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School of Forestry & Wildlife Sciences

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RMS

Resource Management Service establishes historic minority scholarship in the SFWS



Dean Alavalapati and RMS's Phillip Woods pictured during the SFWS 40th Anniversary Celebration of its First African-American Graduate.

Resource Management Service (RMS), an international timberland investment management business based in Birmingham, has established an annual scholarship in the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences. The intent of the scholarship is to encourage enrollment and industry recruiting of minority students who are interested in pursuing a degree in forestry.

Phillip Woods, an accomplished SFWS alumnus and retired president of forest operations for RMS, inspired by his company's ethos of giving back, spearheaded the scholarship with Craig Blair, president and CEO of RMS, as a means of encouraging diversity within the forestry profession.

"I am very happy that Auburn University will be part of that solution with RMS," said Woods.

"Our company's founders, John Bradley and Harry Murphy, were strong advocates for the profession and we've always had a sense of responsibility back to our roots in forestry, and to be actively involved in a variety of ways that support the health and

vitality of this profession," added Blair.

Beyond its commitment to community and industry, as the company has continued to evolve and expand its operations globally, RMS has recognized having different perspectives and backgrounds represented within the company as even more critical for business.

As an example, Blair noted for the first 58 years of RMS' existence as a firm, through 2008, it was primarily focused on U.S. operations and if you looked at the owners and employees of RMS, they were most exclusively white male Southern foresters.

"Our intellectual DNA was about a half inch deep," he said. "I guarantee if you put the same set of information about problems in front of us, we would most certainly come up with the same solution, whether it was right or wrong, because we would approach it from the same perspective."

From its beginnings as a consulting firm to private landowners, RMS capitalized on changing industry dynamics and proved itself as an important industrial timberland management and acquisitions firm. RMS has since grown into an accomplished global firm with assets under management on three continents—North America, South America, and Asia, as well as the region of Oceania—while remaining a private, employee-owned company.

"We live and operate in a world where we are dealing more and more with constituencies that are very diverse. For our profession to be more effective at making the case for the value of working forests and continuing to maintain our social license to operate, we need to have a face that better

resembles our constituents," said Blair.

Within the industry and academia, there is growing support for a more socially aware approach to business that encourages underrepresented or disadvantaged groups to participate in timberland ownership or in the forestry profession. Whether assisting legacy timberland owners in the southeast or indigenous populations in other parts of the world, Blair said, "People are now recognizing the needs and the benefits, and are becoming more conscious and proactive about what we can do to create opportunities."

Similarly, Auburn University has focused its efforts toward strengthening its programs to promote inclusion, equity, and diversity and has completed its search for an associate provost and vice president for inclusion and diversity. Across campus, Auburn actively works at sustaining an environment where students receive equal attention and respect based on effort, knowledge, honesty, talent, and hard work.

"Our desire to partner with Auburn has very little to do with our geography," said Blair. "It is much more based on the history and respect, and the quality of the institution."

RMS Executive Vice President of Acquisitions and Land Sales Edwin Sweeten presented the first scholarship in August and offered this advice for forestry students: "Technology is such a key ingredient to our work today, but overall having the ability to work with people, to understand them, is still a key piece of the profession."

As an individual who has embraced diversity throughout his life, Sweeten feels this understanding is a key for growth, both for the company and the profession.

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A Message from the Dean

Dear Alumni and friends:

As the school pursues its land-grant mission, we always keep our eyes on emerging issues and technologies to make sure that our clientele are well-supported with needed knowledge and relevant and well-qualified graduates. The use of wood in energy production, packaging, high-rise buildings, and a variety of nanocellulose-based products is on the rise. For example:

- Between 2010 and 2015, wood pellets consumption grew from 16 million tonnes to 37 million tonnes (more than 100% increase). By 2020, it is expected to grow to 59 million tonnes.
- Cross-Laminated Timber (CLT), a newly engineered, large-scale, prefabricated, solid-engineered wood panel, is being used in mid and high-rise residential and non-residential construction. For example, the nation's first all CLT hotel was built on the site of a former U.S. Army troop barracks at Redstone Arsenal in Alabama. The Lend Lease, a giant Australian developer, has built what they call the world's tallest timber apartment building at Victoria Harbour in Melbourne, Australia.
- With an annual growth of 4%, the packaging industry is expected to become a trillion-dollar industry soon. This has already inspired several forward-looking forest product companies to expand their operations in packaging and cardboard.
- Global Nanocellulose Market is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate of around 22.1% in the next five years to reach approximately \$295 million by 2020.

In order to support and promote these emerging industries, the SFWS is developing an undergraduate degree program in Sustainable Biomaterials and Packaging by collaborating with the colleges of Agriculture, Engineering, Architecture, Design & Construction, and Business. We will keep you posted as we move forward with the approval process. We, the faculty, staff, and students at the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, wish you and your family a Happy Holiday season!

Best regards and War Eagle!

Janaki Alavalapati

Research & Discovery

Researchers develop rapid molecular tool to screen pine seed for pitch canker

Professor Scott Enebak and Postdoctoral Research Fellow Ryan Nadel have developed a screening method to positively and accurately identify pitch canker, a fungal pathogen that is internationally known to be one of the most detrimental diseases in terms of pine mortality.

Pitch canker, caused by the fungus *Gibberella circinata*, is of great concern to the forestry industry. This fungus is spread on both seed and seedlings and, for this reason, currently requires International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) seed certification to indicate the absence of the fungus in order to export pine seed.

There are several drawbacks to the currently approved ISTA certification method which relies on growing the fungus directly from pine seed on blotter paper infused with a selective growing media, with suspected colonies that look physically the same as the fungus of interest identified. This method is time consuming, but also relies on unreliable species level identifications of suspected fungal colonies.

"This method often results in false negative outcomes, as numerous fungi may grow from the pine seed, covering *G. circinata* fungal colonies on several seed," said Nadel. "To create a faster and more accurate method, our team initiated a research project to develop a rapid molecular seedlot screening tool."

The Auburn research team, in collaboration with a team at the University of Florida, has been successful in developing species-specific molecular tools that allow successful identification of the fungus from both seed and planting material. However, despite such advances with this project and other molecular techniques, Nadel noted that no standalone molecular methods have yet been tested and approved by ISTA to test pine seed for the presence of pitch canker pathogen.

"A large proportion of this project was spent on developing and validating a potential bulk seed DNA extraction test compared to the currently approved ISTA blotter paper seed test, which was then validated by screening numerous seedlots of several pine species," explained Enebak, lead researcher on the project.

Advantages of the newly developed method include improvements in both the speed and accuracy. Time is drastically reduced, from several weeks to two days, as one is no longer reliant on culturing the fungus from seed and identifying suspected colonies by physical features alone. Furthermore, the new method reduces false negative results compared to the currently ISTA approved blotter paper method.

In accordance with the ISTA requirements, detection limits for the newly developed method were then determined.



Fusarium circinatum (*Gibberella circinata*) (pitch canker), photo by Robert L. Anderson

"We found that the newly developed molecular method is capable of detecting a single seed infected with the fungus for each seedlot tested," stated Enebak. "With this breakthrough, we submitted the screening proposal to ISTA and are now awaiting approval of the method for certification, which can positively identify the fungus from bulk seed DNA extraction."

It is expected that once this rapid seed screening tool has been approved by the ISTA, it can be used to quickly and positively identify the fungus in seedlots and planting material which will significantly reduce the spread and threat of this fungal pathogen, both in the U.S. and internationally.

SFWS research team partners with Deer & Deer Hunting Magazine



Auburn University School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences' Wildlife Professor Stephen Ditchkoff has launched a partnership with Deer & Deer Hunting magazine to provide deer enthusiasts with cutting-edge insights on white-tailed deer research, behavior, and biology.

The arrangement will require the Deer Lab research team to produce print articles and blog/social media posts, as well as featured television segments for the media group's three cable programs. D&DH has a loyal social media fan base with a Facebook following of nearly 634,000 people. Within its media kit, they advertise a magazine readership of 200,000, 250,000 monthly visitors to its website, and 280,000 cumulative viewers of its various TV programs.

The goal of the partnership is to promote SFWS deer research, educate media consumers, and garner attention that will translate to research funding for the Deer Lab.

"We are very excited to have this opportunity to share our research with D&DH readers," said Ditchkoff. "Our hope is that we are able to give them a better understanding of white-tailed deer behavior that will ultimately make them more successful in their hunting and management efforts."

Founded in 1977, Deer & Deer Hunting was America's first whitetail-only publication. The TV show is entering its 12th season and airs on Sportsman Channel. SFWS articles will be featured monthly.

Kylee Dunham receives first Chuck Sharp/Ducks Unlimited fellowship award

An annual fund for excellence was established in November 2015 in the SFWS by Ducks Unlimited in memory of Chuck Sharp, a 1981 wildlife sciences graduate. Chuck Sharp was a wildlife biologist with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for over 29 years. During his career, he worked closely with Ducks Unlimited and other partners to accomplish goals and objectives of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.

From an early age, he was a member and volunteer for Ducks Unlimited, Wildlife Society, Wild Turkey Federation, Mississippi Fly Away, and other organizations that support the protection, restoration, and management of animal species, wetlands, and other associated habitats. The Chuck Sharp/Ducks Unlimited Annual Fund for Excellence seeks to recognize undergraduate and graduate students who share this commitment to waterfowl and wetland ecology management.

A reception and check presentation was hosted this fall at the SFWS to mark the occasion of the first fellowship award to Kylee Dunham, a former "Outstanding Master's Student" at Auburn who completed her degree studying the dynamics of the federally listed population of Steller's eiders in Alaska. Her research focused on understanding the population processes that govern this species and the effects of uncertainty that influence our ability to understand these processes.



Shown with Kylee Dunham, far left, during the check presentation, are from left to right: Sharon Sharp, wife of the late Chuck Sharp; Josh Rudder, Ducks Unlimited state chair; Dean Janaki Alavalapati; Associate Professor Barry Grand; and Shawn Battison of Ducks Unlimited.

Using the information gleaned from her research, Dunham estimated the viability of this threatened population to inform conservation and management decisions. She has published peer-reviewed research from both her undergraduate and graduate research in the Journal of Wildlife Management and Ecological Modelling and continues to publish her remaining master's research as a doctoral student at Auburn.

"Her research on Steller's eiders addresses a long-standing question that has plagued management agencies for two decades and her results are already affecting decisions about how that species is managed," said James "Barry" Grand, Dunham's major professor.

As a doctoral student, it is expected that her research on spectacled eiders is very likely to be as important and impactful.

Shawn Battison, Ducks Unlimited director of development, was pleased with Dunham's selection for the award.

"Given Chuck's dedication to wetlands and waterfowl conservation and his commitment to Auburn, we feel Kylee is the perfect inaugural Chuck Sharp Scholarship recipient," he said.

DU Director of Conservation Programs Jerry Holden echoed Battison's remarks, "We believe that supporting Kylee's education and her research into these less-understood waterfowl species are a fitting legacy for a man so committed to ensuring the future of waterfowl for generations to come."

After meeting Dunham and learning about her accomplishments, Sharp's widow, Sharon, recognized in Kylee the passion, determination, and enthusiasm that was the hallmark of her late husband.

"I am thankful to Auburn and Ducks Unlimited for creating this fund that will allow Chuck's legacy to continue through Kylee's work that will ultimately benefit future generations throughout her career," she said.

For Dunham, receiving the fellowship in Sharp's honor and having the opportunity to meet his family, friends, and co-workers during the presentation was truly a humbling experience.

"I am so grateful to the people at Ducks Unlimited, the Sharp family, and his friends and co-workers for their kindness and generosity," she said. "Their support has been, and will continue to be, instrumental in allowing me to pursue the career of my dreams."

Scholarship & Fellowship Ceremony honors donors and students



2016 scholarship and fellowship recipients gather in the Kent Van Cleave pavilion following the ceremony.

The School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences recently hosted its 2016 Student Scholarship and Fellowship Ceremony and Reception. Nearly 200 donors, alumni, students, parents, faculty, and staff were present for the annual event honoring the benefactors and students receiving awards totaling \$273,000 for the 2015-2016 academic year.

Scholarships awarded for the first time included:

- *Howard B. Harmon Endowed Scholarship presented by Sarah and Grant Rockett on behalf of Jerry and Lynne Schwarzauer.*
- *RMS Annual Scholarship presented by Ed and Vicki Sweeten. Ed Sweeten is the executive vice president of acquisitions and land sales at Resource Management Service, LLC. He is also a 1979 graduate in forest management from the SFWS.*
- *The Natural Resources Annual Scholarship established by Richard W. Hall. He is a 1995 forestry graduate from the SFWS and is a portfolio manager with Forest Investment Associates in Atlanta.*
- *Harry V. Dunn Jr. and Erin Dunn Scholarship created in honor of Mr. Dunn, a 1952 forestry graduate who had a successful career with Gulf States Paper, now known as Westervelt.*
- *Chuck Sharp/Ducks Unlimited Annual Fund for Excellence presented by Josh Rudder, the DU state chair, in the company of 14 representatives of Ducks Unlimited who also attended the ceremony.*

“We are fortunate that our many generous donors recognize the impact of investing in the educational pursuits of our students,” said Heather Crozier, SFWS development director. “This ceremony celebrates the legacy they are having in our school and the lives of these young people.”

SFWS Associate Professor Mark Smith receives Mosley Appointment



Mark Smith, SFWS associate professor and Extension specialist, has been selected for the Mosley Environmental Professorship and will serve as the executive secretary for the W. Kelly

Mosley Environmental Awards Program Steering and Selection Committee. For

over 30 years, the awards program has given recognition for outstanding volunteer efforts in forestry, wildlife, fisheries, soil, water, air, wildflowers, non-game wildlife, environmental education, conservation, and urban forestry resulting in the wiser use of the natural resources of Alabama. The fundamental mission of the Mosley Environmental Award is to identify and reward “unsung heroes” who have voluntarily contributed significantly to the wise stewardship of Alabama’s natural resources. To learn more about the Mosley Environmental Awards Program or to submit a nomination, please visit aces.edu/natural-resources/mosley/.

Meet Michelle Isenberg, the 2016 SFWS Advisory Council Chairman



The School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences Advisory Council is proud to introduce its 2016 Chairman, Michelle Isenberg. She has been a member of the council since 2007 and

has been working in the forestry and wildlife industries since 1995. Isenberg is a graduate of the University of Missouri with a bachelor’s in wildlife and fisheries. She was a senior manufacturing representative from 1995-2008 at American Cyanamid, which eventually became BASF and her flagship product was Arsenal.

With a solid background in herbicides, in 2008, Isenberg became a partner in a company with operations in herbicide sales and application. In 2014, combining her knowledge of herbicides, application, and business acumen, Isenberg became the owner and operator of Habitat Solutions, LLC. Habitat Solutions focuses on herbicide application work for landowners, consultants, and small timber companies in Alabama, Georgia, and Florida.

Isenberg is a founding board member of the Alabama Invasive Plant Council (ALIPC). She is the current president of ALIPC after serving as its president from 2007-2008. She has participated with groups such as Alabama Treasure Forest Association, Alabama Forestry Association, Alabama Tree Farm, Quail Forever, and several others.

Faculty/Staff News

New Faculty & Staff

Please join us in welcoming new members of the SFWS faculty and staff:

Nancy Loewenstein, promotion to Extension specialist

Susan Pan, assistant professor, Geospatial Modeling and Environmental Informatics

Sole Peresin, assistant professor, Forest Products

Nancy Sandoval, research assistant

Wendy Scripps, coordinator, Student Services Recruitment and Events

Bowen Zhang, post-doctoral student

Promotions and Tenure

Congratulations to the following faculty for their recent tenure and promotion:

Chris Lepczyk, associate professor, Wildlife Biology and Conservation

Tom Gallagher, full professor, Forest Engineering

Retirements

Finally, join us in wishing the following retiring staff, a joyous next chapter:

Davey Sightler, forestry tech IV, Dixon Center
Dick Martin, advisor III, Natural Resources Program

Zohdy leads research team in Madagascar



SFWS Assistant Professor of Disease Ecology Sarah Zohdy recently led a student team to investigate research sites in the rain forests of Madagascar for a research project, “Can Conservation Improve Human Health? Vector Ecology and Transmission Dynamics in Humans and Wildlife in Andasibe, Madagascar, using Association Mitsinjo as a Model.” Association Mitsinjo is a community-driven conservation effort in the rain forests of Madagascar with missions dedicated to wildlife conservation, education, and reforestation (associationmitsinjo.wordpress.com/).

“Through a One Health approach, the concept that human health, environmental health, and animal health are intrinsically linked, the team aims to evaluate strategies to improve ecosystem health in poverty stricken Madagascar,” said Zohdy.

Madagascar’s endemic wildlife, such as lemurs, are threatened due to habitat loss, and human health and economic stability is simultaneously compromised due to the vector-borne disease impacts of deforestation – “a reality for those living in poverty and relying on subsistence agriculture for survival,” she explained.

In addition to their field work, SFWS wildlife undergraduate student Jordan Broadhead, Auburn veterinary student and Merial Scholar Victoria Crabtree, and Emory University undergraduate volunteer Gabe Andrle, participated in several education, conservation, and health outreach programs within local communities over the course of the summer. The team also included Malagasy graduate student Njaratiana Raharinoro and several other Malagasy field technicians and conservation biologists.

Download a copy of the new SFWS and Extension educational pamphlet, *Ticks & Tick-borne Illness*, at <http://www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-2315/ANR-2315.pdf>.

New ForestHer extension program offered for female landowners a success

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System offered its first ForestHer workshop for female landowners at Riverwood Farms in Bremen in September. Over 30 participants came from across Alabama and as far away as Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee, and Mississippi.

Topics such as an introduction to forestry, map reading, timber and non-timber forest products, wildlife/native pollinators, and marketing and selling your timber were covered the first day. The second day participants went to the field to learn forest measurements basics and see the results of thoughtful forest and wildlife management. In an exit survey, participants stated that they would use the information presented to better manage their collective 14,300 acres.

“This project was a team effort that really helped it all come together,” said Extension Specialist and SFWS Associate Professor Becky Barlow. “Norm Haley and Spenser Bradley, Alabama Extension regional agents, were instrumental in getting this project off the ground. And the Wood Family, who



allowed us to use their beautiful farm as the backdrop for this workshop – we cannot thank them enough for their generosity.”

Barlow was encouraged by the enthusiastic response of the attendees and will plan more of these types of workshops in the future. According to Barlow, the workshop was designed to be an introductory course and future sessions will be planned with more detailed information on topics like thinning and herbicides.

Barlow Selected as 2016 Ralph “Shug” Jordan Professorship of Writing



The Miller Writing Center at Auburn University recently selected Becky Barlow, SFWS associate professor and Alabama Extension specialist, as its third Ralph “Shug” Jordan Professor of Writing. The Ralph “Shug” Jordan Professorship

of Writing was established by the Auburn Athletic Department and Tigers Unlimited in memory of the beloved coach to improve writing and writing instruction at Auburn.

For Barlow, the nomination has personal significance as well.

“Eleven years ago, when it was determined that my son, now 17, is dyslexic, my perceptions about student writing and literacy shifted dramatically. I began to understand how difficult writing can be,” she said.

It was this perspective, born from working with dyslexic students, that transformed Barlow’s approach to incorporating and teaching writing skills to forestry and wildlife students.

Barlow said she looks forward to continuing this meaningful work with the Miller Writing Center.

“I am really honored to have been awarded

this professorship and look forward to promoting writing across campus, especially in disciplines like math and science where writing historically has been limited.”

Nominations or applications for the professorship are accepted by tenured faculty who have demonstrated a commitment to student success through attention to writing in the core curriculum. Nominees are asked to submit an extensive packet of materials for review, including supporting letters from their department heads and deans, sample course materials and syllabi that demonstrate the importance of writing to their courses, student evaluations, and a reflective statement on student writing.

The selection committee noted Barlow’s service to the University Writing Committee, the range and quality of writing instruction she has included in her courses, her advocacy for supporting the writing initiative within the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, including working to develop a satellite of the Miller Writing Center staffed by graduate students in the school who are trained by the center.

“We’re excited to have the opportunity to work more closely with Dr. Barlow over the next three years,” said Margaret Marshall, director of the Office of University Writing. “We know she has good ideas and the energy to see them through.”

SFWS recognizes leadership-level donors

The **Woodlands and Wildlife Society (WWS)** is composed of the SFWS' most loyal donors who support us annually at the dean's level of giving.

The Compass Circle (CC) is our young alumni society launched in May 2016 as an opportunity for students to reconnect and support the school in their first 15 years after graduation.

WWS new members since March:

Alabama Chapter ACF
The Hon. Ann S. Bedsole
Mr. and Mrs. Billy Bond
CHS Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Wayne Cole '91
Mrs. Mary Lynda Crockett
Enviva Pellets Cottondale
Forest Landowners Association
Education and Research Foundation
Mr. Eric Gee '94
Mr. and Mrs. John Anderson Harp
Drs. Robert and Jeryl Jones
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Marion Rogers
Mr. and Mrs. Darryl Rosser '73
Stella Jones Corporation
Sutherland Asbill & Brennan
Timber Products Inspection
Toyota Motor Engineering and Manufacturing
Mr. Jim Wadsworth '72

CC charter members as of Nov. 17:

Mr. J. Hunter Brown '12
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Crawford '07
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Crim '03
Mr. Adam T. Frame '09
Mr. William Noll Harp '12
Mr. John S. Lightfoot II '10
Mrs. Jenny Dickey Lightfoot '10
Mr. Matthew McGaughey '07
Mr. and Mrs. Russell Cary Miller '11
Mr. William P. Neighbors '06
Mr. Tyler D. Sibley '12
Mrs. Sarah Lesley Sibley '12
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffery D. Sullivan '16
Mr. and Mrs. Sam Tate '15
Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Taylor '06
Mr. and Mrs. Ben Whitaker '07

Funds garnered through these leadership societies are invaluable in supporting scholarships, opportunities for faculty development, technology upgrades, and special programs.

For a complete list of members, visit auburn.edu/sfws/alumni-friends.

Descendent Auburn Oaks dedicated during ceremony at Samford Park

Representatives from the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences gathered on Sept. 9, with Auburn administration and donors for a dedication ceremony of the descendant Auburn Oaks, which culminated with the unveiling of the trees named in honor of loved ones through their philanthropic gift to the school.

The family of the late Auburn University President William Walker was the first to make a donation and have one of the descendant oaks named in memory of Walker, who died in 2007. They attended the planting of the trees and spoke of

sixth is pending approval by the Board of Trustees. In addition to the Walker family, other friends and alumni who made the \$50,000 philanthropic gift and named a tree are Beverly and Jim Danley, Walker R. Bickerstaff, Curt W. LeVan, and Darryl and Diane Rosser.

Auburn Oaks contributions support an endowed fund for excellence benefiting the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences educational mission. The fund provides support for new scholarships; expands faculty members' instructional, research, and outreach efforts; and enhances the

various programs that provide students with the knowledge and hands-on experience they need to be successful in their chosen careers.

For SFWS faculty member and current Associate Dean of Academic Affairs Scott Enebak, the dedication was a rewarding conclusion of the 15-year effort to preserve the trees. It was with Enebak's leadership, that Forestry Club and Wildlife Society members cultivated acorns from the original trees.

"I am pleased to see the descendants are returning

to Samford Park where their parents stood for over 80 years," he said. "As they grow, their branches will drape over the walkway creating a beautiful canopy for future generations of the Auburn Family to enjoy."

Please join us in expressing our sympathies to the family and friends of Mr. Mayford D. Williams, a 1954 Auburn SFWS graduate, who recently passed away at the age of 92. Beverly and Jim Danley's gift was made in honor of Williams.



After the Sept. 9 dedication, Auburn alumni and friends who honored loved ones with the naming of the five descendant Auburn Oaks gathered with Dean Janaki Alavalapati and Aubie on the walkway in Samford Park to commemorate the day.

the special meaning of the oaks.

"My dad and I wanted to do something special for my mother-in-law and my husband, Forrest, for Christmas," said Brooke Walker, President Walker's daughter-in-law who had the idea to honor him and advocate for the planting of the original Auburn Oaks. "So when this came up we thought it was something special that we could do."

Five of the 10 trees currently planted in Samford Park have been named. A



Holiday Gift Idea!

Share the story of "Bud – The Mightiest of All Auburn Oaks," by Auburn University alum, David Giles '76, with your friends and family this holiday! The book covers the life and times of Bud, the mightiest of the Auburn Oaks offspring. Through a series of near tragic events, Bud proves that he is a survivor and is the true embodiment of the Auburn Family spirit. The book is \$15.95 and available via Amazon.com and the AU Bookstore, among other retailers. All proceeds benefit the SFWS.

International Paper hosts gathering of Auburn alumni during recent meeting



International Paper, a leading manufacturing company of renewable and recyclable packaging materials, recently hosted an employee meeting at their corporate office in Memphis, TN, where Auburn University School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences graduates posed for a photo.

Shown in the photo provided by IP Regional Manager and Auburn alumnus David Helm are, from left to right, Matt Meyerpeter, David Hand, Michael Walker, Helm, Sarah Sibley, Jake Smith, Joe Twardy, and Ted Crane. Other SFWS alumni not pictured are Ricky Everett, Grace Gregson, Wesley Peters, and Jenny Lightfoot, among others.

Former SFWS student awarded Ocean Conservancy RAY Fellowship



Join us in congratulating SFWS wildlife ecology and management alumnus Eddie Love '15, who is a current RAY Fellow with the Ocean Conservancy, a not-for-profit organization focused on addressing environmental

challenges impacting the health of oceans and marine life.

The yearlong fellowship, created to increase diversity in conservation, will provide opportunities for Love to work with organizations such as the Natural Resources Defense Council, Environmental Defense Fund, Greenpeace, Rare, and Oceana.

As a RAY Fellow, Love's research is focused on developing sustainable fisheries in the Southeast Asian nation of Indonesia. Learn more about his work with the Ocean Conservancy at blog.oceanconservancy.org/.

New faculty join the SFWS as part of Auburn's Cluster Hire Initiatives



Maria Soledad Peresin joined the faculty as assistant professor in bioenergy and bioproducts as part of the hiring initiative to create the Institute for Scalable Energy Conversion Science and Technology. Peresin

earned her bachelor's degree in analytical chemistry in 2007 from Universidad Nacional del Litoral, Argentina, and a doctorate in forest biomaterials from North Carolina State University in 2011. Her past experience includes the completion of a three-year post-doctoral position with the Academy of Finland where she acted as coordinator and project manager of a WoodWisdom EraNet+ Project of the European Commission from 2014-2016.

Peresin currently acts as member-at-large at the Cellulose and Renewable Materials Division of the American Chemical Society, and is also a member of the Junior Executive Committee of the European Polysaccharides Network of Excellence, chair of the Finnish Section of the Royal Society of Chemistry, and scientific coordinator of the Network of Argentinian Scientist in Finland.

With a significant library of publications to her credit, Peresin is considered to be an accomplished scientist in forest biomaterials. In addition to her research, she will co-lead a new Sustainable Biomaterials and Packaging undergraduate degree program that is being developed within the school.



Susan (Shufen) Pan joins the SFWS as assistant professor of Earth systems modeling as part of Auburn's Climate, Human and Earth System Sciences Strategic Cluster Hire. Pan has an interdisciplinary educational background

with a master's degree in economics and a doctorate in ecology. Her primary research interest is in understanding and quantifying dynamics of coupled natural-human systems at multiple spatial and temporal scales.

Pan's research has covered a range of topics including studies of climate impacts, mitigation and adaptation, social-ecological system dynamics, land use, and land cover changes. She acts as the SFWS director of the GIS and Remote Sensing Laboratory and will be a key lead in the Geospatial and Environmental Informatics undergraduate degree program that is planned to launch in fall 2017.

Time is running out!

MAKE YOUR CHARITABLE IRA GIFT IN 2016

If you are 70 1/2 or older and own a traditional IRA, consider making an IRA charitable rollover gift this year to Auburn University. Your gift will:

- Make a difference at Auburn for generations to come
- Not be included in your taxable income
- Count toward your required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year
- Reduce your taxable income, even if you do not itemize deductions
- Be limited to \$100,000 per year

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SCHOOL OF FORESTRY
AND WILDLIFE SCIENCES

The Auburn University School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences' newsletter is distributed to alumni and friends of the school. Inquiries concerning the school and its programs should be directed to the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences Building, 602 Duncan Drive, Auburn, AL 36849. Inquiries and suggestions concerning the newsletter should be directed to the school's Office of Communications and Marketing at the above address or by email to sfwscom@auburn.edu.

Questions concerning the school's development program, including annual and corporate giving, planned gifts, and estate planning, should be directed to Heather Crozier, School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences Building, 602 Duncan Drive, Auburn, AL 36849. Inquiries may also be made by email to vannhea@auburn.edu or by phone at 334-844-2791.

Upcoming Events

Career Fair
Nov. 30, 2016

Advisory Board Meeting
Feb. 22-23, 2017

**Dixon Legend 5k, 10k
and Half-marathon Trail Run**
March 4, 2017

Auburn University
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Auburn, AL 36830-9989

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A U B U R N U N I V E R S I T Y

Working with
Nature
for Society's
Well Being

School of Forestry & Wildlife Sciences



AUBURN
UNIVERSITY

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