult does per year for three years on WMAs, and capture and radio-collar their fawns. They will also investigate habitat selection and cause-specific mortality of adults and fawns.

By identifying habitats most utilized by deer, especially where fawn survival is greater, D’Angelo says researchers hope to provide recommendations for managing habitats and deer populations to reverse population declines.

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Running down the hill, they’re waving a butterfly net, clearly excited about their captures. These boys are certainly not old enough to be Warnell students, but they’re getting a bit of the Warnell experience this autumn day as part of the biannual Boy Scouts Advance-a-Rama.

Dozens of volunteers, most of them from Warnell, spend the day twice a year volunteering to teach Boy Scouts different classes, drive them around or just help coordinate. Barnes, a research professional at Warnell, took on the insects class in October, helping the Boy Scouts in her group earn their badge.

“I love teaching kids about insects,” Barnes said. “I want them to get excited about how important, dynamic and amazing these creatures are. I especially love to teach kids that they can make a living working with insects when they grow up!”

Volunteering around Warnell doesn’t stop with the Boy Scouts. The University of Georgia is often criticized for the perception that although it is such a major part of Athens-Clarke County, its students not only don’t consider themselves part of the community, but don’t pitch in to help with its many needs.

But looking around Warnell, it’s clear that the natural resources students on south campus don’t fall into that category. From volunteering with the Boy Scouts, to Sandy Creek Nature Park, to training future guide dogs, or fostering stray pets, Warnell students, staff and faculty give back a lot and often—even when they struggle to find the time.

**Warnell Dawgs Give Back**

Dark clouds loom overhead one warm October Sunday when several Warnell student ambassadors start walking down Whitehall Road. Wearing bright orange vests and carrying trash bags, the group starts methodically picking up litter from the sides of the busy highway—some paper here, a bottle there.

“They might spot a can hiding in a bush, so they’ll practically crawl in to nab it.”

The Warnell student ambassadors adopted this highway through Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful’s Adopt-a-Highway program, and so a group will regularly get together each semester and pick up the trash drivers carelessly toss out their windows.

“It’s really just putting our school out there that we’re not afraid to get our hands dirty to improve the community,” said Jarrett Craven, one of this year’s ambassadors. Craven noted that each ambassador is required to complete a certain number of volunteer hours, but becoming an ambassador isn’t easy: Each one must apply and go through an interview process, and in return they get one credit hour for the semester.

story by Sandi Martin
Katlyn LaVelle, Warnell’s student relations and outreach coordinator, oversees the ambassador program. That one credit hour is not why the students do this, she said. “These folks are in it because they are student leaders,” LaVelle said. “They really have servant hearts, and they appreciate all that they have gotten from Warnell. They want to give back.”

And it’s making a difference. Warnell students have volunteered to help man the Athens Water Festival seven of its eight years, said Laurie Loftin, program specialist with Athens-Clarke County’s water conservation office. The department, she said, has come to rely on them to help with the annual festival because if the students say they’re going to come out, they always do.

“With volunteers, you never know who’s going to show up or who’s going to flake out on you,” Loftin said. “But not Warnell students.”

The festival, held every year the weekend after Labor Day at Sandy Creek Park, has grown in attendance each year, drawing 800 people in 2017. It’s always possible that the festival will fall on a football home game day, year, drawing 800 people in 2017. It’s always possible that the festival will fall on a football home game day, but there are some self-reported numbers and events that show that Bulldogs do frequently donate their time to a cause.

ServeUGA, which is part of the Division of Student Affairs’ Center for Leadership and Service, holds an annual “Dawg Day of Service,” among other volunteer events, to help foster a culture of service at the university. Over the fiscal year 2016-17, the office reports, 12,502 students completed 363,078 hours of service to the community, including specified service days like Dawg Day of Service, the MLK Day of Service and Interfaith Day of Service. Warnell students, however, frequently volunteer with no agenda.

On their own

Student ambassadors track their hours, but most Warnell students volunteer their time outside of the classroom silently and without any fanfare.

Keeping track of how students volunteer their time—if they do—isn’t something UGA or Warnell does, but there are some self-reported numbers and events that show that Bulldogs do frequently donate their time to a cause.

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Warnell students, however, frequently volunteer with no one watching.

PhD student Melissa Shockey has been fostering dogs for Athens Canine Rescue since 2013, and at first, she said, her time commitment was pretty minimal. She and her partner, Greg, already had two dogs of their own that they were feeding, exercising and bathing. So adding one more to the mix was easy. But Shockey has moved on from being a mere foster—now she’s on the board and has opened her home to even more dogs. Things, she said, are far more time consuming than they once were.

She manages the organization’s Facebook page, does its “Pup of the Week” feature, and is currently fostering more than three dogs at a time. That means more vet visits and meeting potential adopters. She’s also taken on dogs with special medical needs, which typically require more recovery time. She also goes to the local shelter to evaluate dogs to help out potential adopters choose the right pet.

“There are a lot of times I have spent late nights trying to get deadlines in for my Pup of the Week or email back applications or working on stuff for my research,” she said. “I’m a horrible example of ‘time commitment it takes to foster’ because I do so much more than just foster for the rescue.”

But she wouldn’t change it for anything, she said. “A lot of people swear they couldn’t foster because they are afraid they would get too attached,” Shockey said. “Seeing the pictures of how happy the dogs are with their families and how much happier those families are because of the dog in their life is totally worth it!” Because then I can go back to the shelter and start all over again, which may sound tiring to some but that’s what I love: Taking a dog that maybe is shy or scared or sick or hurt and helping them become this happy awesome well-adjusted family pet!”

There are a lot of animal lovers in Warnell who don’t mind taking on the role of dog parent for a while.

Holly Jamieson can often be seen around Warnell with a Golden Retriever puppy wearing a bright yellow vest. Pilot doesn’t know it yet, but one day he might make a huge difference in someone’s life. Jamieson is a puppy raiser for the Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind, which means she helps train and socialize the puppies that then go on for more training.

Pilot is Jamieson’s third puppy she has raised for the organization, and she said although it can be a lot of fun, it’s also a lot of work. “Some days are hard, and it gets frustrating,” she said. “But getting to see the difference these dogs can make in someone’s life who really needs them makes it all worth it.”
Aaron Joslin

If Aaron Joslin could get his dream job, it would be traveling the world and working in forest sustainability or agroforestry.

Of course, he’s already got some experience with that under his belt. Since graduating with his bachelor’s degree from Guilford College in 1998, Joslin has indulged his “very deep, almost genetic” wanderlust, combining it with his love of environmental sustainability. Since 1998 he’s lived in California, Bolivia, Brazil, Georgia, Brazil again and now back in Athens to get his PhD at Warnell. He’s been in the Peace Corps, backpacked around South America and taught English in Brazil.

“I pored over National Geographic magazines as a kid and fell in love with the beauty of the landscapes, animals, forests and people of the world,” Joslin said. “Peace Corps was the first opportunity I had to work with people in an amazing landscape with amazing animals and forests.”

Being in Bolivia for the Peace Corps—Joslin was also UGA’s campus recruiter for three years—really stoked his passion for sustainability issues.

“I learned that tropical forest conservation is as much about training low-input farmers how to sustain the fertility of their soils as it is about setting aside reserves,” he said. “Unfortunately, globalized markets for soy and beef have altered the balance on that score by shifting most deforestation in the tropics away from subsistence farmers and towards big agribusiness.”

After earning his master’s degree from Warnell in 2007, Joslin headed back to Brazil, where he “taught English and surfed.”

Growing up in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, Joslin is the son of Dev Jr. and Harriet Joslin, but he learned decades later what a small world the natural resources industry can be. Dad, he said, was the former editor of the Soil Science Society of America—where he became the colleagues of Warnell’s Larry Morris and Dan Markewitz. Dr. Morris was “lamenting to my dad that he couldn’t find any students to work on this agroforestry project he wanted to do in Brazil because of language and cultural barriers.”

The elder Joslin had no problem recommending his son, who not only has a bachelor’s in biology, had worked with agroforestry while in Bolivia, spent more than a year in Brazil and could speak Portuguese. “So I was a perfect fit,” he said.

Now Joslin is working on his PhD with those same colleagues of his father’s, and he’s also working on a project he excitedly likes to call the “green bank account.”

“This idea is just a re-wording of typical forestry practice on privately owned lands,” Joslin said. “Helping landowners, in the case of my research small-holding tropical farmers, see that trees can be a short, medium and long-term investment that makes each available to them at each subsequent harvest.”

Joslin expects to graduate next spring, and then after that his wanderlust will probably take over again. He might move to Hawaii, he said, where he might find work in the international arena in the development field. “Money is not a motivator for me,” he said. “I’m not after a big salary. I’m much more interested in experiences and the freedom to pursue my interests.”

Jessi Fuller

Jessi Fuller already has a job lined up for when she graduates this fall. But it’s definitely not one she thought she’d have when she first enrolled at UGA.

When she starts working for Georgia Power in the company’s forestry and right-of-way services, it’ll be far different than what she’d originally set out to do—studying wildlife, moving out west and doing research. Now she’ll be Georgia Power’s forester in charge of its metro Atlanta region, working with tree crews and homeowners from Turner Field all the way to Conyers. She’ll be the one trying to keep limbs off of power lines, cutting down on power losses during storms.

Her career path—and future job—all came up thanks to internships late last year and last summer with the company, one she took over a wildlife opportunity. She said she just felt drawn to the Georgia Power position. “This is the most specialized sector of forestry, and I just fell in love with it,” she said.

The 22-year-old Carrollton native is still double majoring in forestry and wildlife science, and she had in fact originally enrolled as an animal science major at UGA. Her very first plans were to go the pre-vet route and ultimately go to veterinary school. She took biology and chemistry courses and worked at a veterinary office back in her hometown.

But it didn’t take long for her to realize that she was “stressed out, and I didn’t want to do that anymore.”

Like many Warnell students, Fuller found her way here through another student—alum Jordan Sliger told her about the programs. So one day, Fuller said, she wandered into Warnell’s buildings until she found herself talking to the school’s then undergraduate advisor and alumna, Ami Flowers. Fuller had never heard of forestry as a career, but Flowers convinced her to try a dual major because of her uncertainty.

That internship cleared up any indecisiveness Fuller had. “It was such a great experience,” she said. “I meshed with their group so well. It was just meant to be.”

Fuller said her experience also proves how valuable internships are to students. “They really open doors you wouldn’t have otherwise seen,” she said.

Now Fuller is looking forward to full-time employment after graduation—and the challenges that can come with educating a sometimes angry public about power lines and tree safety. “I am grateful for the opportunities afforded to me by Warnell, and I am excited to inform homeowners of the interaction between trees and our power system through Georgia Power,” she said.
50 Years of wildlife comradery
Student chapter of The Wildlife Society celebrates milestone anniversary

If the UGA student chapter of The Wildlife Society were human, it would finally be old enough to join the AARP.

But in 2017, past and current members will content themselves with celebrating 50 years as a chapter of TWS and a student club at Warnell. Over the past five decades, the club has had untold number of members who have led its conclave team to decisive victories year after year and gone on to fulfilling careers in wildlife management.

“The Wildlife Society was formed in 1937 as the professional society for wildlife biologists in the U.S., but to student chapter members, it is much more,” said Dr. Steven Castleberry, who has been a club advisor since 2001. “It is the place that they learn the responsibility that goes with being a professional. Many of them get their first taste of leadership as an officer or committee chair in the student chapter. These are experiences and skills that they will carry with them for the rest of their careers. Many former officers have gone on to be leader of agencies and businesses. Aside from the professional aspects, chapter members also form lifelong friendships with their peers. There is nothing like wildlife conclave or the wildlife supper to bring members together to accomplish their goals.”

Formed in 1967 by undergraduate and graduate wildlife students at what was then the UGA School of Forest Resources, the UGA chapter at that time was the 16th student chapter of TWS. When it was officially chartered in December that year, nearly 50 students became official members and Dr. Larry Marchinton became the club advisor.

The club set out a number of goals, and they appear to have been timeless objectives: Establish and maintain the highest possible professional and academic standards, be a liaison between the student club and the parent society, develop game management consistent with sound biological principles, further public understanding of game management, and exchange ideas between members of the profession. Certainly, today TWS recognizes a greater diversity of conservation goals than 50 years ago, but the charter members laid the foundation for the success that the chapter has had.

They also established the annual wildlife supper, which celebrates its 50th anniversary next spring (see next page for information on attending).

Maisie MacKnight, secretary of the club this year, said joining the TWS opened doors for her both as a student and aspiring wildlife biologist. “The club is an organization that allows like-minded students to come together and learn about all aspects of wildlife and the diverse opportunities for young professionals in our field,” she said.

Club Vice-President Seth Cook said being a member has been one of his favorite parts of being at Warnell. “It provides great networking opportunities with natural resource professionals, as well as exposes me to tons of new wildlife research topics I potentially would have never heard of before!” he said. “It is also a good way to make friends, both at bi-weekly meetings and at other events such as the annual wildlife supper. Unlike some other clubs, the student chapter of TWS is part of a larger professional organization that is crucial to every wildlife biologist, so the transition to being a part of the professional organization is easy.”

Wildlife student chapter dominates at national quiz bowl competition

Warnell Dawgs defended their quiz bowl championship at the 20th annual Quiz Bowl at the 2017 Wildlife Society conference in Albuquerque in September, and walked away victorious after a tough round of questions. That’s a two-year streak for the UGA student chapter of The Wildlife Society, and they dominated in the final round, defeating Purdue University 55-20. As reigning champs, the UGA wildlife returned to Athens with a plaque, original piece of artwork and championship buttons. Another plaque with UGA emblazoned across it is at TWS headquarters.

“To be the best team in the country for two years in a row is quite an accomplishment,” said Dr. Steven Castleberry, club advisor. “The students earned it with their commitment and hard work.”

Please join us for the 50th Annual Wildlife Supper

Hosted by the Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Saturday, April 14, 2018 • Flinchum’s Phoenix
Social Hour 4-6 p.m.
Dinner served at 6 p.m.

Adults $10, children 10 and under $5 • Tickets available at the door
All faculty, staff, students and alumni are welcome to attend this 50-year-old tradition!

Contact Colleen Piper at cwp85522@uga.edu for information
Warnell School celebrates 86th Annual Spring Awards Banquet

The Warnell School honored the great achievements of students and faculty at the 86th annual Spring Awards Banquet earlier this year, with 45 separate scholarships awarded to support undergraduate and graduate education.

With a record crowd in attendance, Warnell also thanked donors, whose support and generosity over the past decades created so many scholarships and endowed funds.

“With the generous support from our donors, the Warnell School is able to provide a large number of awards and scholarships to our students,” said Dr. Steven Castleberry, associate dean of academic affairs. “This year we awarded nearly $200,000 to recognize the outstanding achievements of almost 100 students. We congratulate these students and thank all of our donors that make the awards possible.”

Student recipients expressed gratitude for the scholarship made possible by Warnell’s generous donors.

Warnell is going international

New graduate student exchange program with Sweden launches

Forestry graduate students just got another opportunity to broaden their horizons—this time in Sweden. With the launch of a forestry graduate student exchange program, students from Warnell can study in Sweden for a semester while earning credit for their MS or MFR degree.

Warnell has already welcomed its first Swedish exchange student, Åsa Ramberg, and another will be joining UGA in the spring 2018 semester as part of the program. Warnell is looking for its first students to send to Scandinavia to study at the Southern Swedish Forest Research Center, which is part of the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences. SLU is the premier forestry institution in Sweden and has world-class researchers, teachers and courses, said Dr. Bronson Bullock, who is spearheading the UGA side of the program.

This is a unique opportunity for students in both countries to experience a new culture and learn from diverse instructors from leading forestry programs.

“Forestry graduate students will have the opportunity to learn about production forestry from very different perspectives,” said Bullock. “Both Sweden and the state of Georgia are leaders in forest products, and the exchange program allows them to bring unique experiences and training home with them.”

Ramberg said she has enjoyed studying in Athens. “I applied because I wanted an adventure and wanted to be in a totally new environment for a while,” Ramberg said. “It’s really a big difference from cold, cold northern Sweden to come to hot Georgia. I also chose Warnell because of all the good things I’ve heard about the school. I like the classes I’m taking, and I like how the school works. Unfortunately, I can only stay for one semester, which is a shame. I really like it here. It’s so much to see and learn!”

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“We use hands-on and extensive the curriculum is for what people think is a narrow field. I was looking through a Cypress Knee from the 1960s and came across an International Paper advertisement that said ‘No, the modern forester doesn’t look like he used to. But, as we said, he isn’t what people think he is either.’ This is really true for all our majors. Because our education requires us to travel across the state, use expensive equipment, and commit more time to our studies than other majors, the cost adds up. And your charitable giving is what makes it possible for students to do this.”

– Blake Sherry

Your monetary support eases the financial burdens many of us face to complete school. Your support also inspires us to pursue our dreams and reaffirms the importance of the career paths we have begun to travel. Support from this year’s Mr. Terence and Ms. Sheila Green NRRT Award will help defray the costs of dissertation research in Savannah, Georgia, this summer and is an immense encouragement as I continue my doctoral pursuits. This scholarship, along with the many others, represent a collective desire for responsible use of natural resources for perpetuity. With my doctorate, I hope to join the ranks of academia to continue this mission, particularly in the context of tourism and outdoor recreation.”

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– Emily Ayscue
First-ever Warnell Dawg Days
a celebration of natural resources family

No matter where they were or how far away, the photos showed off that Warnell Dawg spirit. This past September, the first-ever Warnell Dawg Days kicked off three days of online comradery, as alums not only shared photos of their Warnell experience or current job or exciting travels, but also culminated in showering the school in funding help through a unique crowdfunding race.

Warnell Dawg Days was born out of the successful 110th birthday campaign in 2016, said Alumni Director Emily Saunders. “We decided we wanted to celebrate what it means to be part of the Warnell family every year,” she said. “No matter where our alums have gone to after graduation, we wanted them to share with us what their ‘Warnell Dawg Days’ means to them or how it has shaped their careers. The fact that so many also helped us reach our fundraising goal of 111 gifts for the 111 years of natural resources education Warnell has provided just made the week that much more special.”

With donor help, Warnell not only met the goal of 111 gifts, but also raised around $10,000 over the couple of days the crowdfunding campaign was live. But to celebrate being a Warnell Dawg, dozens of alums shared photos online—tagged with #WarnellDawgDays—as part of a photo contest where winners were drawn randomly from participants. Some photos were amazing portraits of landscapes, or exciting field pictures. Others were historic throwbacks to the Warnell of decades past.

Hairy Dawg also made an appearance for “Dawgs on the Lawn.”

Warnell Dawg Days will resume next year.

THE FOLLOWING ROOMS HAVE BEEN NAMED WITHIN THE SCHOOL

Alumni Legacy Room
Warnell Young Alumni Committee
Southern Pine Plantations Classroom
Benjiy and Travis Griffith of Macon, Georgia

Norris Family Classroom
Tom Norris and family
Harley Langdale, Jr. Classroom
Harley Langdale, Jr. Foundation
Keadle Lumber Conference Room
Sandra and Steve Keadle

Bleckley County Alumni Classroom
Warnell Alumni from Bleckley County, Georgia
Wilson & Greene Student Lounge
Dr. Jeanna Wilson and Dean Dale Greene

By BRIDGET HARDEN

I n the spring of 2015 we launched a naming opportunity initiative at Warnell. This initiative supports renovations and technology upgrades of our existing facilities in order to provide the best learning environment for our students. Supporting this initiative is a great way for donors to leave a legacy while directly impacting our students and enhancing the Warnell experience.

I am pleased to share that more than one-third of the rooms have been named since this effort began, and we have begun dedicating the rooms. It is exciting to see these rooms come alive with great stories behind the donors and their gifts.

We recently celebrated the naming of the Keadle Lumber Conference Room, formerly the Dean’s Conference Room, in September with Sandra and Steve Keadle, along with their family and the Warnell community. The naming was a way to honor the legacy of the family business and all those who were affiliated with it over its 66 years of business. The Bleckley County Alumni Classroom was a group effort. Warnellians are notorious for joining forces to make big impacts and Todd Mullis (BSFR ’99, MFR ’94, MBA ’00) and Andy Barres (MFR ’02) led an effort to do just that. You may or may not know that we have a strong contingency of alumni from Bleckley County. Todd and Andy challenged several Warnell alumni who were from Bleckley County, Georgia, to help support this naming. Through their hard work and coordination they were able to make this a reality and enjoy dedicated the classroom during Warnell Homecoming week.

We also look forward to dedicating the Wilson & Greene Student Lounge, named by Dean Dale Greene and Dr. Jeanna Wilson. The lounge has a new look including white-walls for students to write on. In the spring we will dedicate the Harley Langdale Jr. Center for Forest Business, as well as a classroom in Mr. Langdale’s honor. We are grateful for the tremendous legacy that Harley Langdale made at the school and forestry community.

If you would like to learn more about Warnell namings or giving opportunities, I welcome the opportunity to discuss options for you to either support an existing effort or create your own legacy. There are many ways to make a gift to the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources—a current gift, pledge or planned gift can make a difference in the life of student and is a wonderful way to show your commitment to Warnell and the University of Georgia.

Thank you for all you do to support Warnell! ♦
Weyerhaeuser Golf Tournament hits birdie for Warnell

The annual Weyerhaeuser Golf Tournament has become more than just a tradition. The yearly fundraiser—and the generous sponsors who make it possible—have become an amazing benefactor for Warnell’s programs. Held on Sept. 15 this year, Weyerhaeuser and the tournament’s sponsors raised more than $95,000 for the Harley Langdale Jr. Center for Forest Business.

Weyerhaeuser generously hosted this fundraising event, drawing dozens of alumni and friends to the Georgia Club just outside of Athens. The 2017 tournament proceeds will benefit the Center for Forest Business Support Fund in the UGA Foundation. “In the nine years since Plum Creek started this golf tournament in 2009, this event has raised more than $1 million to support the Langdale Center for Forest Business,” said Dean Dale Greene. “We thank Weyerhaeuser and our many generous sponsors for their continued support.”

Weyerhaeuser Golf Tournament hits birdie for Warnell

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Warnell Weekend: Getting the Warnell “experience”

The 6th annual Warnell Weekend held last spring drew an excited crowd of parents and alumni eager to get a taste of the Warnell “experience.”

The open house, which has grown in attendance each year, kicked off with the 86th annual Spring Awards Banquet on April 20. Then festivities began in earnest the next couple of days with tours, class lectures, and field labs, and a Whitehall Mansion tour, as well as new additions to the schedule—Warnell Night at Southern Brewing Company and the Young Alumni Sporting Clays Tournament.

Check back at warnell.uga.edu for a schedule of events for next year’s Warnell Weekend, which has been scheduled for April 12-13, 2018.
How did you end up at Nutter & Associates?

Wade Nutter, professor emeritus of hydrology and soils, asked me to join his team back in 2005. I think that Warnell connection gave us both a great deal of comfort knowing this would be a good fit. Wade has proven to be a tremendous mentor, as he has for an untold number of Warnell students, faculty and Nutter & Associates employees. There are four of us that have joined him as principals in the firm, and we are proud to say that Warnell graduates make up a third of our staff.

What’s a typical day like for you?

Every day I get to work with some of the most intelligent, creative and entertaining scientists I have ever met, most of who are UGA alumni. The project work is a good mix of field and office time. We put our heads together, draw conclusions from the science, and help our clients make decisions accordingly.

Is there a particular project you’re working on right now that really excites you?

The vast majority of the projects I work on have to do with wastewater treatment. Now who wouldn’t get excited about that? When I see a wastewater treatment facility operating successfully that we helped to design and permit, I am grateful we got to be a part of that.

How did you get drawn to your career?

When I started the professional program, I was drawn to the soil and water classes. I really didn’t have much of a plan from there. Larry Morris and Rhett Jackson took the time to listen and pointed me in the direction of certain opportunities. I know I am not alone; there are many of us who have looked to our professors for guidance beyond the classroom.

How did your experience at Warnell prepare you for what you’re doing now?

Essentially every project I work on as an environmental consultant is like a thesis. I apply that same scientific process to nearly everything I do.

What advice would you give current students who’ll soon be looking for jobs?

Keep in mind that college is only the beginning of your education, so be prepared to try new things. When exploring opportunities, understand that you are going to be more fulfilled when you get to work with a good team.

How have you stayed connected to Warnell?

At Nutter & Associates, we continue to hire Warnell graduates. I still reach out to my former Warnell professors for advice, they continue to make themselves available, and I appreciate that.

Name: Lane Rivenbark
Education: BSFR ’00, MS ’02
Occupation/Title: President of Nutter & Associates, Inc./Environmental Consultant
Hometown: Athens, Georgia
Personal: Married to Erin Clark Rivenbark (BSFR ’01, MS ’04), two daughters: Nola, 6, and Mae, 1
We’ve enjoyed highlighting different alumni from across the globe through our “Where in the World?” feature on social media this year, and we are almost to our goal of representing all 50 states! Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram to see how your classmates are making a difference throughout the world. Are you living, working or visiting somewhere interesting? Send your photos to warneldawg@uga.edu or tag your photos with #WarnellDawg on social media. And next time you move, be sure to update your information, so we can keep up with you and send you relevant invitations to UGA and Warnell events. This map represents where Warnell’s living alumni resided as of August 2017.

Warnell alumni can also be found in the following countries: Australia (3), Austria (1), Bangladesh (1), Brazil (2), Cambodia (2), Canada (13), China (2), Colombia (1), Costa Rica (1), Cyprus (1), Germany (1), Greece (1), India (1), Indonesia (2), Malaysia (1), Mexico (1), Nepal (4), Netherlands (1), New Zealand (7), Pakistan (1), Papua New Guinea (1), Philippines (2), Singapore (1), South Korea (4), Sri Lanka (3), Taiwan (6), Thailand (7), United Arab Emirates (1).
The Log

Joe Hamilton (BSFR ’71, MS ’78) has compiled a lifetime of outdoor writing in his new book, Firepot Stories: Collected Writings of Naturalist, Conservationist, Wildlife Biologist, Sportsman and Raconteur. The book is available through the Quality Deer Management Association, which Hamilton founded.

The name “Firepot Stories”—a reference to tales told around fires in hunting camps—was first given to a regular column Joe wrote in Quality Whitetails, the membership magazine of QDMA, and for years Joe was the sole author of the column. Many of those columns, along with a lot of Joe’s other writings, published and unpublished, are gathered in the new book.

Firepot Stories contains 10 chapters and 76 stories within its 308 pages. The earliest entry dates back to a 1972 newspaper article that was Joe’s first published writing. Numerous unpublished stories are also included covering topics ranging from hunting and fishing to adventurous encounters with snakes and spiders. If you are interested in obtaining a personalized, signed and dated copy of the Firepot Stories book please contact Joe Hamilton (jhamilton@qdma.com) for purchasing and shipping details.

1970s

Jim Hill (BSFR ’77, MFR ’83) retired on May 1, 2017, from Westrock Corp after 40 years of forest resource work, the last 30 of which was in Fernandina Beach, Florida. Wife Kathy retired on June 1, and the couple plans to travel and visit with grandchildren. Hill says he plans to “continue running marathons as long as I can.”

1980s

Jack Scott (BSFR ’80) recently retired from the Cheyenne Board of Public Utilities in Wyoming. He and his wife Linda plan to split their retirement years between their home in Cheyenne and North Georgia.

1990s

Scott Phillips (BSFR ’98) has been named the next state forester for South Carolina at a special meeting of the South Carolina Forestry Commission. Phillips, the rural forestry programs manager with the Commission, will take office when current State Forester Gene Kodama steps down Jan. 2, 2018.

“We had an excellent and far-reaching pool of candidates, internal and external,” said Commission Chair Walt McPhail. “Scott is a top-notch forester who has both the technical knowledge and people skills to work with the diverse coalition of stakeholders we serve, the landowners growing our forests, the General Assembly, our natural resource partners and of course our statewide Forestry Commission team.”

In his current role, Phillips oversees the agency’s cost-share and technical assistance programs offered for private landowners. He received a bachelor’s degree in forest resources from UGA, where he dual-majoried in forestry and wildlife management. He earned a master’s degree in forest resources from Clemson University, where he specialized in forest business. Phillips has served as the forest renewal program manager for the Commission since 2008.

Phillips assumes leadership of the Forestry Commission at an exciting time. In addition to celebrating its 90th anniversary this year, the agency recently unveiled the results of a widely publicized study that showed forestry contributes $21 billion to the state’s economy and continues to be one of the largest industries in the state.

Originally from Millen, Georgia, Scott now lives in Camden, South Carolina, with his wife of 10 years, Lori.

2000s

Andrew Taylor (BSFR ’09, MS ’12) completed his PhD in fisheries and aquatic ecology at Oklahoma State University in May 2017. Andrew is now employed as a postdoctoral researcher at the same institution.

Jeffrey Poston (BSFR ’12) was named the “Vegetation Management Team Leader” for the Western Division of Alabama Power Company based out of Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Abby-Gayle Price (BSFR ’12) has started on a master’s degree at Purdue University. “I will be working with Dr. Rob Swihart to study the effects of cover crops on vole populations.”

L.K. Tsuominen (PhD ’12) has started a new position as a postdoctoral fellow in the biology department at John Carroll University. “I will be teaching 12 credits per academic year and carrying out research investigating metabolic strategies for plant adaptation to gypsum soils.”

2010s

Matt (BSFR ’10, MS ’12) and Meg Streich (BSFR ’10, MS ’12) are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Luke Harold Streich, born on October 3, 2017, in Corpus Christi, Texas. Luke was 8 lbs., 9 oz. and was 20.5 inches long.

Brianna Williams (BSFR ’12) married Phillip Berger of St. Louis, Missouri, on April 29, 2017, in Athens, Georgia.

Jack (BSFR ’11) and Rebecca Pearl (BSFR ’11, MS ’13) welcomed baby girl Eleanor Mae Pearl on Oct. 26, 2017. They say they are looking forward to raising their next generation Bulldawg in Texas!

Corey Green (MS ’16) received the Forest Landowners Association Scholarship at the organization’s annual meeting recently.

Aaron Mathys (BSFR ’12) has been stationed in Vicenza, Italy, with the 173rd Airborne Brigade for the past two years during which time he was promoted to captain and celebrated the birth of his third daughter, Francesca Poppy Mathys.

(continued on next page)
AGL names new class

Twenty-five professionals who represent a broad cross section of corporations, businesses and organizations throughout Georgia have been chosen to participate in the Advancing Georgia’s Leaders in Agriculture and Forestry (AGL) 2017-2019 class.

Five Warnell alumni are in this new class of AGL: Grant Harvey (BSFR ’95), Tim Lowimore (BSFR ’98), Garrett Mack (BSFR ’99, MS ’11), Ross Prichett (BSFR ’99) and Michael Westbrook (BSFR ’95, MS ’08).

Organized by the UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and the Warnell School, the purpose of AGL is to educate and empower Georgia’s agricultural leaders to become effective advocates for the largest economic drivers in Georgia—the state’s agriculture and forestry industries.

The AGL program is designed to bring together leaders from all segments of the state’s agriculture, forestry, natural resources and allied industries. Over 22 months, they will help one another grow through personalized leadership development geared toward understanding themselves as leaders, analyzing issues facing their industries and strengthening connections to become catalysts for positive change.

Warnell School honors distinguished alums at Homecoming

The Warnell School honored two alumni recently, recognizing them for the impacts they’ve made to their respective natural resource fields during distinguished careers.

Dan Forster (BSFR ’86, MS ’88) and Andy Stone (BSFR ’74) were each awarded the Distinguished Alumnus Award during Homecoming festivities. This award is given annually to alumni who have made outstanding contributions to the natural resources fields and have remained strong supporters of the Warnell School. Award winners are nominated by colleagues and other alumni.

Forster, a career wildlife biologist and manager has been the director of government relations for the Archery Trade Association since 2016. Forster assumed this position after retiring with 27 years of service from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources’ Wildlife Resources Division, the last 12 years as its director.

Stone is the current president of Superior Pine Products in Fargo, Georgia. He helps manage 211,000 acres of forestland and oversee operations in blueberry production and real estate.

Stone has been instrumental in establishing at UGA the Stackey Timberland Professorship in Forest Economics and Taxation, the Superior Pine Products Forest Economics and Taxation support fund, and the Stone Family Endowment, which benefits the Langdale Center for Forest Business.

James M. Crider Jr. (BSF ’51)

James Mark Crider Jr. of Summerville, South Carolina, died Sept. 14, 2017. He was 90. Crider was a retired executive from Mead-Westvaco. Born July 23, 1927, in Charleston, South Carolina, he was the son of James Mark Crider Sr. and Inez Sineath Crider.

He grew up in the Charleston area, on Morris Island, in Park Circle, and in Old Windermere. Crider graduated from Charleston’s “Porter Gaud” in 1945 (when it was still known as “Porter Military Academy”) before earning his bachelor’s degree at UGA. Crider then earned a master’s degree from the Citadel Military College of South Carolina.

Crider lived most of his adult life in Summerville’s historic Tea Farm and was a member of Summerville’s Preservation Society. He was also a long-time member of Bethany Methodist Church in Summerville where he sang in the choir and served as a past president of the South Carolina Conference of United Methodist Men.

Crider’s family says he always had a passion for physical fitness, learning the martial arts of Judo, Taekwon Do, and JIU-JITSU; he performed a solo-skydive in which he made use of those martial arts moves of tucking and rolling when his parachute failed to open and he hit the ground with an emergency chute and without a scratch.

Crider was preceded in death by his son, James Mark Crider III, and his sister, Elizabeth Crider Calder. He is survived by his daughters, Joann Crider Adams of Summerville and Jan Crider Wham of James Island; and his grandchildren, Jamie Hardinger (Matthew) of Mt. Pleasant, a niece and two nephews.

Daniel Crumpton (BSF ‘57)

Daniel Crumpton of Warrenton, Georgia, died July 28, 2017. He was 84. Born on July 28, 1933, in Claxton, Georgia, C rumpton was a longtime resident of Warren County. He was the son of the late Alva Riska Crumpton and the late Alma Jane Mooney Crumpton. Crumpton served in the U.S. Army 101st Airborne Division during the Korean Conflict.

Crumpton worked with Continental Can for many years and was retired as owner and operator of Forest and Land Services. He was a member of First Baptist Church of Warrenton.

Survivors include his beloved wife of 64 years, Charlene Smith Crumpton; son, Henry “Hank” Alva Crumpton (Cindy); daughters, Carla Burkey (Robert) of Mesena, Georgia, and Holly Alma Crumpton of Savannah, Georgia; sister, Doris Smith of Savannah, Georgia; five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. In addition to his parents, Mr. Crumpton was preceded in death by seven brothers and sisters.

Obituaries

In Memoriam

Daniel Crumpton (BSF ‘57)

James Crider Jr. (BSF ‘51)
William F. Miller (BSF ‘47)

William Flynn Miller Jr., of Jesup, Georgia, died May 16, 2017. He was 94. Born on March 23, 1923, in Lake City, Florida, to the late William Flynn Miller Sr. and Julia Crouch Miller, he was a graduate of Columbus High School in Lake City where he served as Senior Class President.

Miller’s college career began at the University of Georgia where he played tromper in the Red Coat Band and was a member of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity. In his junior year of college, Miller served his country in the United States Navy as a pilot during World War II. He was stationed at Pearl Harbor. Upon his safe return to the states, Miller resumed his education and earned his bachelor’s in forest resources in 1947. A year later, he earned a master’s degree in forestry from Duke University.

Miller was a charter Big Jay Hook at the Warnell School and was the first of three generations that would graduate from the program. He began his career with Rayonier at its Fernandina Beach location where he worked in land management and tax administration for 20 years. In 1970, he relocated to Jesup to be woodlands manager until he retired in 1986 after 39 years with the company.

Miller served as president of the Fernandina Beach Jaycees and was a member of the Jesup Kiwanis Club where he served as president and lieutenant governor. He was a member of the Altamaha Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. He served as vice president of the Georgia Forestry Association’s Executive Committee and was on the board of trustees for Coastal Pines Technical College where he was awarded Trustee Emeritus. Miller also served as chairman of the Wayne County Chamber of Commerce and was awarded the Distinguished Service Award, the Community Service Above Self Award and was an honorary lifetime member. He was appointed to the Georgia 8th Congressional District Advisory Board as chairman of the Wayne County Chamber of Commerce and was awarded the Distinguished Service Award of the Sons of the American Revolution. He served as vice president of the Georgia Forestry Association’s Executive Committee and was on the board of trustees for Coastal Pines Technical College where he was awarded Trustee Emeritus. Miller also served as chairman of the Wayne County Chamber of Commerce and was awarded the Distinguished Service Award, the Community Service Above Self Award and was an honorary lifetime member. He was appointed to the Georgia 8th Congressional District Advisory Board by the U.S. House of Representatives and served as Lieutenant Colonel, Aide De Camp, to Governor Joe Frank Harris in 1987.

Miller was a former member of First Baptist Church of Fernandina Beach and a member of First Baptist Church of Jesup where he taught Sunday School for many years and attended the Golden Ruler’s Sunday School Class. In his spare time, Bill enjoyed golfing at the Pine Forest Country Club and was proud of his two holes-in-one. He also enjoyed traveling, hunting, bridge, attending Georgia football games and spending time with his beloved family.

In addition to his parents, a son-in-law, Richard Vincent, preceded him in death.

Survivors include his wife of 70 years, Carolyn Morrison Miller of Jesup; a son, Bill Miller III and wife Nancy of Fernandina Beach, Florida; and a daughter, Betty Kirby of Clermont, Florida. The Log 40 41 Fall 2017

Parley Winger

Parley Vernon Winger, a longtime adjunct faculty member at Warnell, died on Sept. 13, 2017. He was 75. Winger worked with the U.S. Geological Survey’s Parastatic group, operating his office and labs at Whitehall Forest. He served as an adjunct fisheries professor at Warnell, specializing in ecotoxicology.

Born in Driggs, Idaho, on December 11, 1941, Winger grew up in the Tetons and graduated from Teton High School. He went on to earn bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Idaho State University and earned a PhD in zoology from Brigham Young University. He and wife Alexis married in 1967.


Parley is survived by his loving wife of 50 years, Alexis, his children Shane (Emily) Winger and Amanda (Rodrigio) Saurin, grandchildren Griffin and Simone Winger, sister Sally (Doug) Rasmussen, brother John Winger, and a large extended family.

1940s


Milton A. Pierce (BSF ’49) of Louisvilie, Georgia, died Sept. 17, 2017.

1950s

Arch C. Crews (BSF ’50) of Hendersonville, North Carolina, died May 21, 2017.

Kermit R. Felker (BSF ’50) of Rome, Georgia, died May 4, 2017.


Cole E. Rogers (BSF ’59) of Statesboro, Georgia, died June 30, 2017.

1960s

Eugene P. Carswell (BSF ’60) of Ashburn, Georgia, died May 25, 2017.


Thomas M. Clants (BSF ’64, MS ’66) of Lugoff, South Carolina, died Sept. 13, 2017.

1970s

Billy L. James (BSF ’64) of Waycross, Georgia, died March 20, 2017.


Donal D. Hook (PhD ’68) of Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, died April 8, 2017.

1980s

Hiram F. Findley (BSFR ’76) of Robbinsville, North Carolina, died May 11, 2017.

Justin C. Coile (BSFR ’77) of Blakely, Georgia, died May 11, 2017.

1990s


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The Warnell School thanks the many alumni, corporations, foundations and friends who contribute annually to support our programs and strategic initiatives. We are grateful that the number of our supporters has consistently grown during the past several years! In order to best utilize the financial resources you have entrusted with us, we made the decision to reduce the number of pages in our printed honor roll. Included in this printed version are several special giving categories, including President’s Club Donors, the Heritage Society, Student Donors, and Donors who’ve given consecutive annual gifts for 10 years or more.

Established in 1973, the Presidents Club is comprised of alumni and friends whose annual support makes an immediate impact at UGA. Last fiscal year, the Presidents Club recognized donors who gave $1,000 or more each fiscal year.

This Honor Roll of Donors represents contributions to Warnell received between July 1, 2016, and June 30, 2017, from hundreds of supporters. Every effort has been made to assure its completeness and accuracy. If you have a question please contact Emily Saunders, 706-542-1465.

A complete Honor Roll recognizing all of our donors can be found online: www.warnell.uga.edu/alumni/giving/donor-recognition

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“I am so thankful that I was able to learn about our natural resources from a school that is so devoted to the success of their students. I am even more thankful to donors that have given to Warnell, so that students like me could benefit. The first gift we get as an incoming student is a compass that’s provided through donations from recent alumni. Not only has my compass guided me in the forest, but it has also been a source of inspiration for my future endeavors. That just goes to show how every donation, no matter the amount can lead to the enrichment of students. Warnell is like family, and I give with the hope that my donation will inspire the next generation of young Warnellians.”

Sam Askin
(BSFR ’16)
Current master’s student at Virginia Institute of Marine Science
Anna and Ryan Reddish give to provide today’s Bulldogs with more opportunities to help them realize their career goals. The couple lives in Atlanta, Georgia, where Anna serves as a veterinarian for the American Veterinary Medical Association and Ryan is a timberland acquisitions specialist for Forest Investment Associates.

Anna and Ryan attribute much of their success to the experiences they had at the University of Georgia’s College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and the Warnell School. Ryan gives to Warnell’s Forestry Fund to help ease the financial burden of a college education. As someone who benefitted from a graduate assistantship while at UGA, he recognizes the tremendous impact donors make. “My graduate assistantship was a game-changer for me financially and helped me exit school with very minimal student debt,” Ryan said. “I want to give as many students as possible that same opportunity.”

Anna grew up participating in 4-H, and maintains that it is “the greatest youth organization in the world.” Through Georgia 4-H, she learned how to care for animals and discovered a passion for her career—veterinary medicine. Now, she gives so that young people can enjoy opportunities to learn about what interests them most.

“Ther’s a program [in 4-H] for every kid and I hope that my gifts help youth find a program that they’re passionate about,” Anna said.

Ryan grew up around the forestry profession. His father, Patrick (BSFR ’77), is a forestry graduate from UGA. Although following in his footsteps at Warnell, Ryan wanted an atypical forestry career. “I always knew I wanted to be at Warnell but didn’t want to do the traditional forestry role,” Ryan said. “I saw an opportunity on the business side, and Warnell has the premier forest business degree in the nation.”

Ryan (BSFR ’08, MFR ’10) and Anna (BSA ’08, MADS ’09) Reddish

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Consecutive gifts—no matter the size—are crucial to the success of the Warnell School. Loyal donors who make gifts year after year provide a powerful foundation allowing us to support critical needs at the school. This list includes donors that have supported a Warnell funds with an annual gift for the past ten years or more.

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“Over a 35-year career, I have had the pleasure and good fortune to work alongside natural resource professionals with a wide array of educational backgrounds in many business settings. I can say without reservation that Warnell does the best job of preparing students for success. As a young student with an inquiring mind and a quantitative focus, I attended Warnell at a time when the instructional staff was incomparable—Bob Bailey, Graham Brister, Jerry Clutter, Jim Fortson and Leon Pienaar were a ‘dream team’ for someone with my career interests. That’s what I want for the current crop of Warnell students regardless of their educational focus: incomparable instructional staff and facilities.”

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