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Well Being.

School of Forestry & Wildlife Sciences

SFWS News • Volume 1 • Spring 2016

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Global Perspectives

Pathways to Success: Kenya

Kenya Offers Students a Life-Changing Experience

Accompanied by natural resources associate professor Wayne Morse, SFWS graduate students Jennifer Price-Tack and Michael Heneghan traveled to Kenya to participate in the recent conference, Pathways to Success: Integrating Human Dimensions into Fish and Wildlife Management.

This biennial international conference seeks to address the “myriad issues that arise as people and wildlife struggle to coexist in a sustainable and healthy manner.” Morse has attended the conference since its inception in 2008 and feels it is an excellent forum for faculty, students, agency, and NGO personnel to engage in research and management implications of critical human dimensions of fish and wildlife issues.

Human dimensions is a science which examines how society’s behaviors, attitudes, and processes impact how we use, maintain, and conserve our natural resources. Heneghan describes human dimensions in wildlife at Auburn as a niche subject, but recognized the much larger community involved in this area of research. “I probably

made more progress during the four days of that conference than I have the previous few months on my own, as far as where I am with my research and my understanding of the subject,” he said.

The networking opportunities were one of the key benefits for the group. “I was able to network with a lot of people doing similar research to mine and interested in similar things, and Kenya is about as perfect of a place you could ask for to discuss subjects related to human-wildlife conflict,” noted Heneghan.

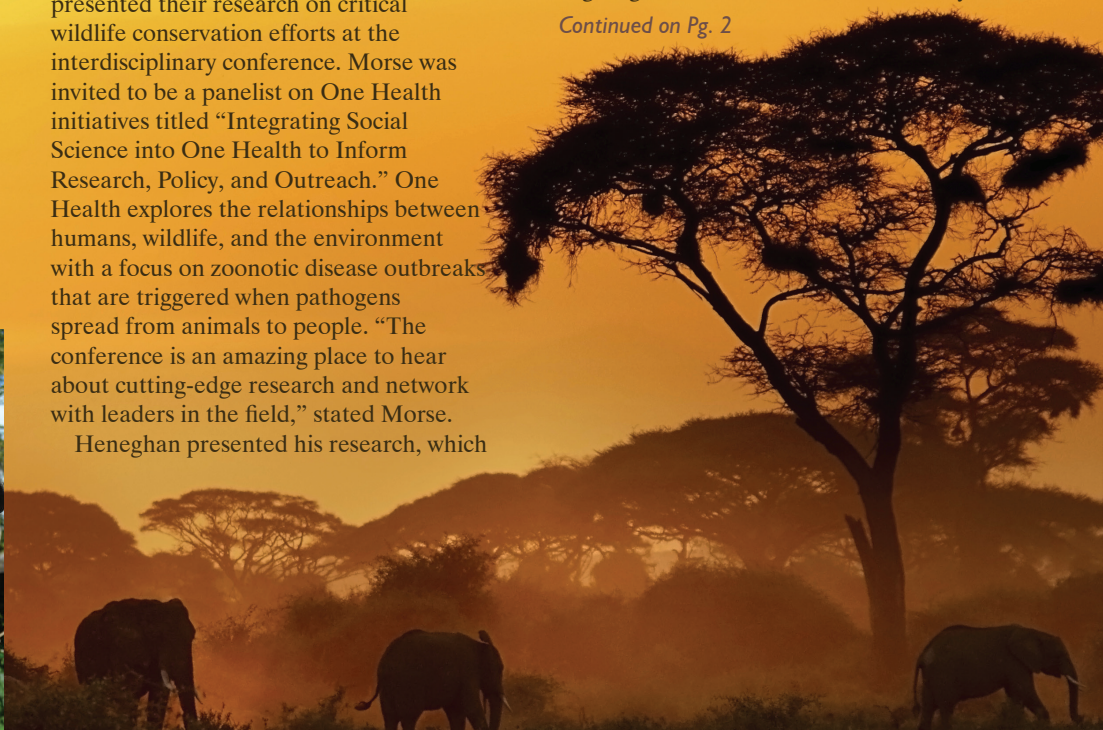
The students and the professor presented their research on critical wildlife conservation efforts at the interdisciplinary conference. Morse was invited to be a panelist on One Health initiatives titled “Integrating Social Science into One Health to Inform Research, Policy, and Outreach.” One Health explores the relationships between humans, wildlife, and the environment with a focus on zoonotic disease outbreaks that are triggered when pathogens spread from animals to people. “The conference is an amazing place to hear about cutting-edge research and network with leaders in the field,” stated Morse.

Heneghan presented his research, which

focuses on the predictive potential of wildlife value orientations in determining acceptance of lethal control in the management of black bears. Wildlife value orientations are categorizations that describe a person’s basic beliefs regarding wildlife, which can be used as a way to describe patterns of public values in a region. “This ensures wildlife managers are meeting the needs of the public they represent, as well as anticipating potential reactions from stakeholders regarding different proposed wildlife management initiatives,” explained Heneghan.

Price-Tack presented a modeling tool which can help state wildlife agencies evaluate management strategies that can be employed to reverse Alabama’s declining hunting license sales. Hunter and angler-generated funds are the mainstay

Continued on Pg. 2



Contact Us

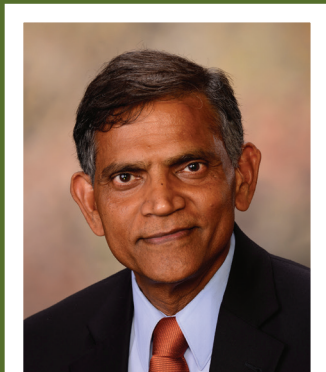
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AUBURN
UNIVERSITY

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A Message from the Dean

Dear Alumni, Friends, and Supporters:

Greetings! In this issue of SFWS News, we showcase current events and reflect on what was accomplished in 2015.

The school is already a leader in forestry, wildlife sciences, and natural resources management programs. Toward the goal of becoming a top five institution among its peers, we are positioning the school with a series of strategic and opportunistic initiatives. For example, we are expanding our undergraduate platform by launching a new degree in geospatial and environmental informatics, which will complement our existing programs. We have launched an MS in natural resources to expand our graduate education. To better prepare our students to be competitive in the job market and help them advance with their career goals, we have organized a career fair and soft skills sessions. We have also hired a student recruiter to increase undergraduate enrollment.

In an effort to expand our research platform, we partnered with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the College of Veterinary Medicine, and the Provost's Cluster Hire Faculty Initiative to recruit four new faculty members. We are exploring avenues to initiate a joint program in bioproducts and packaging. We are looking for opportunities to cost share assistantships to increase graduate student enrollment. As a way to advance our extension footprint, we have strengthened the interface between SFWS specialists and regional extension agents, and will soon be hiring a new extension faculty member in the area of applied management of forest systems.

We have streamlined the school's governance to reduce redundancy and to make it more agile. We have intensified our communications and marketing efforts with the adoption of a tri-annual print newsletter, increased focus on web and social media, and created other publicity materials such as program brochures, videos, and news publications. Lastly, because of your continued support, we have achieved 103 percent of our development campaign goal of \$19.8 million two years ahead of schedule!

War Eagle!

Best regards,

Dean Janaki R.R. Alavalapati, PhD.

Global Perspectives

Continued from Pg. 1

of state resource agency funding and thus the conservation of game and non-game species. According to Price-Tack, more than 90 percent of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resource's budget comes from these sources and none from the general fund.

"The model we developed simulates what will happen to the number of hunters and hunting license sales over 10 years under a variety of hypothetical outreach programs," she explained. "We believe that this tool can help state agencies better anticipate the future of these important conservation funds."

Another benefit of attending international conferences, for both faculty and students alike, is the opportunity to interact with other cultures and experience firsthand the diverse wildlife and terrain that exists in foreign locales. For Morse, "Our time in Kenya was truly amazing, in terms of local issues in the topic related to elephants, big cats, international biological corridors, and human communities."

This immersion gave the students a greater appreciation for global perspectives and the critical importance of dialogue between countries concerning conservation. "I had a very national view of my research before the conference, but through conversations with researchers and professionals



from all over the globe, I now appreciate the broader applicability of my work and the work of others. It demonstrated that increased international dialogue can lead to quicker results and more tangible progress with regards to natural resource issues," stated Price-Tack.

At the conclusion of the conference, Price-Tack and her fiancé, Gavin, enjoyed traveling the country where they exchanged vows atop Mt. Kenya during a wedding ceremony facilitated by the Maasai tribe. Of the experience she exclaimed, "The trip was profound and truly life changing on so many levels!"



AU Board of Trustees Member Elizabeth Huntley Visits School

This fall SFWS hosted Auburn University Board of Trustees member Elizabeth Huntley and her husband, Tony, for a tour and reception with faculty and staff. During the visit, Dean Alavalapati provided an overview of the school's fundraising activities and academic, research, and extension/outreach programs. Student club presidents were also on hand to present details of their clubs' activities.

Ms. Huntley was enthusiastic about the school's direction and pleased to learn about the impact it is making on the economic, environmental, and social well-being of Alabama and beyond.

Preparing Students for a Competitive Job Market



SFWS offers a wealth of services to guide students toward a timely graduation and satisfying careers. In addition to academic advisement and instruction, we are offering new training opportunities that will help to develop our students' communication skills and character traits which are essential to becoming desirable job candidates,

valued employees, and effective leaders.

According to a survey, nine out of 10 employers believe that "soft skills" are increasingly important in the workplace. Soft skills such as communication, team work, and conflict resolution; and personal attributes of empathy, adaptability, and emotional intelligence; are often noted as crucial for productivity and career success.

Dean Alavalapati states, "It is important, in addition to the classroom and experiential learning we provide, that we help our students develop important communication skills and character traits that will assure their continued success."

On Feb. 22, SFWS invited leaders from various types of organizations, including private industry, non-governmental organizations, and public agencies, to participate in a panel discussion and share their perspectives on the

importance of soft skills and how they are fostered in the workplace.

Featured guest panelists were Marc Walley, president, Forest Investment Associates; Ben Malone, state conservationist, USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service; and Chuck Sykes, director, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries.

In addition to online recruitment services, SFWS has developed a career fair to help facilitate student and employer networking. SFWS hosted its first fair on February 23 where more than 30 employers representing forestry, wildlife sciences, and natural resources attended to recruit for internships and full-time positions. The inaugural event attracted nearly 125 students from SFWS and other colleges.

Student Clubs Making Big Impact at SFWS



During their time at Auburn, students can join any of SFWS' many clubs which offer opportunities for socializing, professional networking, and career development. In addition to meetings and service work, the clubs are quite active at the school, assisting with events and other activities. The Student Government Association (SGA) facilitated an open forum meeting with SFWS administration for students to voice their ideas and concerns. The SGA also hosted the annual fall icebreaker for students at the Mary Olive Thomas Tract and the annual homecoming alumni barbecue where the group helped to host more than 300 alumni and their families.

The Student Ambassadors supported many events, including the City of Auburn's

Tree Commission at their annual Arbor Day Tree Giveaway. Additionally, the ambassadors assisted with the spring awards banquet and spring and fall graduation ceremonies. The ambassadors were also instrumental in planning and running the school's fall icebreaker and collected food for the Beat Bama Food Drive.

In addition to regularly scheduled meetings, the Wildlife Society hosted their annual scavenger hunt which helps students prepare for the Southeastern Wildlife Conclave, a competition between wildlife programs from different SEC schools. The club offers members volunteer and professional networking opportunities with events, such as Archery in the Schools, Barbour County Youth Hunt, and the Deer Study in Charlotte, NC.

The Forestry Club hosted presentations by forest products companies, such as Weyerhaeuser, International Paper, Westervelt, Plum Creek, and others who are recruiting for summer internships. The club also hosted its annual Log-a-Load bow shoot at the Sportsman's Outpost where they raised \$2,300 for LAL and the

Children's Network. These funds allowed a small group of members to attend the National SAF meeting in Baton Rouge.

MANRRS is the national society of people of all racial and ethnic groups who are interested in pursuing agricultural and other science-related careers. The Auburn chapter participated in the annual membership conference where members gain national exposure in career and graduate study markets. At this conference, students are given the opportunity to compete in categories such as undergraduate/graduate research poster and oral presentations, and the sciences and natural resources quiz bowl.

Finally, we welcomed the Society for Natural Resources, a new student club affiliated with the International Association for Society and Natural Resources student organization. The club offers members bi-weekly meetings where they invite professors and other Auburn employees to speak about their fields of study. This spring the club will be working on the Parkerson Mill Creek restoration project. To learn more from club leaders, visit auburn.edu/sfws.

Faculty Expansion with AU's Strategic Hiring Initiative

As part of the inaugural cycle of Auburn University's Strategic Hiring Initiative, the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences has partnered with College of Agriculture, Samuel Ginn College of Engineering, College of Science and Mathematics, and College of Liberal Arts in creating two clusters. One focuses on Interdisciplinary Cluster Program in Climate, Human and Earth

System Sciences (CHESS) and the other creating an Institute for Scalable Energy Conversion Science and Technology (ISEC-S&T). Under this Initiative, the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences received support to hire two faculty members; one in CHESS and the other in ISEC-S&T.

The CHESS hire will focus on interdependent human and earth systems.

The ISEC-S&T will explore logistics and supply chain dynamics of energy resources, bioprocess and systems engineering design, and sustainable socioeconomic benefits associated with innovative energy systems. The faculty member, hired under this cluster in the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, will focus on advancing wood based energy technologies and markets.

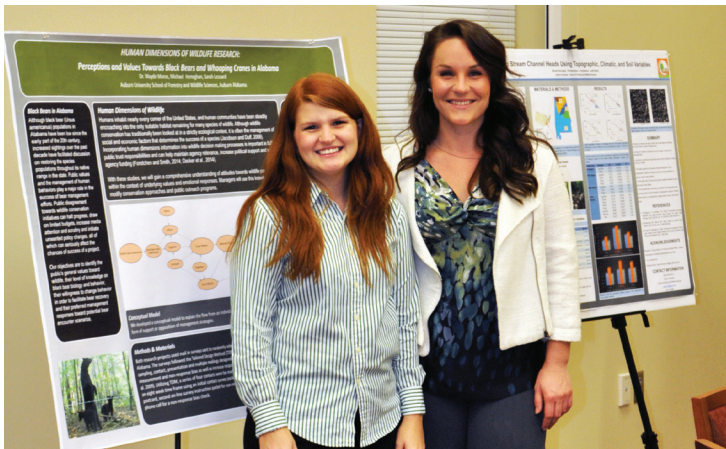
SFWS Student Represented AU at Regional 3MT Competition



The School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences is proud to congratulate SFWS doctoral student Hamed Majidzadeh as the winner of Auburn University's Three Minute Thesis, or 3MT, a research communication competition, held on Nov. 19. During this university-wide competition, graduate students were challenged to communicate

their research and its significance to a non-specialist audience in only three minutes. Hamed competed with 10 other finalists for the honor of representing Auburn at the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools 3MT competition in February.

Graduate School Dean George Flowers said, "Hamed is a shining example of the quality of Auburn's graduate student researchers. Not only is his research on a very important topic, but he speaks about it with a level of ease and comfort rarely seen in such a young scholar. Hamed represented Auburn very well in the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools 3MT competition."



SFWS Hosts Open House and Poster Session

SFWS hosted a Research Open House and Poster Session as part of the "Cool Research Initiative," a program conceived by Auburn University's Office of The Vice President for Research and Economic Development to provide insight into the research occurring at each of Auburn University's colleges and schools to inspire future collaborations between researchers at the university.

Faculty, students, and research staff were invited to participate in the program that showcased the diversity and interdisciplinary nature of SFWS' research program for researchers and administrators across campus. The event also provided valuable experience for graduate students to develop their presentations and to meet others with complementary research interests.

Similar open houses are planned for each of the colleges and schools across campus over the next two years.

2015 Annual Student Awards



Auburn Forestry and Wildlife Alumni Association Outstanding Senior Award for Academicsestry
James Wesley Peters

Auburn Forestry and Wildlife Alumni Association Outstanding Senior Award for Academic, Wildlife
Hilary Rizk

The Associate Dean of Research Science Award
James Wesley Peters

The Associate Dean of Research, Wildlife Science Award
Meagan Roy

Weyerhaeuser Forest Economics Award
Steven Powers

Weyerhaeuser Forest Economics Award
James Wesley Peters

Association of Consulting Foresters Senior Leadership Award
John Lancaster

Southeastern Society of American Foresters and Alabama Division Leadership Travel Award
Truett Lawrence

Alabama Forest Owners Association Award
Luke Carlson

Alabama Forest Owners Association Award
Martha Priester

Alabama Division, Society of American Foresters Junior Leadership Award
Truett Lawrence

William Allen Carey Outstanding Forest Pathology Award
Steven Powers

Annual Academic Improvement Award in Forestry
Cody Hester

Armistead Family Military Service Annual Award
Brandon Loomis

F&W Forestry Services Inc. Rising Senior Award
Joshua Hendon

Summer Practicum, James R. Taylor Endowed Scholarship
Chase Seals

Summer Practicum Endowed Scholarship
Shane Dunning

Summer Practicum Endowed Scholarship
Clayton Glass

Summer Practicum Endowed Scholarship
William Cook

Summer Practicum Endowed Scholarship
Grant Rutland

The Alabama Wildlife Federation, Robert G. Wehle Non-Game Management Annual Award
Laura Garland

The Alabama Wildlife Federation, David K. Nelson Game Management Award
Seth Rankin

Alabama Chapter of the Wildlife Society, Student Leadership Award
Dominique Price

Westervelt Rising Senior Award in Wildlife Award
Chara J. Wood

School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, President's Award
Hilary Rizk

2015 SGA Honors Ceremony Outstanding Student Award
Scott McClure

2015 SGA Honors Ceremony Outstanding Faculty Award
Tom Gallagher, Associate Professor

SFWSestry Club, Outstanding Student Member Award
Shawn Custred

SFWSestry Club, Outstanding Faculty Award, Teacher of the Year
John Kush, Research Fellow IV

SFWS, Wildlife Club, Outstanding Student Member Award
Matt George

SFWS, Wildlife Club, Outstanding Faculty Award, Teacher of the Year
Mark Smith, Associate Professor

Undergraduate Scholarships

Rose Eugene Atchison Endowed Scholarship in Forestry

Randall F. Ceneus
Duston R. Duffie
Seth T. Rankins
Chara J. Wood

Alabama Association of Conservation Districts Auxiliary Endowed Scholarship

Sarah K. McWhorter

Elizabeth Powers and John Coleman Banks Endowed Scholarship in Forestry

Crystal J. Boutwell
Duston R. Duffie

Lynn Dent Boykin Youth Wildlife Scholarship

Isaiah D. Boaz
Randall F. Ceneus
Laura A. Garland
Christine K. Kallenberg
Kayla R. Krigger
Kirsten S. Rice
Sarah M. Shaner
Chara J. Wood

Frank W. Boykin/Tensaw Land and Timber Endowed Scholarship in Forestry and Wildlife

Samuel C. Colville
Jordan C. Rivenbark
Emma A. Vaters
Andrew T. Haight

Norman Buce Bearden Endowed Memorial Scholarship in Forestry and Wildlife

Duston R. Duffie

Richard W. Brinker Endowed Scholarship

Seth T. Rankins

Burgin Companies' Endowed Scholarship in Forestry

Luke E. Carlson

Christen, DeBrunner, Posey, Raper Endowed Scholarship in Forestry

Shannon M. Lambert

Pat Dye and Nancy McDonald Scholarship in the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences

Andrew T. Haight
Christine K. Kallenberg
Sarah K. McWhorter
Richard F. Poston
Kirsten S. Rice
James Walker Shortnacy
Amberly M. Ware
Rachel L. Womack
Chara J. Wood

Garden Clubs of Alabama Endowed Forestry Conservation Scholarship

Jessica L. Blain
Cody A. Hartzog

Margaret Atchison Hathaway Endowed Scholarship in Non-Game Wildlife Management

Scott R. McClure

Mamie L. Hardy Memorial Endowment for Scholarships

Crystal J. Boutwell

Edward A. Hauss Endowed Scholarship in Forestry

William Dalton Burns
Zachary S. Dunning
Henry H. Morris
Grant S. Rutland
Kaitlyn E. Spivey

W. Earl Hughes Memorial Scholarship

Jordan L. Heath

"Choppy" Bruce Johnson Annual Scholarship

Kyle A. Malone

Hugh Kaul Annual Scholarship in Forestry

Caleb C. Tanner

Tom Kelly Endowed Scholarship in Forestry and Wildlife Sciences

Sarah M. Shaner

Barnett Lawley Annual Scholarship in Forestry and Wildlife

Jordan L. Heath

Charles G. Lawson Memorial Endowed Scholarship in Forestry and Wildlife

James Walker Shortnacy

Melba R. Littrell Endowed Memorial Scholarship in Forestry

Grant S. Rutland

Lowery Pulpwood, Inc./James R. Lowery Endowed Memorial Scholarship in Forestry

Joshua Craig Hendon

Dwain G. Luce Family Endowed Scholarship in Forestry

Hannah A. Kelly
Jordan C. Rivenbark

WestRock Annual Scholarship

Hannah Grace Gregson

Dan Moultrie Wildlife Scholarship

Zachary A. Slay

Nichols Family Endowed Scholarship in Forestry

William Dalton Burns

Henry and Elizabeth Posey Endowed Scholarship in Forestry and Wildlife

Christine K. Kallenberg

James W. Richardson Endowed Scholarship in Forestry

Kaitlyn E. Spivey

Rooke Family Endowment for Scholarships in Forestry or Forest Engineering

William Dalton Burns
James Clayton Glass
Joshua Craig Hendon

Russell Lands Annual Scholarship in Forestry

Emma A. Vaters

William F. Sahlie Endowed Memorial Scholarship in Forestry

Hannah Grace Gregson

School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences Scholarship Fund

Ashlyn V. Bentley
Dalton Bray
Samuel C. Colville
John-Richard Gray Davis
Jesse H. Driver
Matthew J. George
Christopher G. Hays
Ben W. Holcomb
David A. King, Grant
Justin B. Knight
Kyle A. Malone
Logan C. McCord
Samuel J. Morris
Zachary A. Slay
Sarah E. Slife
Steven T. Williamson

Walker Herring Taylor Endowed Scholarship

Jordan R. Allen

Emmett F. Thompson Endowed Scholarship in Forestry

Laura A. Garland

Thompson Family Scholarship

Henry H. Morris

Robert Tufts Endowed Scholarship in Forestry and Wildlife

Kirsten S. Rice

Noll A. Van Cleave Endowed Scholarship in Forestry

Crystal J. Boutwell
Scott R. McClure

L. M. and Mary Ware Endowed Scholarship in Forestry

William Dalton Burns
Hannah Grace Gregson

Watters Family Endowed Scholarship in Forestry

Elizabeth Sibley Barnette

James M. Wells, Sr. Endowed Memorial Scholarship in Forestry

Henry H. Morris

Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund/ Jim Leist Memorial Endowed Scholarship in the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences

Kyle A. Malone

Graduate Fellowships

Robert Lewis Adams Graduate Fellowship Fund

M.D. Nuruddin, PhD, Forestry
Major Professor: Brian Via

W. Walter Beshears, Jr., and Rebecca P. Beshears Endowed Graduate Award in Wildlife Sciences

Carolyn Moore, MS, Wildlife Sciences
Major Professor: Steve Ditchkoff

Drummond Company Endowed Fellowship in the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences

Kamaljit Banger, PhD, Forestry
Major Professor: Hanqin Tian

Jeff Chieppa, MS, Forestry
Major Professor: Art Chappelka

Pratima Devkota, PhD, Forestry
Major Professor: Lori Eckhardt

James Henderson Dukes Memorial Endowment for Fellowships in Forestry

Patrick Farrell, MS, Wildlife Sciences
Major Professor: Conor McGowan

Rasika Ramesh, PhD, Forestry
Major Professor: Latif Kalin

James Floyd Goggans Endowed Fellowship in Forest Biology

Mehdi Rezaeianzadeh, PhD, Forestry
Major Professor: Latif Kalin

KyKenKee Fellowship

Gifty Acquah, PhD, Forestry
Major Professor: Brian Via

George Crenshaw Moore Endowed Fund for Graduate Fellowship in Wildlife Game Management

Michael Glow, MS, Wildlife
Major Professor: Steve Ditchkoff

Kevyn Wiskirchen, MS, Wildlife
Major Professor: Steve Ditchkoff

Harry Murphy Dean's Enhancement Fund for Excellence in the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences

Kamaljit Banger, PhD, Forestry
Major Professor: Hanqin Tian

Lyle C. Tom Endowed Graduate Award for a Graduate of the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences

Charles Pell, PMS, Forestry
Major Professor: Lisa Samuelson

The Vick Annual Fellowship in the Graduate School

Brandon Loomis, MS, Natural Resources
Major Professor: Ed Loewenstein

Westervelt Fellowship

Kylee Dunham, MS, Wildlife Sciences
Major Professor: Barry Grand

The background of the entire page is a blurred forest scene with tall, thin trees and dappled sunlight filtering through the leaves. In the foreground, at the bottom of the page, is a close-up of a weathered, split wooden tree stump.

School of Forestry & Wildlife Sciences

2015 Annual Report

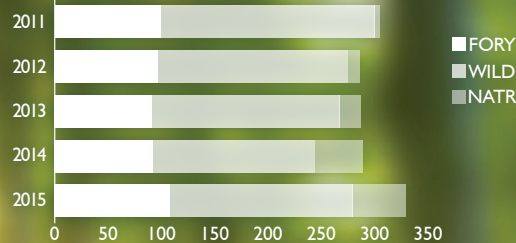
THIS IS AUBURN.

Academics

The SFWS offers world-class faculty, state-of-the-art labs, expansive field sites, and cutting-edge, knowledge-based, and technological resources to support our goal of providing the absolute best educational experience for our students. These resources enable the school to provide the highest-quality classroom instruction, experiential learning experiences, and professional development opportunities to prepare students for a competitive job market and a diverse global workforce.

Undergraduate enrollment has increased 18 percent in fiscal year 2015. This increase can be attributed to the development of the natural resources management degree program, new student services to improve retention, and increased recruitment efforts. To meet its enrollment goal of 500 students, the SFWS will further diversify its academic program with a new geospatial and environmental informatics degree, expand its marketing efforts within the region, and hire a dedicated full-time student recruiter.

Undergraduate Enrollment by Degree Program



Graduate Enrollment by Degree



\$270,000

AWARDED ANNUALLY

for merit & financial aid
scholarships & fellowships



Undergraduate
Enrollment
INCREASED
18%
in fiscal year 2015



NEARLY
6,000
ACRES

& several educational
facilities available for
faculty & student use

FACULTY & STAFF PROFILE

- 36 – Faculty (18 forestry, 10 wildlife, 8 natural resources management)
- 6 – Endowed Professors
- 3 – Full-time Student Services Staff Members

DEGREES CONFERRED FY2015

- 6 – PhD
- 6 – Masters
- 49 – Undergraduate

Research

In 2015, the SFWS ranked second on campus in terms of extramural funding per faculty member and consistently ranks within the top two units on campus for this metric.

SFWS research, which ranges from biological, ecological, and geospatial to socioeconomic and policy aspects of forestry, wildlife, and natural resources conservation, is primarily focused to help society develop a sustainable future.

Highly relevant to the quality of people's lives, SFWS research contributes to the development of policy and management strategies for land use, public health, and natural resources within Alabama, across the region, and around the globe.

Our multi-institutional, interdisciplinary research is conducted in partnership with nine affiliated research centers and cooperatives.

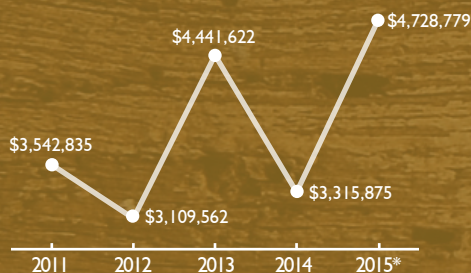
RESEARCH CENTERS & COOPERATIVES

- Alabama Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit
- Center for Environmental Studies at the Urban-Rural Interface
- Center for Longleaf Pine Ecosystems
- Forest Health Cooperative
- Forest Policy Center
- Forest Products Center
- International Center for Climate and Global Change Research
- Southern Forest Engineering Center
- Southern Forest Nursery Management Cooperative



34
RESEARCH
FACULTY

Extramural Funding for FY2011–15



*2015 Funding as of 8/15. Dollars are subject to change.

68
ACTIVE
GRADUATE
STUDENTS



7 RESEARCH
Associates

4 POST-DOCTORAL
Associates

3.3
PUBLICATIONS
per faculty
member in 2014

Outreach

The SFWS outreach and extension efforts serve to educate and engage members of the public and private sectors regarding natural resources related issues. SFWS programs engage thousands each year and are offered through SFWS facilities and in partnership with other agencies. Outreach activities include K-12 educational programs, skill development workshops and technical seminars, field training exercises, research project assistance, and community programs.



**MORE
THAN
30,000
PEOPLE**

are served annually by
SFWS outreach programs
& activities

**9 Affiliated
RESEARCH CENTERS
& Cooperatives**
as well as nearly 6,000
acres and many educational
facilities used for outreach
& extension

**36 FACULTY
Available to Participate**

**4 DEDICATED
Outreach Staff**

Extension

Extension is one of the three missions of a land-grant institution and, as such, we work to take science-based information to the citizens of Alabama, the Southeast, the United States, and the world. The goal is to improve quality of life as it relates to a variety of natural resources issues. In 2015, the Forestry, Wildlife, and Natural Resources (FWNR) team assisted clientele by providing workshops and publications on a variety of topics.

2015 FWNR WORKSHOPS & PUBLICATIONS TOPICS

- Community Forestry
- Family Forests
- Geospatial Technologies
- Invasive Plant Identification, Ecology, and Control
- Shortleaf Initiative
- Watershed Management, Alabama Water Watch
- Wildlife Management: Enhancement and Damage
- Worker Protection Standards, Pesticide Safety Education

Presented more than
250 Workshops
& Field Days
reaching more than
23,000
CLIENTS



67 PUBLICATIONS &
Videos Produced

Wild Pig
Management
video received more than
140,000
VIEWS

Venomous Snake
Poster had
20,500
DOWNLOADS



PRESENTATION, CONFERENCE, & SEMINAR HIGHLIGHTS

- Conducted a booth at Buckmasters Expo attended by 30,000
- Hosted a statewide conference on invasive species
- Conducted a wild pig management seminar in Kobe, Japan
- Presented Pesticide Applicators University for 221 commercial pesticide applicators

Development

As part of Because This is Auburn — A Campaign for Auburn University, a historical \$1 billion fundraising effort launched into the public phase in April 2015, the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences set an unprecedented goal of raising \$19.8 million to benefit students, faculty, programs, and facilities.

With this support, the school will create 20 new scholarships to diversify student enrollment and four new additional faculty positions focused on outreach and extension, as well as a \$1.5 million endowment to support research. To achieve its goals to increase student enrollment, faculty enrichment, and program expansion, the school is seeking \$2.3 million in campaign support to renovate and upgrade existing facilities that enhance student learning experiences.

At the close of fiscal year 2015, the SFWS had exceeded its goal by nearly 5 percent with 6,299 campaign contributions totaling \$20.2 million from SFWS alumni and friends.

**BECAUSE
THIS IS AUBURN.**

A Campaign for
Auburn University

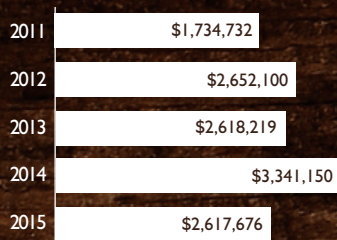
6,299

**TOTAL
GIFTS**

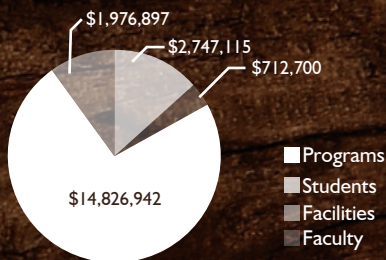


3,385
**LIVING
ALUMNI**

Comprehensive Total Annual Fundraising 2011–15



Overall Campaign Totals



TOTAL: \$20,263,654

**As of 9/30/15, SFWS has exceeded its campaign goals by 5%.*

OVERALL CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS

- 52.9% of campaign goal has been given by alumni
- 25.1% of the campaign total has been given by friends of the SFWS
- 10.91% of SFWS alumni gave in fiscal year FY14-15 (170 donors)

2015 CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS

- Total Raised FY15 - \$2,617,676
- 638 gifts received
- 71.1% from alumni
- 12.3% from corporate
- 6.2% by friends of school
- 138 Dean's Club Members

Outstanding Alumni Named for 2013–14

Each year, one person is recognized as the SFWS Outstanding Alumnus of the Year. Please join us in congratulating the two most recent honorees, from 2013 and 2014.



Michael Kelly, 2013 Alumnus of the Year

Michael Kelly, a registered and certified forester® and a fellow of the Society of American Foresters, is recognized for his distinguished career and service. Michael began his career with Forest Investment Associates (FIA) in 1990 and has held the positions of executive vice president, vice president, and director of timberland management prior to assuming his current position as president and chairman of its investment and executive committees. He was previously employed by International Paper Company, where he held positions in timberland management, wood fiber procurement and fiber flow planning, and cost analysis.

Michael, a 1979 graduate, holds a B.S. in Forestry from Auburn University and an M.B.A. from the University of South Alabama. He is the Immediate Past Chairman of the Forest History Society Board of Directors, serves on the Board of Directors of the National Alliance of Forest Owners and on the Auburn University School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences Alumni Advisory Council and the Auburn University Research Advisory Board. He has been a featured speaker at forestry investment conferences, association meetings and forestry schools.



Jim King, 2014 Alumnus of the Year

Jim King, a native of Greensboro, received his bachelor's degree in forest management from Auburn University in 1980 and continues to play an active role with the school and university. Jim currently serves on various committees including the SFWS Advisory Council and SFWS Campaign Leadership Committee. He also serves on the Auburn University Research Advisory Board.

Jim served as a forester for the Hammermill Paper Company in Greensboro before joining The Westervelt Company in 1981. During his service with the company, Jim held various forester positions within the Natural Resources Division as well as Strategic Planning and Business Development before being named natural resources director. In 2003, he was promoted to his current position as vice president and business leader for natural resources. His role encompasses strategic leadership and responsibility for land and minerals, timber management, timber marketing, recreation, and real estate.



40 Years of Diversity Celebrating SFWS' First African American Graduate Ernest Boyd

On April 7, the SFWS will host a luncheon honoring its first African American graduate, Ernest Boyd, who graduated in forestry in 1976. After serving in the U.S. Army for 18 years, Boyd became an elementary and intermediate school teacher.

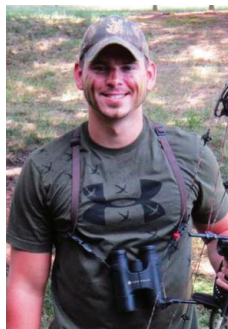
Since his graduation, Boyd feels race relations have improved. Though during his time at Auburn, he remarked, "What my classmates and the instructors learned is that you have to find out where the other person's values lie. They came to find out that my values were the same as theirs. I wanted a good education and livelihood for me and my family. Once they found out where I was coming from, they looked at me and said what's the difference? Nothing but the color of our skin."

Today, Boyd sees parallels with issues of immigration. Just as it had been for blacks and whites in the 20th century, he feels the basis of migrant relations is common ground. "Over a period of time I've learned, in order for people to tolerate each other, they have to learn to talk to each other. Open that dialogue and hatred will start to disappear. Just learn to communicate," states Boyd.

The collegiate spirit of Auburn is a unifying force for Boyd. He likes to see and use the phrase "War Eagle" because it breaks the ice with other people. "I can talk to anybody; people open up once you break that ice." In that spirit of unity and shared experience, we celebrate Ernest Boyd, the SFWS' first African American graduate.

At the luncheon, we will also recognize Ken Day '81 and Dana Little '79, who spearheaded the African American Alumni Scholarship Endowment in the SFWS with 10 others who contributed to this effort. The goal of this scholarship is to foster a campus environment that respects differences and encourages inclusiveness, as well as to increase the recruitment, retention, and representation of minorities and other groups within the school.

This milestone celebration of the school's 40-year history of diversity will be held at 11:30 a.m. in the conference hall of the SFWS building. For more information, contact Heather Crozier at 334-844-2791.



Will Gulsby, one of our newest faculty members, was born in Mobile and raised in Georgia. Will completed his undergraduate degree in biology at the University of North Georgia and earned both his MS and PhD degrees in wildlife ecology and management from the University of Georgia. He and wife, Neva, were married in 2010 and their first child, Elise, was born last year. Their family enjoys the outdoors, and spending time hunting, hiking, fishing, and boating. To learn more about Will, visit auburn.edu/sfws.



Mark Smith, SFWS associate professor and extension specialist with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, was elected in January to serve a two-year term as president of the Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society. With more than 9,000 members, The Wildlife Society serves as the primary professional organization for those who work actively to study, manage, and conserve wildlife and habitats worldwide. To learn more about The Wildlife Society and its Southeastern Section, visit wildlife.org.



Lori Eckardt, professor of forest pathology, was elected by Sigma Xi members to serve a one-year term as associate director of the southeast region. Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society, is the international honor society of science and engineering. One of the oldest and largest scientific organizations in the world, Sigma Xi has a distinguished history of service to science and society for more than 125 years. To learn more about Sigma Xi, visit sigmaxi.org.



SFWS Forestry Students Travel to Brazil

SFWS took eight students and two faculty to southern Brazil for a 10-day study abroad trip in May. Brazil has world-class fiber production systems, some of which use loblolly and slash pine. The trip included visits to two plantation-based forest product companies, a pulp mill, a pine lumber mill which exports to the U.S., a major university forestry program, a national research laboratory, Brazil's famous Atlantic Forest, and the National Botanical Gardens.

SFWS and MIT researchers say increased air pollution and drought threatening food security in China

SFWS and Massachusetts Institute of Technology climate scientists are part of an international research team that has linked significant decreases in China's crop production to increased levels of tropospheric ozone as a result of rapid urbanization and industrialization. It's a trend that's raising serious concerns about food supply security in China.

The team's findings were published in the article, "Climate extremes and ozone pollution: A growing threat to China's food security," in the January issue of *Ecosystem Health and Sustainability*, a joint journal of the Ecological Society of America and Ecological Society of China.

"The results highlight the fact that climate change is already affecting crop yields in China, and that yield losses are compounded through interactions of climate and other environmental stresses such as tropospheric ozone," said study co-author John Reilly, co-director of the MIT Joint Program on the Science and Policy of Global Change.

Over the past 30 years, China has become the world's largest producer and consumer of agricultural products. Given its status as the world's most populous country and second largest economy, how China addresses the multitude of factors impacting its crop production and food security is of global concern.

"Actions to reduce ozone pollution and combat climate change and associated extreme weather will enhance China's food security," said Jerry Melillo, a member of National Academy of Sciences and Distinguished Scientist in the Ecosystem Center of Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole.

Unlike the majority of existing assessments, the study



is unique because it focuses on increasing climate extremes such as drought and its correlation with tropospheric ozone, rather than climate variables, such as temperature and precipitation.

The results of the study, which used an integrated approach combining agricultural ecosystem modeling with ground and satellite observations, may strongly influence climate change policy and approaches to addressing global food security.

"Reducing air pollution would be an efficient way to stabilize food security in the face of future climate change in China," said the study's lead author, Hanqin Tian, Auburn professor and director of the International Center for Climate and Global Change Research. "Improving air quality should be a core component of climate adaptation strategies in China."

High School Students Help Monitor Northeastern Black Bear

Students from Munford High School in Talladega County have partnered with SFWS wildlife faculty to help estimate bear populations in northeastern Alabama. Munford Schools focus on providing students with experiential learning experiences to better prepare them for college and future careers.

In its second year, the black bear study led by Auburn University, with the support from the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, is using minimally invasive hair snares to collect samples for DNA analysis. Once hair samples are identified to individuals, the pattern of capture and recapture of each individual bear across the landscape is used to model bear population size and density in the study area.

Student participation allows the researchers to broaden their study area while at the same time providing invaluable hands-on learning experiences for students. Todd Steury, associate professor of wildlife ecology stated, "Bear sightings have been confirmed in this section, but without the students' assistance, it is impractical for us to sample there while we focus on areas with a higher degree of bear activity."

This past fall, SFWS graduate student

John Draper and undergraduate student Alex Beaver led a group of three Munford High teachers and five students into the field to deploy the hair snares within the research area. Following the initial set up, the high school class is responsible for visiting the sites each week to check the snares, collect samples, record the data from their visits, and manage the snare equipment.

Draper, a lead researcher for the project, noted, "Working with Munford Schools has allowed us to expand our sampling area while giving us the chance to inspire future scientists and introduce them to the practical realities of field work." He added, "This sort of outreach allows us to connect with the local community in a way that exponentially spreads knowledge about black bears in Alabama and their conservation."

Talladega County Board Member and participant Johnny Ponder expressed his enthusiasm for the student's ability to participate in the first black bear research project focused on northeastern Alabama. "It's very exciting to them, to the organizers, and to the general public. I'm proud of our students and thankful to all that are responsible for giving them this opportunity," said Ponder.



Nursery Short Course Held at SFWS

Forty nursery managers and growers hailing from the forest industry, non-governmental agencies, and privately held nurseries recently gathered at the SFWS for the Southern Forest Nursery Management Cooperative Short Course offered in September at Auburn.

Known to be one of the oldest formal research cooperatives at Auburn, dating back to 1973, the cooperative allows members to respond more effectively to industry trends and assimilate current research through participation in educational programs, annual meetings, and other communications that share best practices.

Attendee comments to the closing survey were positive. Remarks one participant, "The quality of the program has helped to build my

confidence to enact new programs." Other comments suggest that the attendees felt the program offered a wealth of knowledge and resources, stating, "The short course has shed new light on information that has made it more useable for application."

Topics of the short course addressed issues impacting both bareroot and container production, with subjects ranging from seedling quality to the economics of seedbed density. Speakers included Auburn University representatives Scott Enebak, Tom Starkey, David South, and Wheeler Foshee; Steve McKeand of North Carolina State University; Robert Cross and Chris Rosier of ArborGen; Steve Godbehere of TriEst Ag Group; and Steve Smith of Weyerhaeuser.





SCHOOL OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE SCIENCES

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

Student Awards Banquet, March 30
Spring Graduation, May 8

**40 Years of Diversity,
Celebrating SFWS'
1st African American
Graduate,** April 7

Golden Eagles Luncheon,
May 19

Auburn University
School of Forestry & Wildlife Sciences
602 Duncan Drive
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Auburn, AL 36849

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2015 Alumni Events



2015 Alumni Events

Several alumni events were held this fall, including the Homecoming Barbecue and Dean's Tailgate. Among the nearly 100 alumni and students who attended the barbecue, were the James D. Holley family of Monroeville (top left photo), Mary and Bob Lowe, Jim Spears, and daughter Leanne (bottom left photo), who together represented three generations of Auburn fans. Dr. and Mrs. Janaki Alavalapati hosted the annual Dean's Tailgate before the Ole Miss game. Alumni, students, faculty, and staff enjoyed the morning tailgate with a light breakfast and refreshments on the Campus Green. Shown with Dr. and Mrs. Alavalapati, from left to right are Director of Development Heather Crozier and Development Coordinator, Sharon Tatum.



Woodlands & Wildlife Society

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 Alabama Chapter National Wild Turkey Federation
 Alabama Conservation & Natural Resources Foundation, Inc.
 Alabama Farmers Federation
 Alabama Forest Owners Association, Inc.
 Alabama Forestry Foundation
 Alabama Power Foundation, Inc.
 Alabama Wildlife Federation, Inc.
 Arborgen, Inc.
 Auburn-Opelika Tourism Bureau
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 Rep. Elaine Hill Beech
 Mr. and Mrs. Donald Jeffrey Bentley
 Mr. and Mrs. Jason Hubert Berry
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