Hogpocalypse Now
Feral swine have invaded Georgia

Distinguished Alumnus: Dennis Carey
David Cohen: Alumni on the Job
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**Warnell faculty earn well-deserved awards**

A talented and accomplished faculty is the foundation of every great academic institution. Our faculty in the Warnell School is having a banner year of recognitions for their outstanding work in research, teaching and outreach.

The most prestigious teaching award at UGA is the Josiah Meigs Professorship, while the most coveted award by junior faculty is the Richard B. Russell Award for Undergraduate Teaching. I am delighted to tell you that Warnell faculty members received both of these very competitive awards this spring semester. Dr. John C. Maerz is one of the new Meigs Professors, while Dr. Sonia Hernandez received the Russell Award. This was followed by Dr. Gary Green receiving a First Year Odyssey Teaching Award. These awards not only reflect the quality of the teaching of these individuals, but also highlight the longstanding importance of quality teaching in the culture of our school.

We are equally well known for the impact and quality of our research. Dr. Richard Chandler will receive the Fred C. Davison Early Career Scholar Award this semester recognizing him as one of the top young research faculty on UGA’s campus. In January the Southeastern Society of American Foresters recognized Dr. Kamal Gandhi with its Research & Development Award and Gail Westcot with its Technology Transfer Award. Thanks to the support of our Alumni Steering Committee, we have added three new annual teaching, research and outreach awards within Warnell to further help our faculty compete for prestigious campus and professional society awards.

Job placement remains strong and appears to be further improving. Our fall semester entering class at this time looks to be one of our largest in recent years. We have revised our Water & Soil Resources major to expand its offerings into geospatial sciences as well. We hope to have approval prior to fall semester, and our fall issue will have details on this revised major.

Your generous support continues to help make these success stories happen. Examples include a new undergraduate scholarship by the Georgia Coastal Soil and Water Conservation District for water and soil majors, recent commitments to finish funding the Stuckey Professorship in Forest Economics and Taxation, and a major gift from Keadle Lumber Enterprises that we will recognize this fall by renaming the Dean’s Conference Room.

Great faculty, great students, great alumni and donor support – this will surely mean more great things to come!

Go Dawgs!

Dale Greene, Dean, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources
An invasive pest that was found in only a handful of states three decades ago has now become a national problem. Feral swine have caused a billion dollars in damage, and landowners in Georgia have been desperately seeking solutions. Photo courtesy of USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services

Table of Contents photo:
Warnell expanded its prescribed fire class to the Savannah River Site in 2017, adding a much-needed course that also landed students the coveted red card certification. Photo by Jeremy Wood

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How are we doing?
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180 E. Green St.
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THE LOG is an Alumni Association publication. It is published twice a year in the fall and spring.

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FEATURES
10 Warnell professors win highest teaching awards from UGA
11 Prescribed fire class expands to Savannah River Site
16 High on the hog: Invasive feral swine a problem in Georgia
28 2016 Distinguished Alumnus: Dennis Carey
30 2016 Distinguished Young Alumnus: Amanda Lang
38 2016 Annual Report

IN EVERY ISSUE
6 Faculty Q&A: Pete Bettinger
8 Warnell Notes
12 Research News
20 Student News
24 David Cohen, Alumni on the Job
31 A Word from the Alumni Office
32 Class Notes
36 Obituaries

On the cover:
An invasive pest that was found in only a handful of states three decades ago has now become a national problem. Feral swine have caused a billion dollars in damage, and landowners in Georgia have been desperately seeking solutions. Photo courtesy of USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services

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2016 Distinguished Young Alumnus: Amanda Lang
2016 Annual Report

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2016 Distinguished Young Alumnus: Amanda Lang
2016 Annual Report
Georgia Coastal Soil and Water Conservation District creates new Warnell scholarship

Water and soil students now have a new scholarship to compete for to defray education costs. Late last year, the Georgia Coastal Soil and Water Conservation District established a new scholarship to provide undergraduate support for students majoring in water and soils at Warnell. Named after the district, the new scholarship will give preference to Georgia residents from Bryan, Liberty, Long, Chatham and McIntosh counties, which are located within the organization’s boundaries.

Fred Warnell (BSFR ’71), who is treasurer of the district, and M.L. Coffer were instrumental in creating the scholarship at Warnell. The Coastal Soil and Water Conservation District is a legal subdivision of the state of Georgia. Created in 1945, the district comprises Bryan, Liberty, Long, Chatham, and McIntosh counties. Georgia’s resource conservation program implements best management practices regarding the administration of its natural resources. Its function is to describe to each conservation district practical guidelines for land development by working with individual land owners, associated agencies, and other interested parties.

The work of each district is an integral part of an overall state conservation program coordinated by the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

Keadle Lumber sponsors naming of dean’s conference room

Steve Keadle is leaving his legacy at Warnell. Taking advantage of the “naming opportunities” available at Warnell, Keadle, of Thomaston, Georgia, has chosen to sponsor the dean’s conference room in honor of his family business and the forest industry.

Warnell will dedicate the room this fall and officially rename it the Keadle Lumber Conference Room. Keadle’s generous gift will allow Warnell to maintain technology renovations and upgrade the room to professional and corporate aesthetics. Launched in 2014, Keadle’s generosity will be recognized on the outside and inside of the old dean’s conference room, including a plaque that describes his gift. Keadle Lumber Enterprises Inc. was a quality manufacturer of southern yellow pine and hardwood lumber from 1947 to 2013. In making this gift, Homer Keadle, Steve Keadle and Keadle Lumber express their appreciation for the dedication of its employees, suppliers and customers with whom they were affiliated during the 66 years of operations.

Money raised through the naming program allows Warnell to upgrade facilities and bring classrooms up to modern campus-level standards. Keadle’s generosity will be recognized on the outside and inside of the old dean’s conference room, including a plaque that describes his gift. Keadle Lumber Enterprises Inc. was a quality manufacturer of southern yellow pine and hardwood lumber from 1947 to 2013. In making this gift, Homer Keadle, Steve Keadle and Keadle Lumber express their appreciation for the dedication of its employees, suppliers and customers with whom they were affiliated during the 66 years of operations.

Going away party sends Warren off

Old friends, former and current students, colleagues and family said goodbye to Dr. Bob Warren late last year in a bash at Flinchum’s Phoenix. As those who knew the longtime wildlife professor well regaled the audience with stories of Warren’s decades of teaching, there were laughter and tears. Thanks for everything, Dr. Warren!
The use of GIS has become more prevalent in forestry. How do you see this technology changing research and the industry?

More than 70 percent of recent forestry graduates we surveyed said they use GIS frequently in their jobs. In a study of recent job announcements for entry-level foresters, we found that about 53 percent required some level of GIS knowledge or skill. It’s evident that many forestry organizations emphasize this type of technology to increase the efficiency. Students graduating today should have the knowledge and skills to capitalize on these changes in technology. Given the possibilities of wirelessly transferring data from the forest to the office, real-time updates of forest maps are now possible in organizations that have kept pace with the leading edge of technology. During my forestry career, we have transitioned from hand-drawn maps to computer-rendered maps and on-demand spatial analyses. The question is, where will we be in 30 more years?

You’ve actually done several GIS studies. Tell us about your work on re-drawing the timber stand boundaries of Talladega National Forest.

The Talladega National Forest asked us to assist them with an analysis of the ecological condition of their forests, in an effort to prioritize the timing and location of habitat improvement projects. They also decided the stand boundaries within their databases needed updating. They were drawn more than 30 years ago, and were probably based on interpretations of aerial photographs and associated field notes. In many cases, the stand boundaries do not reflect the current extent of different forest types located across the forest. This project has allowed us to use GIS, LiDAR and aerial imagery to put into practice the aerial photogrammetry skills that we teach in our classes.

You work with colleagues and students from around the world. What are your thoughts on new technology and ideas affecting forestry globally?

In the last five years, several students and researchers from around the world have visited here to learn how new forest planning methods can assist in the development of multi-function forest plans. Researchers from both Turkey and China are exploring the use of these methods to develop forest plans with a distinct spatial concern. Their problems suggest that the timing and placement of management activities is related to the need to address fragmentation, aesthetics or labor concerns.

You’ve been with Warnell for 15 years and have worked with dozens of graduate students in that time. What’s the best part of working with a new generation of forest professionals?

The best part of working with a new generation of forest professionals is the opportunity to learn from them. They often have novel and interesting ideas concerning our research fields. Their perspectives on forestry and forest management, and their adventures living and traveling in other countries, are fascinating.
Adam Fox, a PhD student focusing on fisheries, won the Best Student Presentation at the Southern Division meeting of the American Fisheries Society this year. Fox attended the meeting in Oklahoma City and made it the third straight year that a Warnell graduate student won the Best Student Presentation.

Dr. Kamal Gandhi and Gail Westcot, the director of the Mary Kathryn Warnell Education Center, were both honored recently at the annual meeting of the Southeastern Society of American Foresters in late January. Gandhi received the Research and Development Award, and Westcot won the Public Education and Technology Transfer Award.

At Warnell, Gandhi works on the community and population ecology of forest insects under the context of insect-plant interactions, invasion dynamics and forest disturbances. Her research on native pests — southern pine beetles and pine engraver beetles — and exotic forest insects — like the emerald ash borer and Eurasian woodwasp — has a strong applied focus where she assists with integrated pest management and conservation issues.

As director of the Warnell Forest Education Center near Savannah since 2001, Westcot is a teacher, advocate and natural resources ambassador. She focuses on youth education through forestry and natural resource outreach programming, working with local school groups, 4-H, the FFA, Boy Scouts of America, and other visitors to the Center to provide education about natural resource conservation and management.

Dr. Scott Merkle has been recognized by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations for his research using somatic embryogenesis to propagate trees.

IUFRO is a nonprofit network of forest scientists that promotes global cooperation in forest-related research. Its goal is to enhance the understanding of the ecological, economic and social aspects of forests and trees. Submitting more than 15,000 scientists in more than 110 countries, IUFRO also recognizes the outstanding research contributions of its members.

Merkle was honored late last year at a meeting in La Plata, Argentina, for his “outstanding contributions by his scientific endeavors in the vegetative propagation of trees, especially somatic embryogenesis in hardwoods.”

To prepare future educators for the growing field of environmental education, the UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and the Warnell School are launching an environmental education certificate program this fall.

The certificate, which can be added to any UGA degree, will require a total of 18 credits. Students enrolled in the certificate program will gain new environmental and life sciences content knowledge, develop communication and evaluation skills, engage in innovative evaluation strategies and practice teaching in the community.

CAES Associate Professor Nick Fuhrman and Warnell Senior Public Service Associate Kris Irwin developed the interdisciplinary certificate’s plan of study with the help of students in Irwin’s “Foundations of Environmental Education” service-learning class.

Through the new environmental education certificate, students will be prepared to pursue jobs at summer camps, 4-H centers, nature centers, museums, science centers, aquariums, zoos, state and federal natural resource agencies, and municipal and county parks and recreation departments.

More information can be found at eccertificate.uga.edu.

The Warnell School recognized three staff members at its annual Homecoming dinner in October. Jason Love, Jenny Yearwood and Anthony Myrick were each awarded an Alumni Staff Award, given each year to three workers who have shown dedicated service and commitment to the school.

Love (BSFR ’98) is the site manager at the Coweeta Long-Term Ecological Research Program in Otto, North Carolina. During his career at Coweeta, Love has facilitated research and logistics for more than 100 researchers or graduate students. Myrick is a member of the Whitehall Forest staff and is one of the best known employees at Warnell. Yearwood is an administrative assistant who works for the associate dean for academic affairs and at one time, as Dean Dale Greene’s assistant, he took the job full-time.

Gary Grossman is one of 26 professors around the country who have been chosen for the 2017 Faculty Fellowship Summer Institute in Israel, sponsored by the Jewish National Fund and Media Watch International. Grossman and the other participants will meet with Israeli professors throughout Israel in June through the fellowship, which is a competitive academic program that links scholars from diverse disciplines with their Israeli counterparts at major institutions to initiate exchanges and collaborations.

The P.E.O. Scholar Awards were established in 1991 to provide substantial merit-based awards for women in the United States and Canada who are pursuing a doctoral-level degree at an accredited college or university. Scholar Awards recipients are a select group of women chosen for their high level of academic achievement and their potential for having a positive impact on society.

Gary Grossman and the other participants will meet with Israeli professors throughout Israel in June through the fellowship, which is a competitive academic program that links scholars from diverse disciplines with their Israeli counterparts at major institutions to initiate exchanges and collaborations.
Warnell professors win prestigious UGA teaching awards

It’s very rare for faculty at the University of Georgia to win either a “Meigs” or a “Russell” from the University of Georgia, but the Warnell School pulled a double this year — two professors won both awards, which are the highest teaching recognitions bestowed by the university.

Dr. John Maerz has been honored with the Josiah Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professorship, which is the highest recognition for excellence in instruction at UGA. And Dr. Sonia Hernandez won a Richard B. Russell Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, the university’s highest early career teaching honor.

“I am very proud of both John and Sonia for these well deserved recognitions for their dedication to improving the learning environment in the Warnell School and across campus,” said Dean Dale Greene. “And it is a special treat for our school to have faculty members receive both of these prestigious awards in the same year.”

Maerz was one of five faculty members to win a Meigs award at UGA this year. Maerz uses active learning approaches such as simulations, mock journals, facilitated peer review and reflection, and service projects to engage students and help promote independent learning. He has studied and published on student confidence with scientific writing and attitudes on autonomous learning models. He also teaches and mentors graduate students pursuing UGA’s Interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate in Teaching, the university’s highest early career teaching honor.

Hernandez was one of three UGA faculty members to win a Russell Award, which was established during the 1991-1992 academic year by the Russell Foundation and named for Richard B. Russell.

Hernandez, who became a tenure-track faculty member in 2008, uses a multidisciplinary approach to engage her students in courses related to wildlife diseases and conservation medicine. Her classes, including an experiential learning course taught in Costa Rica, incorporate meaningful real-world experiences alongside lectures and more traditional approaches, and she is dedicated to mentoring students and acting as an advocate for students who are underrepresented in her fields.

Hernandez is a 2013 recipient of the Warnell School’s Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching, and she was named the 2013 Western Veterinary Conference Educator of the Year. She is a member of Warnell’s Teaching Effectiveness Committee, which hosts a seminar series dedicated to improving teaching and mentoring, and has participated in UGA’s Teaching Academy Fellows and Writing Fellows programs.

“I am humbled and honored to receive this award,” Hernandez said. “Teachers have the potential to impact students in so many ways, and I feel the weight of that responsibility every day. I am so grateful for all those amazing teachers and mentors who modeled what it means to be a great teacher. Finally, teaching is an ongoing process and this is just the beginning!”

Prescribed fire class expands to Savannah River Ecology Lab

It was time to expand.

For years, the Warnell School has held its prescribed fire class at the Jones Ecological Research Center near Newton, Georgia, teaching students the importance of controlled burns and how fire behaves under various conditions.

But when Dr. Doug Aubrey came on board as a joint appointment between Warnell and the Savannah River Ecology Lab in 2015, he was asked to look into expanding the fire class to Aiken, South Carolina, because of the interest in holding classes at SREL and because the Savannah River Site has nearly 200,000 acres of managed forestland. It’s an ideal place to expand a prescribed fire class to, Aubrey said.

It didn’t come without some hurdles — students taking the class at the site were required to obtain red card certification, which means the students became certified wildlife firefighters, often required for some jobs. This hurdle actually became a recruitment tool for the class, however. In a post-class survey of students, Aubrey discovered that most of those who took the class signed up specifically for the Savannah River Site course to obtain the certification.

“A lot of students actually came to the Savannah River Site course to obtain the certification, who would not have taken the class otherwise,” Aubrey said.

In 2016, the course was expanded even further. The course, which is now called the Savannah River Site prescribed fire course, which consisted of firefighter training, fire behavior training courses, learning management objectives, tours of stands to observe fire effects, and then participating on a prescribed burn of around 170 acres over two days. Students were partnered with U.S. Forest Service employees at all times during the burns, and following the burns they returned to the sites to gauge the effects.

“I feel like this course was a great success and we hope to make it even better next year,” Aubrey said. “Although I do not consider myself a fire ecologist, it has been a part of my research program ever since I was an undergraduate conducting independent research in Midwest Oak-Hickory forests, so I have always had an interest in the subject. I also happen to interact with some of the best fire ecologists, fire scientists and firefighters in the southeast, and those relationships are what made this course happen.”

While Aubrey was teaching this new class, Dr. Kamal Gandhi led 16 students through her prescribed burn class at the Jones Ecological Research Center. The course taught students the basics of fire behavior, fuel type, and effects of terrain and weather conditions on fire dynamics. The students also learned many ecological aspects of managing and restoring longleaf pine ecosystems, and specifically how to use fire to achieve multiple forest management objectives. The class also did three prescribed burns during the week.

Gandhi said it’s great that the course has expanded to another site. “These courses are absolutely necessary for students who will work in frequent fire ecosystems to conduct burns and to learn to use fire in a proper way for long-term forest health and sustainability,” she said.

Fourteen students completed the Savannah River Site prescribed fire course, which consisted of firefighter training, fire behavior training courses.
Deadly raccoon roundworm can infect humans without symptoms, Warnell researchers find

A new Warnell study has found that a deadly raccoon parasite that can cause severe neurological problems in infected hosts can infect humans without any symptoms. A study looking at people with frequent contact with raccoons — wildlife rehabilitators — thought to be at higher risk of becoming infected with Baylisascaris procyonis shows that they did test positive for the parasite but weren’t showing any symptoms. “This suggests that not all infections with this parasite lead to severe disease,” said Dr. Michael Yabsley, “This is in contrast to what has been previously reported for most diagnosed patients.” The results were recently published in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s journal, Emerging Infectious Diseases. Primarily hosted by raccoons, Baylisascaris procyonis can spread from raccoons to other wildlife, dogs or humans. Although human infection has historically been rare, seven new cases of the parasite in people have been confirmed over the past two years, and it has been popping up across the Southeast recently.

Conservation easements help protect forests amid development pressure

Landowners may think that they lose money from a forest under a conservation easement, but Warnell researchers say that’s not necessarily true. Although a conservation easement prevents land from being developed, landowners can still continue to perform ranching, farming or forest operations on the properties. The new Warnell study shows that a conservation easement on forestland can protect forest resources while still providing cash revenue for owners, as well as jobs.

The team — made up of Weiyi Zhang, Bin Mei and Bob Irlar — conducted the study for the Appraisers Research Foundation. They studied 72 parcels of mostly industrial or undeveloped residential land surrounding forest-related conservation easements. Their study found that the county in which conservation easements and land for sale are located significantly influences property values. They also found an association between property prices and the property’s distance from the nearest conservation-easement protected space — the further properties were from conservation-easement-protected spaces, the greater their values were. But this varied from county-to-county. For example, fast-growing Forsyth County, Georgia, properties near conservation easements were more highly valued than those in other counties, but the cost for land trusts to purchase easements there is also greater.

How well do floodplain wetlands filter farm runoff?

Warnell researchers are studying nutrient runoff from the Iron Horse Farm, a 300-hectare farm in Greene County, Georgia. Drs. Rhett Jackson and Susan Wilde, along with master’s students Cody Matteson and Johnson Jeffers, will study the effectiveness of floodplain wetlands in reducing nutrient exports from the property. Wetland areas, along with riparian zones, can be very important components in the nitrogen cycle and nutrient transport processes, depending on their hydrologic conditions and flow paths. As part of the project, the team will examine the relationship between past and present land uses and phosphorus and nitrogen levels in shallow groundwater. They will also examine links between nutrients in groundwater to microbiota and microfauna communities in drainage features and nutrient concentrations in receiving streams.

Drought-stressed Georgia pines are dying from Engraver Bark Beetle attacks

There’s more bad news for pine trees in Georgia stressed from below average rainfall last year. The drought-stressed trees are being attacked by bark beetles. Drs. Elizabeth Benton and Kamal Gandhi have found that forests, particularly those in the Piedmont and mountain regions, are especially showing the effects of drought, with more than 200 lps engraver infestations being reported in excess of five acres. Many infestations have been 25 to 50 acres in size. Pines are dying even in areas of the state that are not currently in official drought conditions.

It’s happening because drought weakens pines, making them susceptible to the bark beetles. Rainfall levels were below normal in Georgia during most of 2016, and much of northern Georgia is still experiencing severe to extreme drought conditions. While these areas have received rainfall, drought conditions are still predicted through May 2017 in northern Georgia. Agriculture, wildlife, and water quality resources have been negatively affected by the drought. They’ve warned landowners to be on the lookout for the pests: There are multiple signs of bark beetle attack, including branch dieback, change in needle color (green to yellow to brown), and eventually tree death with needles falling from branches. Other signs that directly indicate bark beetle activity include small (1-2 mm) round exit/entrance beetle holes on the bark. Sometimes sticky pine pitch will surround the hole, but this symptom is mostly absent on drought-stressed trees.
White ibis Salmonella shedding increases with urbanization, new study finds

The more urbanized a place is, the more likely that white ibises there are carrying Salmonella — the same kind of bacteria that can make people sick, Warnell’s Dr. Sonia Hernandez has found. Looking at how urbanized white ibises might be shedding Salmonella, researchers found that not only are the white ibises in more developed areas shedding more, but the strains they carry are the same strains that have been making humans sick. This has become a concern for wildlife biologists as people continue to feed birds at parks. “People feed ibises in these parks, and these birds form large flocks that drop a lot of feces on picnic tables, benches and other surfaces,” Hernandez said. Results from this study were published in PLOS One. Researchers collected fecal samples from white ibises at sites in Florida and found that 55% of the birds were shedding Salmonella, and that the rate of Salmonella shedding went down as the percentage of wetlands and grasslands around the sample site increased. The opposite was also true: The more developed the surrounding area was, the higher the Salmonella rates they found in the ibises. By testing the xenotypes and of Salmonella the ibises carried, researchers learned that 33 percent of them were in the top 20 that infected humans during the years of the study, 2010 to 2013, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Fifteen percent of those were most frequently reported in Florida for human infections the same years they conducted the study.

In vitro propagation being tested as a way to restore the Atlantic white cedar

Warnell researchers have established an in vitro propagation system using somatic embryogenesis for Atlantic white cedar, an evergreen that was once an important timber species but has declined over the past two centuries. The researchers — Warnell’s Chang-Ho Ahn, Ryan Tall, Paul Montello and Dr. Scott Merkle — showed that cultures could be started from seed embryos and that plantlets could be produced from the cultures without the use of plant growth regulators, hormone-like chemicals that are routinely added to the tissue culture medium to induce certain responses such as somatic embryogenesis for propagation. The lack of a requirement for these chemicals is highly unusual in cultures of conifer species, almost all of which need these additives to be propagated in vitro.

Atlantic white cedar, also called southern white cedar or swamp cedar, is an aromatic evergreen conifer than can grow 50 to 80 feet tall and is usually found in small dense stands in freshwater swamps and bogs of the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts of the U.S. It was historically desired for timber production because its wood is lightweight and decay resistant, and it was often used for boat construction, fencing, shingles, waterfowl decoys and house siding. But it population has declined in the past 200 years because of over-harvesting, fire suppression, hydrologic alteration and conversion of coastal bogs to agriculture and other development. Efforts to restore Atlantic white cedar have not been that successful because of poor seed germination and competition from hardwoods. Warnell researchers are investigating using in vitro technology to speed up mass clonal propagation of rare or threatened species, including Atlantic white cedar.

People’s attitudes about tourism influenced by economic factors

People who have favorable attitudes about tourism demonstrate corresponding pro-tourism behavior, and vice versa, a new study shows. Residents who have more extensive contact with visitors also tend to have a more favorable stance about tourism, according to the study, recently published in Tourism Management. Researchers also found that if residents feel like tourism is supporting the local economy, they support tourism more, even more so if they feel they are personally benefiting financially from visitors.

The study focused on the Cape Verde islands, where tourism has emerged as a driving force in an economy that had been supported by migrants and foreign aid. The researchers — which included Manuel Alector Ribeiro of Middlesex University, Patricia Pinto and João Albino Silva of the University of Algarve, and Kyle Wissmann with Warnell — looked at both the economic and non-economic factors that could explain residents’ attitudes about tourism and ultimately whether this shapes pro-tourism development behavior.

Warnell researchers calculating northern bobwhite population, survival rates

Warnell researchers are trying to figure out how many northern bobwhites are out there — and whether rabbit hunting is interfering with quail hunting in East Georgia hunting grounds. Results of the study could be used to not only set how many quail can be taken by hunters, but also change the days hunting is allowed for rabbits. “This study is important because it helps sustain an important cultural resource like quail hunting,” said Dr. James Martin. In two separate grants, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources has awarded Martin and his team nearly $75,000 — funded from revenue generated by hunting licenses and firearm sales—to develop a way to accurately estimate how many northern bobwhites there are and their survival rates on public land. They will also study whether rabbit hunting in the DeLane Wildlife Management Area near Waynesboro, Georgia, is actually negatively affecting quail hunting in the same place. Martin said the data they collect will hopefully not only tell them how many quail survive the winter, but also tell them more about their movements, their roosting patterns, and the size of their population.
This part of the farm would be OK, he said, but another section of land? If he planted over there, his peanuts would be ravaged by wild pigs.

“We’d just pick and choose different fields where we thought we’d have the least hogs,” West said.

West is just one of many farmers in Dooly County — and of thousands of landowners in Georgia — who’ve had a pig problem. Once isolated to just a handful of states, wild pigs are now found across the county, damaging crops and property, spreading disease, competing with native wildlife and battering environments.

One Warnell School study estimates that they cause around $151 million in damage in Georgia alone. Wild pigs are such a problem that three years ago Congress set aside $20 million to do something about them in the U.S. But what can be done about this billion dollar pig problem?

Pigging out on peanuts

West has seen firsthand what wild pigs can do overnight. West plants peanuts, watermelon and cotton on about 1,500 acres in Dooly County, located south of Macon. He’s planted peanuts one day to find them rooted up and destroyed the next morning. He’s tried taking on the greedy swine himself, but became overwhelmed. “We were trapping them ourselves and having some success,” he said. “But it was hard running a farm and setting traps and hunting all night.”

They weren’t just costing him time. Every time West had to replant peanuts, he lost money, even if it was only a few acres out of hundreds. “It can get in your pocket in a hurry,” he said.

It’s a problem Warnell School researchers have been trying to assess and put in money terms. A 2015 survey showed that landowners in Georgia suffered nearly $99 million in crop damage and almost $52 million in non-crop damage from feral swine. Hay and pasture use was the most often commodity reported destroyed by pigs, according to the survey, closely followed by peanuts and corn. Most damage was caused by rooting or grubbing.

Nationally, statistics mirror the vast damage pigs can do just by eating and rummaging around land. Estimates suggest that feral swine cause more than $1.5 billion in damages across the country annually, and it’s not just because they’re eating crops. Rooting and wallowing can also damage property and erode stream banks. They prey on young livestock and other small animals, can destroy native vegetation, contaminate water, and spread diseases or parasites to other animals and to humans, like undulant fever, trichinosis, swine flu, and toxoplasmosis.
They’re Not All

**MYTH**
- Wild boars weigh 500-600 pounds
- We have Russian wild boars
- Wild pigs will attack you and chase you

**FACT**
- Based on one source of harvest records for nearly 23,000 wild pigs, the average weight is around 150 pounds.
- European wild boars (male and female) have been introduced to the US but there have been no introductions since the early 1900s. Wild pigs are feral descendants of common barnyard pigs with a mix of different genetic material. There is nothing romantic or special about wild pigs.
- Any wild animal will try to escape if cornered or will defend itself if threatened. Wild pigs do not normally pose a threat to humans.

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Introduced by Spanish explorers in the 16th century, wild pigs were found in just 17 states in 1982, but they've expanded across the country and are now found in as many as 42 states, as well as Guam, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands. They have been cutting a swath of destruction across the U.S., said Dr. Mike Mengak, associate dean of outreach for the Warnell School.

“Wild pigs are probably the No. 1 invasive vertebrate pest in the U.S.,” Mengak said. “They threaten water supplies, reduce crop yields, destroy habitat for other species, compete with native wildlife for food, and prey on endangered species like sea turtles.”

Dooly County, like much of South Georgia, has a considerable pig problem. It’s also where the USDA focused extensive efforts in Georgia on swine control, for several reasons, said Matt Ondovchik, a wildlife biologist with USDA Wildlife Services. Dooly County is an agricultural county, has a large pig population and the USDA has good relationships with growers, he explained.

When Congress wrote that $20 million check in 2014 to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Ondovchik said, they recognized that “we’ve got a legit problem.” This money created the National Feral Swine Program that is led and managed by Wildlife Services, and it is the first nationally collaborative effort to combat the increasing damage and disease threats posed by the pigs.

Each state decided how to use its cut, and in Georgia that is the first nationally collaborative effort to combat the increasing damage and disease threats posed by the pigs. They already have one farmer happy with what they’ve done. West said he’s incredibly satisfied with the results so far, especially now that he can plant where he pleases. “I planted peanuts in an area this year that I wouldn’t have been able to plant without a bunch of hog damage,” he said. “It’s been huge for us. One of the worst areas that we’ve got is right next to a swamp, where the hogs have been real bad. And I planted peanuts right next to that swamp this year.”

**Mengak has also launched a new survey to record how many pigs were harvested in Georgia since January 2015. It’s available at georgiawildpigs.com, which also has accurate and timely information about wild pigs and the destruction that can be caused by sounders, which are family groups of pigs.**

“Trapping and whole sounder removal is the most effective control strategy available right now,” Mengak said. “Do not relocate wild pigs. Landowners should work with Warnell, University of Georgia County Extension, private industry, and USDA Wildlife Services to trap and eliminate wild pigs wherever feasible.”

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Spring 2017

Cover Story
Narissa Turner

It’s not uncommon to hear a Warnell student say they were drawn to the school by chance. Often they’ll be enamored in another major they don’t find fulfilling, only to hear about Warnell from a classmate or a professor. Narissa Turner found herself in that exact situation.

The Warnell senior originally majored in animal science when she came to Georgia, with dreams of being a veterinarian. But it was a chance encounter with Warnell’s Dr. John Maerz that changed her mind about where she wanted to learn — and ultimately she changed her mind about what she wanted to do.

After meeting Maerz at a university program, he learned of her interest in wildlife and he talked her into visiting Warnell. She fell in love “that day,” Turner said. But it was a class with Dr. Gary Green that led her from wildlife to natural resources recreation and tourism. “Dr. Maerz’s enthusiasm is what ultimately got me to switch,” Turner says. Maerz got her to Warnell, but Green stirred up what she’s learned is her true passion: the effects of human resource sustainability is that a lot of people don’t understand how closely our health, happiness and wealth are tied to our natural resources,” she says. “Enough of one day having a large aquarium with lots of fish are on hold. “For many people the only way to gain an understanding and appreciation for natural resources is to go out in nature, but for me I just have to look at the water my fish swims in, or think about the landscapes that inspire my paintings to be immensely grateful for all the things the natural world provides.”

About to graduate this May, Turner is now looking at graduate schools, and Warnell is on her list of potential colleges. If she stays at Warnell, Turner said, she wants to work with Green, studying how outdoor recreationalists’ environmental ethics can influence what activities they choose.

It begins to get at some of those ideals about human management,” she said. “If we can understand the components of people’s decision making when interacting with the natural world, and natural resources, we can better come up with solutions for mitigating the overuse or damage we may be inadvertently causing.”

When she’s not exploring the ways humans affect natural resources, Turner stays busy. She’s recently picked up painting — abstract interpretations of landscapes is her new creative outlet — and relaxing with her Betta Fish, Vanic. As a student who moves a lot, she said, her dreams of one day having a large aquarium with lots of fish are on hold. “For many people the only way to gain an understanding and appreciation for natural resources is to go out in nature, but for me I just have to look at the water my fish swims in, or think about the landscapes that inspire my paintings to be immensely grateful for all the things the natural world provides.”

Graduate PROFILE

Taylor Echols

Back when Taylor Echols played basketball for the Bulldogs, he learned quickly what a huge time commitment it was to balance sports and school. The McDonough native was a walk-on his sophomore year, and that first year on the team was hard, he said.

But playing sports for three years while earning his bachelor’s degree from the Odum School of Ecology did teach him a lifelong lesson. “It taught me how to get things done when I didn’t feel like doing them,” he laughs.

Growing up as an outdoorsy kid, Echols spent a lot of time at lakes, doing water sports and taking trips to the beach. And that certainly shaped his career goals. “I wanted to incorporate my love of the outdoors into what I would be doing,” he said. But it didn’t turn out quite the way he thought it would.

Echols is Georgia legacy — both his parents graduated from UGA. And even though UGA doesn’t offer a marine science major, which had been his initial career goal, he enrolled and majored in ecology instead. But after graduating cum laude from Odum in 2015, Echols was undecided about what he ultimately wanted to do. So he took a year off to make up his mind and interned at the Georgia Aquarium in Atlanta.

“I loved it,” Echols said, before adding a “but.” That year off made him realize not only did he not want marine sciences as a career, he also didn’t want to live where those jobs would take him. Married to Hayley since July 2016, Echols wanted to stay closer to his family. Even now to attend Warnell, he commutes more than an hour from John’s Creek.

Attending class at Odum, just a building over, meant that Echols had more than a passing knowledge of the Warnell School. Looking into degree programs, Echols was drawn to Warnell’s Master of Forest Resources program, not only because it’s an applied degree but also because of his interest in land management.

So far, Echols seems to be relishing the knowledge he’s picking up in his Warnell classes, including constructing management plans for a tract in Whitehall Forest as part of his silviculture class. “This is my first experience putting together a complete land management plan, and I am excited to learn the many steps in the process because it is directly applicable to work that I will likely be doing in the future,” he said.

“I enjoy finding solutions to inefficiencies and utilizing resources to their maximum potential,” Echols said. “Land asset management will allow me to work with individuals or companies to determine the highest and best use of their property and maximize the productivity of the resources while accomplishing the landowners’ objectives. Also, I enjoy working with people and like the idea of helping them be good stewards of the land that they own.”

Now working as a research assistant for TimberMart-South, while earning his master’s, Echols is getting a personal look at what’s going on with forestry in Georgia and how landowners can maximize resources.
Wildlife students dominate at conclave
Forestry Club members take high honors in individual competition

Warnell wildlife students might be the most hated competitors at the Southeastern Wildlife Conclave. Over the past decade, the Warnell student chapter of The Wildlife Society has dominated, winning 11 of the last 12 competitions, not including the year Warnell hosted and did not compete. The 2017 contest was no different, as the wildlife team not only took overall first place, but also placed first in Quiz Bowl and the team field competition. Several students also took home high individual honors at the competition, held in mid-March at Mississippi State University.

“We all know that Warnell has great students, and they demonstrated it at conclave,” said Associate Dean Steven Castleberry and advisor to the team. “They were fierce competitors, but more importantly represented themselves and Warnell as professionals.”

Warnell’s Timberdawgs, sporting 10 rookie conclave competitors, also represented UGA well at the 60th annual Southern Forestry Conclave held at Stephen F. Austin University in Texas. Although the UGA Forestry Club did not place overall as a team, several Timberdawgs won individual awards. “While we have little to say in the way of bragging rights, I am proud to say our Dawgs maintained their reputation of professionalism, decorum and sportsmanship,” said Dr. Dick Daniels, team faculty advisor.

UGA Forestry Club Timberdawgs

2nd Place:
Photogrametry – Michael Buchanon

3rd Place:
Wildlife – Justin Rectenwald and Tim Miller
Timber Estimation – James Carr

1st Place:
Overall
Team Field Competition
Quiz Bowl – Crew Mayne, Ben Thesing, Colleen Piper and Aaron Johnson
Shotgun – Josh Webb

2nd Place:
Radiotelemetry – David Sisson and Nathan Wilhite
Canoing – Crew Mayne and Nate Payne
Cervid Calling – Jonathan Pritchard
Poetry – Colleen Piper
Name: David Cohen
Education: BSFR ’11
Occupation: Program Manager, Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards
Hometown: Asheville, North Carolina
Personal: Hobbies include whitewater kayaking, backpacking, and fly fishing. New home owner, aspiring uncle, and determined to renew my passport and travel outside the country in 2017.

What you might not know about me: My absolute favorite place to eat when I lived in Athens was Kelly’s Jamaican Restaurant in Five Points. Occasionally, I make up a reason to visit Athens just so I can eat there.

How did you end up at SAWS?
Late in 2010, a friend at the U.S. Forest Service told me about the Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards, a new organization that was starting up, and that they would be hiring a couple wilderness rangers for the summer of 2011. It sounded like a great opportunity, so I looked up SAWS and submitted my application for the wilderness ranger position. I was graduating in spring of 2011, so the timing was perfect. I was fortunate enough to get the job, and loved it. I worked seasonally as a wilderness ranger for the next four seasons, and started full-time as a program manager in the fall of 2015.

What’s a typical day like for you?
It’s hard to describe an average day. One thing I’ve learned working for a small nonprofit is that you must be well-rounded and able to work on a huge variety of tasks. On any given day I might be traveling to meet with Forest Service staff, interviewing wilderness ranger candidates, developing financial plans for a project, pulling on a crosscut saw, planning education events, training seasonal staff, or a hundred other things. The variety is a huge part of what makes the work fun and keeps it interesting.

Is there a particular project you’re working on right now that really excites you?
We are in the middle of planning the annual Wilderness Skills Institute that’s held at the Cradle of Forestry in Brevard, North Carolina. It’s a two-week training event that is run as a partnership between SAWS, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. We offer courses including crosscut saw training, Leave No Trace Trainer and Master Educator, trail maintenance, and more. It’s a ton of fun hanging out with all the great people there, and it might be the best two weeks of our year.

How did you get drawn to your career?
I have to credit my family for getting me interested in this line of work. I grew up with my parents taking my sister and I to the mountains, going camping, canoeing, and hiking all the time. My Dad also worked for the Forest Service, so between learning about his work and spending a lot of time on the National Forest, I eventually realized that I wanted to work in the realm of public lands.

How did your experience at Warnell prepare you for what you’re doing now?
The first thing that comes to mind is the curriculum. So many of the classes I took covered topics that were relevant to the work I’ve done as a wilderness ranger, and how I understand the goals of land management agencies. The combination of natural resource, science and recreation focuses was exactly what I needed.

What advice would you give current students who’ll soon be looking for jobs?
I would advise students to lean on their network, and make an effort to expand that network. So many people are willing to help if you ask. Few of us accomplish anything completely on our own, and I am certain that I wouldn’t have found the opportunities I did without help.

How have you stayed connected to Warnell?
I recently re-connected with Warnell by participating as a mentor in the Alumni Compass Project and donating to the Forestry Fund. After working in the field for a few years, I feel like I now have experiences to share as a mentor. Thinking back to my time at Warnell, it’s easy to see how valuable the Alumni Compass Project will be for students.
Can’t get us down: Warnell Dawgs enjoy Homecoming despite losing game

It was a big welcome home for Warnell Dawgs during Homecoming last year, as festivities drew hundreds of alumni back to Athens and the UGA campus. The Dawgs may have lost to Vanderbilt, but the pre-game fun didn’t disappoint.

Two years ago Warnell moved the Homecoming game day celebration from Flinchum’s Phoenix to the main campus — a move that has been well-received by visitors — and this year will also see another change. The Homecoming golf tournament held each year on the Friday before the big game will be hosted this year at the Harbor Club at Lake Oconee instead of the UGA Golf Course.

Last year, we welcomed alums back with the annual Parker Memorial Golf Tournament, where we rewarded golfers for both the best and worst games. The party moved to Flinchum’s for the alumni dinner Friday night, drawing a large crowd to honor three staff members (See Page 9) and our Distinguished Alumnus (See Page 28) and Distinguished Young Alumnus (See Page 30) award winners.

Details about the 2017 Homecoming festivities can be found on Warnell’s website: Warnell.uga.edu/homecoming. Throughout the year, the website will be updated with more information about events, transportation, online registration, and football tickets. We do not yet know if football tickets will be available for purchase through Warnell, so keep checking back on our website for more details.

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Susan Parker

Warnell NRRT Alumni

Michael Ransom

Warnell NRRT Alumni
At the time, it probably seemed like a small, logical thing to do. Carey and his partner at Pine Timber Company, John Morris Sr., were putting together an investment plan for a timber company in Florida. At the time, the two were heavily using TimberMart-South prices while negotiating the structure for the project.

Visiting TimberMart founder Frank Norris at his retirement home in North Carolina, they learned he was producing the indexes there — and that there was no succession plan for the service. Norris launched the service nearly two decades earlier, and the forest industry had come to rely on the timber price reports and market trends.

Carey, Morris and an investor may have saved TimberMart-South after that fateful visit. They worked out a deal to purchase TimberMart-South through the creation of the Frank Norris Foundation, and then moved the service to Warnell. Since then, subscriptions have more than doubled, and it has supported dozens of graduate students.

Norris was planning to discontinue TimberMart-South if he couldn’t sell it, Carey recalled, but there were a lot of timber sale contracts throughout the South indexed to the service. “I had personally been involved with some of these contracts over the years on both sides of the transactions and had been pleased with the outcomes being fair for both buyer and seller,” he said. “We felt it important that it continue. We were not alone as we had no problem raising more than the purchase price from the industry, landowner and consultant sectors of the wood-related businesses. The rest is history.”

The deal to buy TimberMart is just one of the indelible impacts Carey has had on the forest industry since graduating with his BSFR in 1974. His work in forestry is one of the reasons Carey was named the 2016 Distinguished Alumnus at Homecoming festivities last October. This award, as well as the Distinguished Young Alumnus 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.

“It is truly a humbling experience to be recognized by one’s peers,” Carey said. “The opportunities afforded me as a result of attending Warnell have proven to be life changing. Not only did the Warnell experience provide both a widening of perspective and increase in knowledge of our natural resources, it also afforded the opportunity to establish contacts that resulted in doors being opened throughout my career.”

A native of Madison County, Carey has been married to Sara for 44 years, and the couple have two sons — Doug Wilkins and Ben Carey — and five grandchildren.

Carey started his career with Buckeye Cellulose Corp., after graduating from UGA, but he left to start his own business, founding Pine Timber Wood Production Inc. and Pine Timber Trucking Inc. in Oglethorpe, Georgia, in 1984.

He is currently partners with John Morris Sr. and son Doug, and he is also the sole owner of Southern Wood Suppliers Inc., a chip mill in Macon County, Georgia, that in the 1990s provided more than half a million tons of hardwood chips per year to Japanese customers. The mill currently ships hardwood for G.P. and pine for Weyerhaeuser.

Putting together significant forestry deals is nothing new for Carey — in 1994 he and Morris set up a plan for investors to buy around 650,000 acres in North Florida from Procter and Gamble, managing what became Foley Timber and Land Company until it was sold in 2015. It was during this deal that the two had a chance meeting with Norris, and they set up the continuous support for TimberMart.

Carey also continues to serve as chairman of the Frank Norris Foundation.

Reflecting on his career, Carey said he would do “lots of things differently, too many to enumerate here. I often tell people that my many failures and losses have resulted in my having less today. Fortunately by the grace of God and the support of my wife and family, the successes have outweighed these failures. I have been fortunate to develop some great partners and friends along the way.”

“Dennis Carey (top left) accepted the Distinguished Alumnus award from Dean Dale Greene (bottom left) during Homecoming’s alumni dinner. On Saturday, he and his family (center) celebrated at Warnell’s tailgate.”
Amanda Lang was sitting in mensuration class early one morning her first semester at Warnell. At 8 a.m., even Dr. Dick Daniels seemed half asleep. “I don’t think any of us liked that time, especially him,” she joked. Lang was dutifully taking notes when she noticed that the guy in front of her had started shaking his leg.

And then started shaking it even more. “All of a sudden he stood up and started jumping up and down and yelled ‘something is crawling on my leg! In my pants!’” Lang recalled. “Then, a little creature zoomed across the room, obviously frightened. A guy sitting behind me yelled ‘don’t step on him! Don’t hurt him!’ That is my pet squirrel!”

Apparently, he was nursing a baby squirrel back to health and kept it in a small cooler that he carried around with him. I guess the squirrel decided to sneak out for a while that morning,” she said. “It’s not everywhere that someone brings a baby squirrel to class!”

Lang’s experienced that firsthand. First interning with Forisk Consulting, Lang joined full-time in 2008 and has worked her way up to connect with alumni from across the state while also staying in touch with current students and the school in general. This committee has allowed an ordinary young professional to give back in a meaningful and impactful way, without the requirements of a large financial gift.

The gift of time is an often overlooked method of giving back. Alumni have an opportunity to capitalize on the Alumni Compass Project which requires only a small monetary investment and minor time commitments, but this program has the potential to forge lifelong professional and personal connections. Personally, serving on the YAC has been a fulfilling experience. I’ve been able to connect with alumni from across the state while also staying in touch with current students and the school in general. This committee has allowed an ordinary young professional to give back in a meaningful and impactful way, without the requirements of a large financial gift.

The importance of being involved cannot be understated. Alumni involvement is crucial to the success of both Warnell and its enrolled students. Making an impact on the school and these students can be as simple as joining one of several committees or taking part in a multitude of events that occur across the state.

I hope that each alumnus reading this will make the decision to get involved in the opportunity to capitalize on the Alumni Compass Project which requires only a small monetary investment and minor time commitments, but this program has the potential to forge lifelong professional and personal connections.

I am proud and honored to serve as chair of the Young Alumni Committee. Each year, the YAC impacts the Warnell School in meaningful and lasting ways that benefit all Warnell students, from providing financial assistance through scholarships to upgrading student computer facilities. The committee comprises 10 alumni representing various majors, industries and regions of the state and nation.

Over the past year, the committee has raised more than $50,000. One of the major annual fundraisers conducted by the YAC is the J. Reid Parker Memorial Golf Tournament. Named in honor of J. Reid Parker, a former Warnell faculty member and UGA Athletic Director of Administration, this tournament has occurred in conjunction with Homecoming weekend since 1986. This year’s tournament will be held at the Harbor Club on Lake Oconee on Friday, Oct. 13. I urge alumni to participate as a player or sponsor.

Sincerely,
Garrett Mack
YAC Chair
The Log32

of volunteer service to educating the Havana, Florida, was inducted into the BSF ’65 of
announce that he has retired after 57 years
Robert Beach
1950s
Alums honored with “Golden” membership
Two Warnell alums were awarded the Golden Membership Certificate from the South Carolina Division for the Appalachian Society of American Foresters recently. John Little (BSF ’65) and John Cathey (BSF ’62) were presented the certificates by another alum, Mike Bozans (MFR ’83), who is the division chair for the organization.

Little began his forestry career with the U.S. Forest Service in Newberry on the Sumter National Forest. He was there only two weeks when he heard of an offer in Camden with the South Carolina Forestry Commission as a soil bank forester dealing primarily with site preparation, replanting and cost-share. After just six months there he transferred to a forester position in Oconee County where he spent the rest of his career with the SCFC, retiring in 1998. However, his strong work ethic had him form his own consulting business after retirement until about 2015.

Cathey got his first taste of forestry from a TSI crew part-time with the U.S. Forest Service and timber marking crew in the summers while attending Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College before attending UGA. After graduating he began working for the forest service in Arkansas on the Ozark National Forest then to the Cherokee National Forest in Tennessee, the Davey Crocket National Forest in Texas, finally settling in Greenwood, South Carolina, on the Sumter National Forest. He was often involved in outreach programs especial-
ly for youth and was one of the found-
ing members in helping to establish the Woodland Clinic for high school kids in the Greenwood area. He retired from the forest service in 1994. He has had great support from his wife, Berniece.

1950s
Robert Beach (BSF ’59) is happy to an-
nounce that he has retired after 57 years
in forest management.

1960s
C. Charles Maynard Jr. (BSF ’65) of Havana, Florida, was inducted into the Florida Society of American Foresters Hall of Fame on Jan. 30, 2017. Maynard retired from the Florida Forest Service in 2005, and since then his many hours of volunteer service to educating the youth about forestry and the outdoors was key to the success of the Bear Creek Education Center in north Florida.

Our condolences go out to Daniel “Ken” Grahl Jr. (BSFR ’71, MFR ’74), who lost his wife of 46 years, Kathy Jean Byrd Grahl (BSHE ’70, MED ’73) from sudden acute myeloid leu-

1970s
Kathy was 67.

1980s
Mike Bozans (MFR ’83) has been work-
ing with the South Carolina Forestry Commission since 1983 and is cur-
rently the Piedmont Regional Forester in charge of all forest management and wildlife suppression and preven-
tion efforts. He is also the Incident Commander for the SCPC Incident Management Team (IMT) which han-
dled the 10,650 acre Pinnacle Mountain fire last October in South Carolina. It was the largest mountain fire in the state’s history and had no injuries, no loss of life or homes.

Brad Southern (BSFR ’82, MFR ’84) has been
appointed chief operating officer of Louisiana-
Pacific Corp. Southern, who’d been executive vice president, will implement the company’s orderly management succession plan. Southern will continue to oversee the oriented strand board (OSB) operations, a post he has held since 2014. General managers from the company’s siding and engineered wood products, as well as sales and marketing and manufacturing services will report to Southern, who in turn will report to CEO Curt Stevens.

2000s
Tiffannie Starr (MBA ’92, MFR ’93) has been elected secretary for the World Forestry Center, which announced its 2016-17 board members late last year. Starr is the senior acquisitions manager at Timberland Investment Resources, where she helps lead the company’s ef-
forts to source investment opportunities in accordance with clients’ risk and ret-

turn objectives.

Gretchen Nareff MS ’09 was hired as a fish and wildlife biologist with the US Fish and Wildlife Service in January. She is stationed at the Texas Coastal Ecological Services Field Office in Corpus Christi, Texas. Gretchen is working on protecting listed species during renewable energy development and on endangered species recovery for wildlife such as Whooping Cranes, shorebirds, and sea turtles. She is also close to completing her PhD through West Virginia University, in which she is examining the use of silviculture to manage breeding habitat for Cerulean Warblers.

2010s
Alex Bond (BSFR ’15) has been named the new Fortson 4-H Center director. A native of Athens, Bond majored in nat-
ural resources recreation and tourism at Warnell, but he also obtained a degree in middle grades education from the former Gaineville State College. Bond also has experience in programming and facilities management, having worked for Athens-Clarke County Leisure Services for more than eight years, in-
cluding time as an assistant pool man-
ager, animal caretaker, and program spe-

cialist. While employed by ACC, he also worked for a non-profit arts institute in Athens as the general manager, facili-
ties manager, and event coordinator in the evenings. Bond has been certified in Project WET, WILD, and Learning Tree, American Red Cross Lifeguard Instructor, Wildland Firefighter, and Structural Firefighter. Bond also served as a Georgia 4-H Summer Camp coun-
selor for two summers.

Annabeth Spence (BSFR ’16) and husband Kevin Melton welcomed son Branch Oliver Melton on Feb. 28, 2017, at 7:49 p.m. Branch weighed 10 lbs., 1 oz., and was 22 inches long. Kevin and Annabeth met in silviculture class with Dr. Dick Daniels, so they’re a couple of Warnell sweethearts!

Southern joined LP in 1999 as controller for the specialty business. He held a number of in-
creasingly complex operating roles and became general manager of the Siding business in 2004. He held that job until moving to OSB in 2014. Southern began his forest products career with MacMillan Bloedel as a forester, where he held a variety of jobs in forestry, strategic planning, finance, accounting and plant management.

2015s
Andrew Little (PhD ’15) and wife Laura welcomed daughter Halligan “Hallie” Noelle Little on Dec. 27, 2016. Hallie weighed 6 lbs., 8 oz., and was 19.5 inches long. Hallie also has a big sister, Gennavieve.

Jay Brooks (BSFR ’74) and wife Meredith celebrated the birth of their son, Jay William Brooks III, on Oct. 31, 2016. Brooks is now working as a tim-
ber buyer at Woodlands Enterprises Inc.

Annabeth Spence (BSFR ’16) and husband Kevin Melton welcomed son Branch Oliver Melton on Feb. 28, 2017, at 7:49 p.m. Branch weighed 10 lbs., 1 oz., and was 22 inches long. Kevin and Annabeth met in silviculture class with Dr. Dick Daniels, so they’re a couple of Warnell sweethearts!

John Little (above) and John Cathey (below) are photographed with their Golden Membership Certificates.

Class Notes
Two Warnell alums made the 2017 Bulldog 100 rankings again! Our alums have made repeat appearances on the Bulldog 100, which is a celebration of the fastest-growing Bulldog-owned businesses. At No. 44 was Southeastern Consulting Services Inc., owned by Jon Parrish (BSFR ’95). And No. 61 was PharmD on Demand, co-owned by Andy Barrs (MFR ’02). They, along with Dean Dale Greene attended the Bulldog 100 celebration on Feb. 4.

The Atlanta office of Warren Averett CPAs and Advisors partnered with the UGA Alumni Association to review nominated businesses’ financial records to determine the ranked list.

Nominations for the 2017 Bulldog 100 were accepted between February and May 2016. To be considered for the list, each organization must have been in business for at least five years, experienced revenues in excess of $100,000 for the calendar year 2013 and be owned or operated by a former UGA student who either owns at least 50 percent of the company or is the CEO, president or managing partner. The Bulldog 100 recognizes the fastest-growing businesses regardless of size by focusing on a three-year compounded annual growth rate.

Approximately 490 nominations were received for the 2017 Bulldog 100. The class includes companies of all sizes, providing services and products in a variety of industries, including pharmaceuticals, law, IT, consulting, retail and pest control. Companies as far west as California and as far northeast as New York made the list this year. The average compounded annual growth rate for this year’s Bulldog 100 businesses was 44 percent.

The 100 businesses and the 131 alumni who lead them were recognized by the UGA Alumni Association during the event on Feb. 4. To view the complete list of 2017 Bulldog 100 businesses or nominate a business for the 2018 Bulldog 100, see www. alumni.uga.edu/b100. Nominations are being accepted through May 31.

Alums make repeat appearance on Bulldog 100 list

Why did you decide to make your first gift to Warnell?

As a Warnell graduate, I felt it was important to give something back to the institution that provided me the opportunity to have a fulfilling professional career. Additionally, my family has been longtime financial supporters of the school, and I wanted to continue with that legacy which will in a small way help enhance the future of forestry in Georgia and the world.

Why do you continue to support the Warnell School?

I consider the Warnell School as the premier forestry program in the nation. The school and its leaders do an outstanding job in training the young people who will become the future leaders of our industry. My continued support combined with the Tilden and Arlene Forestry School Scholarships, established by my parents several years ago, will help provide resources for research and the training of aspiring young people.

What would you tell someone who is thinking about making a gift to Warnell?

I would share with them how important their gifts will be for both research and the education of our young future professionals. Warnell being a small school on the UGA campus must depend on private donations to maintain their status as a separate school. As most people realize, costs to operate the school continue to escalate and state funds are limited. Therefore, it is important that Warnell secure private donations to hire and retain the BEST professors and staff to train our future leaders.

What else can you share about your experience as a Warnell donor?

The forestry profession has been part of my life since birth. My dad was a forester, and I realized from an early age that I wanted to follow in his footsteps. Throughout his career, he was able to support both my brother and I to become Warnell graduates. As someone who has invested both personal time and finances, I felt like I have had the opportunity to help set strategic direction of the school. I believe that these contributions have not only benefited the school but also helped promote my professional career over the past 46 years.

Why I Give

with
Tom Norris

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Why I Give

with
Tom Norris
Dave Mitchell (BSF ’65)

David Kerlin Mitchell, of Macon, passed away Dec. 31, 2016, surrounded by many of his friends. He was 80. Born Sept. 14, 1936, in Macon, Georgia, Mitchell graduated from the Warnell School in 1965 where he was a member of Alpha Tau Omega. Mitchell was a lifelong Bulldog and passionate supporter of Georgia football, holding season tickets for more than 40 years. He was a member of the Society of American Foresters and a member of the Georgia Forestry Association.

Charles Mitchell “Charlie” Marshall (BSF ’54, MS ’67)

Charles Mitchell “Charlie” Marshall of Union Point, Georgia, died Dec. 21, 2016. He was 89. Born on Oct. 17, 1927, in Albany, Georgia, Marshall was the son of the late Sam Marshall of St. Augustine, Florida, and Clara Rollins of Macon, Georgia. Marshall was married the former Shirley Dean Gibbs on Feb. 6, 1949. Marshall was a professor for Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College and a wildlife biologist. All his life he was an avid outdoorsman enjoying hunting, fishing and gardening. He was also great at making knives, woodworking and cooking. Marshall and his wife Shirley were founding members of Grace Fellowship Church where he continued to be an active member until his death.

Marshall was preceded in death by his wife, Shirley, granddaughter Kim, and two sisters, Alline Marshall and Ann Hicks. He is survived by his three sons, Sam Marshall, William Mitchell Marshall, and Arthur Gibbs; grandchildren, Deanna Marshall, Lucy Marshall, Andrew Marshall, Mitch Marshall, Ben Marshall, Emily Gibbs Rollins and Evelyn Gibbs; great grandchildren, Landen Marshall, Sarah Marshall, Tyler Marshall, Ella Rollins, Claire Rollins and Annie Rollins; and a number of other relatives and many friends.

Ricky S. Hatten (BSFR ’74)

Ricky S. Hatten of Fort Valley, Georgia, died Oct. 31, 2016, after complications following surgery. He was 64.

Born Oct. 9, 1952, in Macon, Georgia, Hatten was the son of Arthur G. Hatten and the late Juanita Powell Hatten. While attending UGA, Rick met the love of his life, Karen, and after a whirlwind courtship they eloped, and lived together happily for 44 years, raising their two daughters, Jessica and Pamela. They settled in Fort Valley near his father, Art and sister, Gloria, where he continued his career with the Georgia Forestry Commission. Rick retired after many faithful years of service, but continued his love of the longleaf pine by assisting land owners with conservation plans and being part of the Longleaf Alliance.

At his side throughout his illness was his loving wife, Karen, and after a whirlwind courtship they eloped, and lived together happily for 44 years, raising their two daughters, Jessica and Pamela. They settled in Fort Valley near his father, Art and sister, Gloria, where he continued his career with the Georgia Forestry Commission. Rick retired after many faithful years of service, but continued his love of the longleaf pine by assisting land owners with conservation plans and being part of the Longleaf Alliance.

After retirement, his labor of love became establishing Temple Mount Stables and managing its operations, as well as guiding new riders. Earl Sir Richard of Ræ Fen, as he was known in the Society for Creative Anachronism (the medieval reenactment group that he and his family have been involved with for more than 30 years), was an integral part of the Society; not only as a Knight in the armored combat, but in equestrian activities, woodworking, and in helping to foster the ideals of honor and chivalry in all.

Rick is survived by his loving wife, Karen, daughters Jessica Turner and Pamela Wade, and grandson Patrick Turner, as well as his father Art Hatten; sister, Gloria Dennard; nephew, Matthew Curtis Sapp; son-in-law, Jason Wade; and a host of treasured family and friends.
2016 AT A GLANCE

Total Grant Funds Awarded*
$11,400,267

94 Number of Research/Outreach Grants Awarded
184 Undergraduate Professional Fall 2016 Enrollment
93 Undergraduate Degrees Conferred
189 Graduate Fall 2016 Enrollment
63 Graduate Degrees Conferred
196 Number of Courses Taught
346 Number of Continuing Education/Short Courses
236 Number of Refereed Books, Chapters or Journal Publications
158 Number of Other Publications (Non-Refereed Tech Reports, Newspapers, etc.)
614 Number of Presentations Made (To the public, at conferences, seminars)

* Grants, gifts, and funding in a fiscal year (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017) basis; all other measures on a calendar year (2016) basis.
Warnell spent $24.43 million in FY16 in support of its teaching, research and outreach functions. This is approximately $340,000 more than reported last year. There was a slight increase in state appropriations and other sources of funding remained relatively flat.

**BUDGET HISTORY**

![Graph showing budget history over the years with categories such as Foundation Investments, Other, Tuition & Fees, Cooperative Dollars, Grants & Contracts, and State Appropriations.]

*Other includes Departmental Revenue and Conferences, F&A Return, Forest Lands, and Rents and Lease Income.

**2016 FISCAL YEAR SUMMARY**

(7/1, 2015 to June 30, 2016)

**REVENUE**
- State Appropriations (GA Legislature) $9,087,036
- Tuition & Fees 2,314,375
- F&A Return 887,873
- Departmental Revenue & Conferences 620,111
- Grants & Contracts 8,160,823
- Cooperative Dollars 1,044,399
- Forest Lands 1,100,387
- Rental Income/Leases 126,303
- Foundation Investments 1,088,415
- **Total Revenue $24,429,922**

**EXPENDITURES**
- Salaries & Benefits $13,372,494
- Assistantships 2,483,358
- Scholarships 170,759
- Operating Expenses, Travel & Equipment 8,423,311
- **Total Expenditures $24,429,922**

Extramural funding for FY2016 decreased by 2.5 percent compared to FY2015. Extramural funding per research/service EFT was $320,656. For every dollar of state funds provided, Warnell produced $1.26 in external funding for our programs.

**EXTRAMURAL FUNDING HISTORY**

![Graph showing extramural funding history over the years with categories such as Federal, Private, State, and Other.]

**EXTRAMURAL FUNDING BY SPONSOR**

![Graph showing extramural funding by sponsor over the years with categories such as Federal, Private, State, and Other.]

- Federal
- Private
- State
- Other
**WARNELL ASSISTANTSHIPS**

- 2012: $2,750,000
- 2013: $2,200,000
- 2014: $1,650,000
- 2015: $1,100,000
- 2016: $550,000

**WARNELL SCHOLARSHIPS**

- 2012: $180,000
- 2013: $160,000
- 2014: $140,000
- 2015: $120,000
- 2016: $100,000

**TOTAL ENROLLMENT**

- Undergraduate 303
- Graduate 189

**ENROLLMENT BY DEGREE FALL 2016**

- PRE-PROFESSIONAL 119
- PROFESSIONAL 184
- MS 78
- MNR 14
- MFR 28
- PhD 69

**TOP 5 FEEDER SCHOOLS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL</th>
<th># OF STUDENTS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of North Georgia</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia Perimeter/Georgia State*</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia Southern</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia Gwinnett College</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Georgia Perimeter merged with Georgia State during the 2016 year.
GRADUATE DEGREES 2016

SPRING

Sinks, Nicholas	Scandon	Fisheries and Wildlife
Smith, Stephen James	Fisheries and Wildlife
Vaughn, Joseph P	Forestry
Webber, Sarah Josephine
Natural Resources Recreation and Tourism
White, William Thomas	Forestry

SUMMER

Brandon, Kevin James	MS
Ferrari, Britney Anne	MS
Galagher, Derrick Andrew	MS
Haxton, David Lee	MS
Petter, Sarah Knox	MS
Yelland, Nathan Andrew	MS

FALL

Akbudak, Remazan	MS
Ashley, Amadeleth Karhynn	MS
Bloodgood, Jennifer	PhD
Butler, Randi Nichelle	PhD
Conway, Shane Christopher	MS
De Lima Silva, Analag Elizabeth	MS
Deuel, Nicolas Robinson	PhD
Fickeken, William Judson	PhD
Furuy, Samuel Thomas	PhD
Gillespie, Gay Timlin Jr.	PhD
Haram, Brigitte Nelson	PhD
Hokum, An Choo	MS
Keller, David Aaron	MS
Mazur, Benjamin Austin	PhD
McGrain, Diana Jean	PhD
Mone, Giles Robin	PhD
Nahid, Seyed Mohammad	MS
Di, Ha	PhD
Sheley, Nourse Heyn	PhD
Steblick, Jeff Critchfield	MS
Sutinonitlarn, Carlos Pedro	PhD
Woodward, Wallace Hamilton III	PhD

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES 2016

SPRING

Abouhamdan, Abdulgill Abbaa	Fisheries and Wildlife
Adams, Childersen Bond	Forestry
Alexander, Molly Rebecca	Fisheries and Wildlife
Allen, Kathleen Keely	Fisheries and Wildlife
Bailey, Kiera London	Fisheries and Wildlife
Bould, John Obasonu	Forestry
Brown, Delton Kempen	Fisheries and Wildlife
Bullock, Jared Tyler
Natural Resources Recreation and Tourism
Burls, Forrest Dylan
Natural Resources Recreation and Tourism
Burks, Forrest Dylan	Fisheries and Wildlife
Cavani, Carmen Marisa	Fisheries and Wildlife
Clement, Joanna Helen	Fisheries and Wildlife
Deou, Austin Reynolds	Fisheries and Wildlife
Eck, Cander Elizabeth	Forestry
Fangmeyer, Jessica Renee
Natural Resources Recreation and Tourism
Ferrall, Emily Ann	Fisheries and Wildlife
Gallagher, Mark Anthony Jr.	Fisheries and Wildlife
Girou, Jamia Anna	Fisheries and Wildlife
Hamun, Alya Katrina	Water and Soil Resources
Hildebrandt, Adam Clayton	Forestry
Keary, Valerie Marisa	Fisheries and Wildlife
Kirk, Shannon Elaine	Fisheries and Wildlife
Lie Tjaauw, Brittney Kay	Fisheries and Wildlife
Lightsey, Stephanie Lee	Fisheries and Wildlife
Lihm, Chandler Reed	Fisheries and Wildlife
Lort, Jessica Renee	Fisheries and Wildlife
Lovell, Blake Scott	Forestry
Martins, Cara Anne	Fisheries and Wildlife
May, Jared David	Fisheries and Wildlife
McDonald, Connor Patrick	Forestry
Moore, Jacob Stanton	Forestry
Mullass, Sarah Michelle	Fisheries and Wildlife
Nelson, Alston Nicholas	Fisheries and Wildlife
Poole, Meredith Nicole
Natural Resources Recreation and Tourism
Prutt, Hunter Presley	Fisheries and Wildlife
Renko, Emmy Kay	Fisheries and Wildlife
Revis, Cody William	Fisheries and Wildlife
Rice, Jonathon Finn	Forestry
Schwartzkopf, Koby Nicole	Fisheries and Wildlife
Sherman, Camilla	Fisheries and Wildlife
Silcox, Christopher Ronald
Natural Resources Recreation and Tourism
Spence, Abigail English
Fisheries and Wildlife
Spevacek, Steven Edward	Forestry
Sprise, Rachel Lynne	Forestry

SUMMER

Boyer, Michael Shane	Forestry
Kiser, Alexander Hendrix	Fisheries and Wildlife
Knight, Kenneth Cody	Fisheries and Wildlife
Lasiseh, Lauren Jennifer	Fisheries and Wildlife
McKissick, Amber Dell	Fisheries and Wildlife
Paynter, Johnathon Douglas	Forestry
Tinkne, Jessica Ashley	Fisheries and Wildlife
Tod, Charles Thomas	Fisheries and Wildlife
Tucker, Christopher Ryan	Fisheries and Wildlife
Wickson, Alexandra Gummells	Fisheries and Wildlife
Wood, Cameron Jean	Fisheries and Wildlife

FALL

Ahammad, Omar Pete	Natural Resources Recreation and Tourism
Askin, Samantha Elizabeth	Fisheries and Wildlife
Barfield, Alexander Sasse	Forestry
Bedn, Frank Paul N.	Fisheries and Wildlife
Breeden, David Gordon	Forestry
Bret, Ethan Gordon	Fisheries and Wildlife
Cano, Ronald Bradley II	Forestry
Collins, Jane Bailey	Fisheries and Wildlife
Dorudoni, Sara Lindsey	Fisheries and Wildlife
Evans, Hudson R. Jr.	Fisheries and Wildlife
Fincher, Elizabeth Carolyn	Fisheries and Wildlife
Forbeck, Tanner Lee	Fisheries and Wildlife
Gilbert, Kathryn Beth	Natural Resources Recreation and Tourism
Harney, Austin Rood	Fisheries and Wildlife
Harvis, Natalie Ruth	Fisheries and Wildlife
Jones, Aaron Lee	Water and Soil Resources
Lee, Cameron Blake	Fisheries and Wildlife
Lopkoewich, Bassa Hannah	Fisheries and Wildlife
Mathews, Brian Patrick	Forestry
Mayfield, Jordan Wayne	Forestry
McCarty, Carville Virginia	Fisheries and Wildlife
McDaniel, Jennifer Kathleen	Fisheries and Wildlife
Mcnemurs, Katie Anne
Fisheries and Wildlife
Nelone, Chelsea Renee	Fisheries and Wildlife
Peque, Allan Christopher	Forestry
Perry, John Thomas	Fisheries and Wildlife
Perry, Steven Michael	Fisheries and Wildlife
Perry, Michael Michael	Fisheries and Wildlife
Perry, Derek Michael	Fisheries and Wildlife
Rose, Douglass Thompson Jr.	Fisheries and Wildlife

***Cum Laude
Magna Cum Laude
Cum Laude
Undergraduate Degrees continued, next page

***Cum Laude
Magna Cum Laude
Cum Laude
Undergraduate Degrees continued, next page
Our Alumni Compass Project continues to grow, and in 2016, 74 alumni mentored incoming students. The program provides compasses for each incoming student to use in Field Measurements through an annual gift, but more importantly each alumni mentor directly offers a student encouragement, advice and a connection to his or her network. Our students benefit from the generosity of our mentors in numerous ways:

“My mentor has made my transition into the professional program better than I could have imagined. She has given me advice and encouragement when I am stressed about classes, internships and life after graduation. She has gone above and beyond, sharing all the resources she has to help me in my endeavors. She has helped me professionally and told me about different internship opportunities and professors to contact. She is passionate about what she does, and that passion inspires and motivates me. Most importantly, she gave me more confidence in myself and the field I am pursuing, and she has helped me realize that being in Warnell is the best decision I could ever make.”

— Anonymous

For more information about how you can get involved, contact Emily Saunders esaunder@uga.edu

### Alumni “in-training” commit to the future!

Warnell graduates donated $3,720 as part of the UGA Senior Signature Campaign and Warnell student philanthropic efforts. Their fundraising total surpassed their 2015 classmates who raised $1,395 the previous year. Hoping to inspire student participation, the dean offered to match the first $1000 in student donations, and the spring graduating class quickly rose to the occasion doubling their impact! Students chose to support a variety of causes including the Young Alumni Scholarship for Leadership Training, Study Abroad, and the Forestry Fund. A list of Student donors for each graduating class can be seen online: https://www.warnell.uga.edu/student-donors

### Warnell Celebrates 110th Birthday with first Giving Day

On Nov. 28, alumni, students, donors and friends joined together to celebrate 110 years of natural resource education. Together we surpassed our goal of one gift for every year, with 115 gifts, raising more than $7,000 for Warnell School initiatives.

### Alumni Participation Rate of School and College giving to UGA

#### Schools and Colleges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>FY15 Percentage</th>
<th>FY16 Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forestry &amp; IB</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vet Medicine</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journalism</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAES</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engr &amp; Design</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment, Natural res.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Health</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecology</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social work</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ALUMNI BY THE NUMBERS

- **1,250 young alumni** (graduates of the last decade)
- **5,522 living alumni**
- **618 alumni gifts to Warnell**
DONOR IMPACT

85th Annual Warnell Spring Awards Banquet
40+ scholarships totaling more than $75,000

Weyerhaeuser Golf Tournament
Nearly $84,000 raised on Sept. 10, 2016, for the Harley Langdale Jr. Center for Forest Business

Reid Parker Memorial Golf Tournament
121 golfers raised more than $36,000 to support scholarships on Oct. 14, 2016

Alumni Legacy Room Dedication
Dedicated on Oct. 13, 2016, this room was named in honor of all alumni who have supported the school with time and financial resources.

Robert J. Warren Fellowship
Established in honor of Dr. Bob Warren, this fellowship will support a Warnell graduate student who is a member of The Wildlife Society. We hope to raise $500,000 to fully fund this endowment by 2020.

New Student Support
Burgin Timberland Endowed Scholarship in Forestry

Total giving
Including cash gifts, pledges, planned gifts, and in-kind gifts: $561,021.12

Southern Pine Plantations Room
Generously supported by Benjy and Travis Griffin of Macon, Georgia

Warnell Classroom Namings

Choose proven ROI from elite seedling genetics based on 60+ years of research, development, and field testing

Trust the smartest investment
Warnell's online job postings can put you in touch with the talent and skill you need.

email your job posting to kkivett@uga.edu