

# College of Forestry, Wildlife & Environment

## FEATURE STORY

CFWE culminates 75th anniversary with gala

Pg. 8-9

## WHAT'S INSIDE

Dean's update on college status and name change

Pg. 2

CFWE Annual Report

Pg. 4-5

Economic impact of invasive species

Pg. 6

CFWE hosts first CLT conference in the South

Pg. 10

Donors establish new Ever Auburn scholarships

Pg. 15

Elmo Ziebach chosen as Outstanding Alumnus

Pg. 15

CFWE NEWS • Spring 2022

## Working with Nature for Society's Well Being

Administration .....2-5  
Research & Discovery .....6  
Academics & Learning .....7  
Extension & Outreach ..... 10-12  
Alumni & Friends ..... 13-16

### Upcoming Events

Alumni Homecoming Tailgate **9/24/22**  
CFWE Career Fair **9/28/22**



**[cfwe.auburn.edu/giving](https://cfwe.auburn.edu/giving)**  
Learn how you can support the CFWS.



**[cfwe.auburn.edu/newsletter](https://cfwe.auburn.edu/newsletter)**  
Visit our website to read past issues and access digital content related to stories you see here. When you see one of the icons below, you know more content is available online.



slide  
show



video



related  
articles



Celebrating 75 Years of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences at Auburn



Advancing Cross-Laminated Timber in the South

**On Campus & Beyond** Visit [cfwe.auburn.edu](https://cfwe.auburn.edu) for more stories.



Connecting with the CFWE Advisory Council



Honoring our spring graduates and families

602 Duncan Drive  
1161 W. Samford Ave., Bldg. 8  
Auburn, AL 36849-0001

AUBURN  
College of Forestry,  
Wildlife and Environment



NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
AUBURN, AL  
PERMIT NO. 9

# /// A message from THE DEAN



Dear Alumni and Friends,

I am pleased to inform you that during its Feb. 4 meeting, the Auburn University Board of Trustees officially approved the changed designation of the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences to that of College of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences. This designation was an important milestone in recognition of the school's continued growth and pursuit of excellence, made all the

more meaningful as we culminated the 75th anniversary of forestry and wildlife sciences at Auburn University this spring.

Following the designation change, the Board of Trustees then approved the college's name change to the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment at its April 22 meeting. The word "environment" was adopted to better reflect the breadth of academic, research, outreach and extension programs currently supported by the academic unit related to environmental management, science and policy.

Since 2016, the college has launched four new undergraduate degrees and several graduate programs, including majors such as geospatial and environment informatics; sustainable biomaterials and packaging; and wildlife enterprise management. New minors will be launched this year to pair with the natural resources management degree and other programs on campus, including environmental law, coastal management, urban forestry, forest health and forest seedling nursery management.

Our research footprint has also diversified to include environmental factors influencing forest and wildlife management, drought and climate variability and disease ecology, as well as forest health, conservation and the economics and policy of natural resources.

The renaming demonstrates the college's strategic initiative to offer programs that integrate traditional disciplines of forestry and wildlife sciences with the growing field of environmental sciences, theories and problem solving to meet the emerging needs of industry and government.

We are confident the name change will raise awareness of the college's expanded platforms among prospective faculty and students as a new perception of the college becomes established. Just as important, we anticipate this change will enhance the college's visibility and competitiveness for extramural funding among its peer institutions.

Thank you all for your ongoing support as we move into the next exciting chapter of the college's history as the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment! War Eagle!

Janaki R. R. Alavalapati, Dean

## Administration

### CFWE Faculty Receive Top Awards

Please join us in congratulating the following award recipients.

#### Recipients of the 2022 Harry Murphy Awards

• Harry Murphy Award Faculty Research Award, **Brian Via**, Regions Professor of Forest Products

• Harry Murphy Faculty Extension & Outreach Award, **Scott Enebak**, Dwain G. Luce Professor of Forestry, associate dean of academic affairs, and director of the Southern Forest Nursery Management Cooperative

• Harry Murphy Award for Excellence in Advising, **Jodie Kenney**, director of student services

• Harry Murphy Outstanding Staff Member, **Jamie Anderson**, communications and marketing specialist III

• Harry Murphy Outstanding Staff Member, **Suane Gilbert**, administrative associate II

#### Recipients of the 2022 Harold E. Christen Awards

• Harold E. Christen Award for Teaching, **Kelly Dunning**, assistant professor of conservation governance

• Harold E. Christen Award for Service to Advising, **Todd Franks**, professor of practice

#### Other notable faculty and staff awards:

• CFWE Best Publication Award, **Heather D. Alexander**, assistant professor of forest ecology

• CFWE Graduate Student Mentorship Award, **Kelly Dunning**, assistant professor of conservation governance

• Auburn University 2022 Provost Award for Outstanding Advising Administrator, **Jodie Kenney**, director of student services

• Ecological Society of America 2022 Sustainability Science Award, **Christopher Lepczyk**, professor of wildlife biology and conservation

• CFWE Grantsmanship Award, **Maria Soledad Peresin**, associate professor of forest biomaterials

• Auburn University Spirit of Excellence 2022 Employee of the Year Award, **Andrew Thornton**, information technology specialist IV

• Jewish National Fund-USA 2022 Summer Faculty Fellowship Program, **Daowei Zhang**, Alumni and George W. Peake Professor and associate dean of research

### CFWE Students Recognized

We are proud of our CFWE students who were recognized with top awards.

• **Zihao Bian**, selected as one of Auburn University's Outstanding Doctoral students for 2021-2022

• **Sydney Brake**, third place winner of 72nd Southeastern regional meeting of the American Chemical Society Exposition Student Oral Presentations

• **Sydney Brake**, selected as Graduate Student Winner for the 2022 Auburn Student Research Symposium Oral Presentation

• **Schylter Brown**, awarded Best Poster at the 13th Southern Forestry and Natural Resource Management GIS Conference

• **Amanda Alva** and **Lynn von Hagen**, recipients of the Ecological Society of America's 2022 Katherine S. McCarter Graduate Student Policy Award

• **Javier Hernandez Diaz**, first place winner of 72nd Southeastern regional meeting of the American Chemical Society Exposition Student Oral Presentations

• **Brianna Dickson**, selected as Undergraduate Student Winner for the 2022 Auburn Student Research Symposium Oral Presentation

• **Ilya Eva Kristensen**, recipient of the Auburn University President Award

• **Lexi McGrew**, recipient of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State 2022 Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship

• **Sylvester Menanyih**, selected as Graduate Student Winner for the 2022 Auburn Student Research Symposium Poster Presentation

• **Arthur Lamounier Moura**, first place winner of 2022 Auburn Student Research Symposium University-wide Graduate Student in STEM Poster Presentation

• **Munkaila Musah**, first place winner of the Wood Award for Outstanding Research from the Forest Products Society

• **Andrea Paez**, selected as one of Auburn University's Outstanding Master's students for 2021-2022

• **Manisha Parajuli**, first place winner of the 2022 Southeastern Society of American Foresters Poster Session

• **Evelyn Pearson**, selected as Undergraduate Student Winner for the 2022 Auburn Student Research Symposium Poster Presentation

• **Summia Rahman**, first place winner of the Auburn University's Three Minute Thesis, or 3MT, Competition

• **Arjun Rijal**, recipient of the 2022 Forest Landowner Foundation/Deborah Carter Scholarship and second place winner of the 2022 Southeastern Society of American Foresters Poster Session

• **Nisham Thapa**, awarded Best Student Presentation at the 13th Southern Forestry and Natural Resource Management GIS Conference

### Christopher B. Roberts named Auburn University's 21st President

The Auburn University Board of Trustees unanimously voted to select Dean Christopher B. Roberts of the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering as the university's 21st president. Roberts began serving on May 16 and replaces Jay Gogue.

In discussing Roberts' campus visits, Trustee Wayne Smith, who chaired the 22-member presidential advisory search committee, said Roberts' visit to campus was an unequivocal success.

"Personally, I could not have been more pleased," Smith said. "We all have every confidence that he is the right person to provide strong and thoughtful leadership that will enhance Auburn's visibility and impact for the 21st century."

The naming follows a nine-month national search that involved transparency and shared governance through a thorough search and campus community input. Roberts was selected as Auburn's next leader for his proven record as a well-qualified and accomplished dean with great integrity, vision and an unmatched love of all things Auburn.

"I am deeply humbled and honored to be named the next president of Auburn University," Roberts said. "Having called Auburn home for the past 28 years, I

feel privileged to lead this distinguished university as we pursue even greater levels of impact and excellence. I would like to express my appreciation to the faculty, staff, students, alumni, Auburn University Board of Trustees and community for entrusting me with this responsibility. I look forward to working with the Auburn Family to build upon our strong foundation as we advance towards our goals and aspirations for the future."

Roberts earned a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the University of Missouri in 1990 and master's and doctoral degrees in chemical engineering from the University of Notre Dame in 1992 and 1994, respectively. He began his career at Auburn in 1994 as an assistant professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering and became department chair in 2003. He was named dean of engineering in July 2012.

Gogue, who earned a bachelor's and master's degree in horticulture from Auburn, returned to his alma mater in 2007, as the university's 18th president and retired as president emeritus in 2017. He was appointed by the university's Board of Trustees to serve as interim president in 2019 and appointed the university's 20th president in 2020.



*"I am deeply humbled and honored to be named the next president of Auburn University. I look forward to working with the Auburn Family to build upon our strong foundation as we advance towards our goals and aspirations for the future."*

-Christopher B. Roberts



Vini Nathan, Auburn University's dean and McWhorter chair in the College of Architecture, Design and Construction, has been named interim provost and vice president of academic affairs.

### Nathan selected as interim provost, vice president for academic affairs

Nathan succeeded Provost Bill Hardgrave on March 7. Hardgrave was named president of the University of Memphis and began his appointment on April 1.

As the university's interim chief academic officer, Nathan will provide leadership to Auburn's 13 colleges in addition to numerous academic programs and units that support the university's instruction, research and outreach mission.

"Dean Nathan is a seasoned academic leader who is knowledgeable about Auburn's culture, traditions and policies," said former President Jay Gogue. "She has a demonstrated commitment to students, faculty and staff as well as all aspects of Auburn's land-grant mission. I am confident Vini can seamlessly move into the interim position and provide the provost's office with expert leadership."

Nathan earned her doctoral degree in architecture from the University of Michigan in 1994. She began her

appointment at Auburn in 2011 when she assumed the CADC deanship and McWhorter chair. Previously, she was the dean and professor in the School of Architecture at Thomas Jefferson University (previously Philadelphia University) in Philadelphia, department chair and assistant professor of interior architecture at the New York Institute of Technology and an assistant professor of Interior Design at Michigan State University.

"I am honored to be named the interim provost," Nathan said. "I am excited to partner with Auburn's students and faculty to continue to advance the university's world-class academic reputation, unparalleled student experience and robust research and outreach mission."

Under Nathan's leadership, the College of Architecture, Design and Construction increased student enrollment and faculty lines, expanded its undergraduate

and graduate program offerings, and experienced an increase in philanthropic support for endowed student scholarships, graduate fellowships, professorships, new and upgraded facilities and programmatic support.

"I look forward to working with Vini in this role," said Christopher B. Roberts, dean of the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering who was named Auburn's 21st president on Feb. 4. "We have both served as deans for the past 10 years. In that time, I've been able to get to know her well and I've appreciated her leadership in her college and on campus."

President Roberts began a nationwide search for a permanent provost following the start of his presidency on May 16. As interim provost, Nathan will not be a candidate for the permanent provost position.

An acting dean for the College of Architecture, Design and Construction will be named in the coming weeks. Nathan will return to the dean position in the CADC when a permanent provost is selected.

## College of Forestry, Wildlife & Environment

### CFWE NEWS • Spring 2022

Dean ..... Janaki R.R. Alavalapati  
Assoc. Dean of Academic Affairs..... Scott Enebak  
Assoc. Dean of Research..... Daowei Zhang  
Extension Coordinator ..... Becky Barlow  
Managing Editor ..... Jamie Anderson  
Contributing Writer..... Gracen Carter  
Editor ..... Megan Burmester  
Designer ..... Heather Jackson

### Contact Us

The CFWE newsletter is distributed to alumni and friends of the school. Inquiries and suggestions concerning the newsletter should be directed to the school's Office of Communications and Marketing at the address below.

Auburn University  
College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment  
Office of Communications and Marketing  
602 Duncan Drive • Auburn, AL 36849  
334-844-9248 • sfwscom@auburn.edu

### Giving

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



f t i y  
cfwe.auburn.edu

Auburn University is an equal opportunity educational institution/employer. Produced by the Auburn Office of Communications and Marketing. August 2022



### Advisory Council Meeting

*The Auburn University College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment hosted its 2022 Advisory Council Meeting and Dinner on April 12 and 13 in Auburn, Ala.*

# College of Forestry, Wildlife & Environment

## 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

### Academics & Research



Water quality testing at sites disturbed by wild pigs



2021 Spring Graduation



2021 Graduate Research Symposium



Summia Rahman wins Auburn's 3MT Competition



2021 Summer Practicum

#### Undergraduate Enrollment 2015-21



#### Graduate Enrollment 2015-21



#### GRADUATE STUDENT ENROLLMENT REACHED

**164** in fall 2021  
**23%** from 2020  
**60%** from 2019

**62%** AVERAGE EMPLOYMENT RATE secured by graduates one-to-three years across all degree programs

**35** GRADUATED MS/PH.D. STUDENTS in 2021 relative to 20 in 2020 and eight in 2019

**8%** INCREASE in undergraduate enrollment

**5** NEW MINORS Initiated

**90%** PASS RATE for Registered Foresters

### Outreach

#### DIXON CENTER FOREST MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES:

**1,134** ACRES BURNED  
**178** ACRES OF SITE- PREPARATION AND REFORESTATION  
**190** ACRES TIMBER HARVEST

#### KREHER PRESERVE AND NATURE CENTER:

**15** ACRES PRESCRIBED BURNED  
**1,000** SHORT LEAF PINES PLANTED  
 • PROGRAM ATTENDANCE DOUBLED OVER 2020



Gallagher leads field exercise at 2021 Council on Forest Engineering Meeting



SDFEC provides field instruction for Yale students



Prescribed fire at KPNC

### Extension

**41,051**

Total number of Extension FWNR Participants for 2021

**6,182,640**

Acres owned or managed by participants potentially impacted



Specialist Adam Maggard gives portable sawmill demo



REA Kerry Steedley leads Teen Nature Club

### Development

**\$2,593,498**

2020-21 TOTAL DOLLARS RAISED

**TIGER GIVING DAY**

**\$15,410**

SHOOTING SPORTS

**154%** OF GOAL

**75** DONORS

**\$13,360**

KREHER PRESERVE

**111%** OF GOAL

**130** DONORS



Scholarship Dinner



Homecoming Tailgate

Fantle-Lepczyk co-authors study determining economic impact of invasive species in U.S. exceeds \$1.2 trillion

An Auburn University College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment researcher has co-authored a study that found the economic costs of biological invasions in the U.S. have exceeded \$1.2 trillion since 1960.

The study, recently published in the journal Science of the Total Environment, determined that costs were mainly related to resource damages and losses, with 53% of costs reported from invasive species, such as wild pigs, from land habitats. Agriculture was the most impacted sector with over \$500 billion in damages from mammals and insects.

“Invasive species are a pressing ecological and economic problem, both here in the U.S. and worldwide. However, the impacts of these species are often poorly understood and, as a result, underestimated,” said Jean

Fantle-Lepczyk, research professor and co-author of the multinational study conducted with a team of seven scientists from the U.S., Germany, France, the Czech Republic and the United Kingdom.

The objective was to raise public awareness of the economic and biological impacts of the issue to underscore the need for more decisive actions to control invasive species. Using InvaCost, a public database of the economic costs of global biological invasions, the research team compiled all published information to determine the economic impact of invasive species within the U.S. conservatively totaled \$1.22 trillion from 1960 to 2020.

“For the first time, we were able to link all published information on the economic costs of invasive species from a variety of source documents with standardized taxonomic, sectorial,



The study determined that costs were mainly related to resource damages and losses, with 53% of costs reported from invasive species, such as wild pigs, from land habitats.

regional and temporal descriptors,” said Fantle-Lepczyk. “As higher trade volumes introduce a suite of new species, and climate change facilitates the establishment and spread of already introduced species, the number of invasive species in the U.S. is increasing rapidly.”

Auburn College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment Dean Janaki

Alavalapati said the research likely will have a significant impact.

“Dr. Fantle-Lepczyk and her fellow team of researchers have addressed a critical gap in knowledge related to the economic costs associated with invasive species in the United States,” Alavalapati said.

Dunning receives award to study climate adaptation in coral reef communities

Kelly Dunning, an Auburn University assistant professor in the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment, hopes to improve citizens’ understanding of science and natural resource policy decisions in communities most impacted by climate change.

Dunning has been chosen as one of 12 faculty members from U.S. universities to participate in research through the National Center for Atmospheric Research, or NCAR, and its main sponsor, the National Science Foundation. Through this NCAR award, Dunning received \$100,000 to study how marginalized communities are adapting to climate change in coral reefs.

The NCAR Early Career Faculty Innovator program was founded in 2019 to enhance NCAR’s capacity to effectively partner with external collaborators across a broad spectrum of human dimensions and social science research.

Dunning’s seed project is a community-focused project that engages locals in coastal communities in Florida and the U.S. Virgin Islands using NCAR climate data.

Through fieldwork, Dunning relays the accounts to stakeholders on the ground working in coral reef management.

“I ask them what types of policy responses are needed, given the changes we will predict,” Dunning said. “These simple narrative accounts, or ‘climate scenarios,’ will make complex science accessible to all, creating a more informed public when it comes to coastal decision making.”

Through the help of her funding, Dunning also hopes to determine whether stakeholders working to conserve mainland American coral reefs in Florida have different levels of access to resources and capacity compared to U.S. territories.

“Working toward equitable adaptation for all American coastal communities is our main goal,” Dunning said.

“The cohort’s research theme is actionable Earth systems science, and the funded projects address a range of important topics,” said Janaki Alavalapati, the college’s dean. “It is an honor that one of our faculty will play a vital role in this impactful program.”



“These simple narrative accounts, or ‘climate scenarios,’ will make complex science accessible to all, creating a more informed public when it comes to coastal decision making. – Working toward equitable adaptation for all American coastal communities is our main goal.”

-Kelly Dunning



Kumar selected to serve on the Predictability, Predictions and Applications Interface Panel of the US Climate Variability and Predictability Program

Sanjiv Kumar, an assistant professor in Auburn University’s College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment, has been selected to serve a four-year term on the Predictability, Predictions and Applications Interface, or PPAI, Panel of the U.S. Climate Variability and Predictability Program.

Kumar’s duties will include advising the U.S. Climate Variability and Predictability, or CLIVAR, Program on research priorities, gaps and milestones to advance ocean and climate predictions and projections; advocating for new funding opportunities; and national and international activities to advance in research and liaising with other U.S. CLIVAR panels.

Kumar specializes in understanding long-memory land processes; investigating the role of regional climate variability and change, vegetation interactions, land-use change and direct human interventions; and developing a real-time adaptive deep learning model to improve the soil moisture forecast skill at the field scale.

John Nielsen-Gammon and Haiyan Teng, U.S. CLIVAR PPAI Panel co-chairs, are excited about the expertise Kumar will bring to the panel regarding hydroclimate predictability on seasonal to decadal time scales.

“The Science Steering Committee expects that with the help of researchers like Kumar, the U.S. CLIVAR Program will continue to influence and facilitate the development of important climate research efforts in the U.S.,” said Nielsen-Gammon and Teng.



Professor of Practice Amy Counterman, project coordinator, and Dean Janaki Alavalapati stand next to a new sign marking one of the trails.

“This area will benefit students from all over campus that can utilize the trails and informational signage as an outdoor laboratory.”

-Amy Counterman

College adding outdoor learning laboratory, walking trails to Weagle Woods on campus

Auburn University’s College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment plans to soon enhance Weagle Woods, an approximately 11-acre tract of forestland located behind the Forestry and Wildlife Sciences Building on the corner of South Donahue Drive and Lem Morrison Drive.

The project is funded through support by Auburn alumni Ken and Barby Oser of Milton, Florida. Ken is a graduate of the college, and Barby is a College of Liberal Arts graduate.

The natural space contains a healthy, mature forested habitat with some established trees estimated to be around 200 years old. Utilized for research and experiential educational opportunities, the space is a valued resource for the college, university and the greater Auburn community.

The College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment will enhance Weagle Woods by creating an outdoor learning laboratory to provide greater opportunities for public enjoyment of the space and further potential for hands-on educational activities.

With the support of the Osers, the college will establish new walking trails and design and install educational kiosks and interpretive signs. The main pathway and the identification signs along Donahue Drive have been installed.

The development phase of the Weagle Woods Learning Laboratory will provide a learning opportunity for students in the college’s Environmental Interpretation and Introduction to Environmental Education courses. As part of the curriculum, students will be involved in designing informational signage and the educational demonstration areas.

Once construction is complete, the property can be used for classroom instruction for courses in the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment and other disciplines at Auburn, said Amy Counterman, project coordinator and professor of practice in the college.

“This area will benefit students from all over campus that can utilize the trails and informational signage as an outdoor laboratory,” Counterman said.

Janaki Alavalapati, dean of the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment, said, “The Weagle Woods Learning Laboratory has potential to become a university resource, as well as provide benefits for the greater Auburn community for both educational and recreational purposes. Weagle Woods is near some popular tailgating areas and is anticipated to become a popular destination for football fans and other campus visitors alike.”



Beyond the CFWE’s Jeff Butler Patio and Kent Van Cleave Pavilion, the property extends to an 11-acre tract of forestland called Weagle Woods. Here students receive instruction and participate in management and trail-building projects.

# College Wraps up 75th Anniversary Year with Gala

Featuring Rolling Stones Keyboardist  
Proclamation from Governor



The College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment culminated its 75th anniversary year with a gala at the Gogue Performing Arts Center on April 13 featuring a keynote address and performance by Rolling Stones keyboardist and honorary U.S. Forest Service ranger Chuck Leavell and a proclamation from Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey.

Leavell said he has three real passions: “My family, my trees and my music.” He is a respected authority on forestry and conservation, serving in organizations such as the American Forest Foundation, the U.S. Endowment for Forests and Communities and the Georgia Land Conservation Council.

Mary Katherine Pittman from the Office of the Governor presented Ivey’s proclamation to Janaki Alavalapati, dean of the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment, in honor of the college’s anniversary and its recent change in designation from a school to a college.

“Alabama has always had a long history of forestry management,” Ivey said through a video message. “Throughout the years, this college has been a tremendous asset to not only our state, but the entire nation. Auburn is undoubtedly a flagship institution for forestry, wildlife and natural resources.”

Alavalapati recognized Auburn’s leadership and faculty, staff, alumni and friends who have propelled the college forward for the past 75 years to become a premier institution.

He also expressed gratitude to the anniversary celebration organizing committee, which included faculty, staff and distinguished alumni like Glenn Glover, professor emeritus and 1973 forestry graduate; William Green, a 2014 wildlife graduate and current forestry and wildlife divisions director of ALFA Farmer’s Federation and executive director of the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association; and Frank Walburn, a 1979 forestry graduate and Regions

Bank senior vice president of natural resources and real estate management.

“Looking toward the next 75 years, we are confident the college will continue to advance as a top-ranked natural resources institution,” said Alavalapati. “We anticipate the college’s teaching, research and outreach programs will prepare the next generation of leaders to expand our knowledge and capabilities to sustainably manage our natural resources for the benefit of all citizens, industries and the environment.”

The evening also included remarks by former Auburn President Jay Gogue and Trustee Emeritus Charles McCrary. Mark Smith, professor and Alabama Extension wildlife specialist and anniversary celebration organizing co-chair with Becky Barlow, interim associate dean for extension and professor, recognized the college’s donors and industry sponsors of the gala.

Photos and video from the anniversary celebration are available at Flickr.com and YouTube.

## Acknowledgments

Please join us in appreciation of the individuals and organizations who contributed to the 75th Anniversary Celebration of the College of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences at Auburn University.

**Planning Committee Co-Chairs:** Drs. Becky Barlow and Mark Smith

**Committee Members:** Jamie Anderson, Elizabeth Bowersock ’02, Heather Crozier ’98, Paula Davis, Dr. Glenn Glover ’73, William Green ’14, Sue Robinson, and Frank Walburn ’79

**Marketing and Creative Services:** Al Eiland and Kelly Knowles ’03; Megan Burmester, Mike Clardy, Kevin Fichtner, Michael Hales, Jim Jackson, and Heather Jackson of the Auburn University Office of Communications and Marketing

**Student Support:** Teague Edwards, Harry and Hayes Haygood, Emily Legg, Colby Cheaney, Joseph Davis, Avy Elmore, Sammi Dietrich, Kate Norrid, Olivia Brown, Ilya Kristensen, Nico Martinez, and James Treadwell



Governor Ivey's Proclamation

## Thank You to our 75th Anniversary Celebration Gala Sponsors

### PLATINUM SPONSOR



### GOLD SPONSOR



### SILVER SPONSOR



### BRONZE SPONSOR



CFWE hosts first cross-laminated timber conference in the southern U.S.

The Auburn University College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment, in partnership with several other academic colleges and administrative offices, hosted the first cross-laminated timber, or CLT, conference in the southern United States at The Hotel at Auburn University and Dixon Conference Center.

The three-day event titled, “The Sustainable Future of CLT in the South: Grow. Design. Build.” was held April 27 – 29, with over 160 attendees participating from across the country, including Texas, Georgia, Florida, Alabama and other states in the southern U.S. The conference featured renowned experts in forestry, building sciences, engineering and architecture and design who shared the latest CLT research, trends and developments in the South.

CLT is a prefabricated wood panel made from wood stacked and glued crosswise in alternating directions to create pressed layers. This unique engineering gives the panel exceptional strength and strong fire protection while remaining lighter and creating less waste during installation than conventional alternatives, such as concrete and steel.

With an abundance of southern pine found in the region, CLT is positioned to be a growth industry in the southern United States, benefiting the forest industry and the region’s economy.

“This was a unique opportunity and one-of-a-kind event where you had forestry and wood product professionals and manufacturers, landowners, architects, engineers, contractors, insurance professionals, economic development professionals and educators in the same space,” said Adam Maggard conference coordinator, extension specialist and associate professor of forest systems management. “The value of this kind of opportunity to learn, network and work together to advance CLT and mass timber products and their use cannot be overstated.”

Scott Enebak, associate dean and professor in the college, commenced the session with welcoming remarks and introduced James W. Rane, Auburn Trustee and founder and CEO of Great Southern Wood Preserving, Inc., one of the leading producers of pressure-treated lumber in the United States.

With over 23 million acres of forestland in Alabama, the timber industry is a pillar in the state. “We’ve got the land, we’ve got the timber, we’ve got the broader forest industry that puts these pieces together into a strong economic force and a value-added supply chain across the region and country, and that includes the manufacturing sector that is one of the most important industries for rural communities,” said Rane during his opening remarks. “The forest industry is the largest capital investor in many counties in our state and the largest employer throughout much of rural Alabama and across our region.”

Following Rane’s opening remarks, Jeff Peters, southeast regional director of WoodWorks- Wood Products Council, began his keynote address by asking the audience, ‘What’s your Why?’ As regional director, Peters provides free technical support to developers and design/construction teams working on commercial or multi-family wood buildings. “In terms of advancing cross-laminated timber here in the south, I really think it’s

a massive education gap;” said Peters during a recent interview. “So, one of the things that we are doing at WoodWorks is trying to break down those barriers by increasing design teams, contractors and developers’ knowledge on mass timber.”

The conference design and theme centered on the CLT supply chain. Plenary sessions explored diverse topics, including current and future implications for forest management, the wood products sector, mass timber markets and economies.

Later in the conference, attendees chose from two concurrent session tracks with experts who addressed various topics related to CLT manufacturing, supply chain, engineering, design and construction and other factors influencing the use and advancement of CLT in the south.

An expert panel discussion led by keynote speaker, Jeff Peters, delved into answering numerous questions surrounding CLT.

Peters noted that the question of CLT cost arises frequently, and that the conference panel discussion provided the opportunity to explore this in more depth.

“It was great to have the diverse industry expertise of Derek Ratchford of SmartLam North America and Jeff Morrow of Timberlab, Inc. to weigh in on this topic,” said Peters. “Currently, cost

really depends on the complexity of the structure; it depends on the fire-resistance rating and the construction type, and it depends on multiple other factors. We have decades of historical data in terms of cost when it comes to pricing a steel or concrete structure, but very little in comparison to a mass timber building.”

Showcasing current research related to the advancement of mass timber, undergraduate and graduate students presented their research on diverse topics, from predicting the carbon content in wood samples to the use of fiber from reclaimed loblolly pine downed timber to the use of renewable polymers for CLT protection coatings.

During the conference’s final day, attendees took part in tours that showcased CLT manufacturing and construction in Alabama. One tour visited the SmartLam North America CLT manufacturing plant in Dothan, where participants learned how CLT is engineered and prefabricated to a building project’s exact specifications and requirements.

Another tour visited Auburn’s recently completed 41,500 square foot Advanced Structural Engineering Lab to learn about CLT structural testing research. Partially designed using CLT, this laboratory features a 4,700-cubic-foot geotechnical

test chamber and a wind testing facility.

Following the lab, the local tour continued to the Hey Day Market located at the Tony & Libba Rane Culinary Science Center at Auburn University. The 9,000 square foot building houses a dining hall and business center and was constructed using CLT and glue-laminated timber, or GLT.

“This conference reflects the significance of CLT and other mass timber products to stakeholders and the growing demand for sustainable building alternatives and advancement of innovative wood products,” said Janaki Alavalapati, the college’s dean. “The economic impact of CLT and other mass timber products across multiple industries in Alabama, the region, nation and beyond is growing exponentially, and the synergy this conference provided was needed to advance CLT.”

The College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment partnered with the College of Architecture, Design and Construction; the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering and the Offices of Sustainability and the University Architect to host the event.

To learn more about the speakers, visit [cfwe.auburn.edu/clt-conference-speakers/](http://cfwe.auburn.edu/clt-conference-speakers/). Photos and video from the conference are available at [Flickr.com](#) and [YouTube](#).



Attendees of the conference had many opportunities to network during the event held April 27 – 29 in Auburn, Alabama.



Attendees toured Auburn University’s Advanced Structural Engineering Laboratory to learn about cross-laminated timber, or CLT, structural testing research. Partially designed using CLT, this laboratory features a 4,700-cubic-foot geotechnical test chamber and a wind testing facility.



Jeff Peters, Southeast Regional Director of WoodWorks Wood Products Council, provided the keynote address for the Auburn University College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment conference, ‘The Sustainable Future of CLT in the South: Grow. Design. Build.’, held April 27 – 29 in Auburn, Alabama.



Attendees visited the SmartLam North America cross-laminated timber, or CLT, manufacturing plant in Dothan, where participants learned how CLT is engineered and prefabricated to a building project’s exact specifications and requirements. Shown are fabricated CLT panels prepared for shipment.



‘The Sustainable Future of CLT in the South: Grow. Design. Build.’ conference sponsors included:

PLATINUM SPONSOR

- Made in Alabama
- SmartLam North America

GOLD

- Alabama Power
- Forest Landowners
- The Forest Landowner Foundation
- Western Wood Structures
- Westervelt Company

SILVER

- Alfa Farmers Federation
- Rayonier
- Southeastern Land Group

BRONZE

- Simpson Strong Tie
- Vapro Shield
- Wood Products Council



During the conference’s final day, attendees took part in tours that showcased CLT manufacturing and construction in Alabama. Attendees participating in a local tour visited Auburn’s recently completed 41,500 square foot Advanced Structural Engineering Lab to learn about CLT structural testing research. Partially designed using CLT, this laboratory features a 4,700-cubic-foot geotechnical test chamber and a wind testing facility. Following the lab, the local tour continued to the Hey Day Market located at the Tony & Libba Rane Culinary Science Center at Auburn University. The 9,000 square foot building houses a dining hall and business center and was constructed using CLT and glue-laminated timber, or GLT.



*“Dr. Barlow brings a wealth of knowledge and compassion for extension work across the wide array of subject matter expertise in agriculture, forestry and natural resources. She has demonstrated effective leadership in numerous capacities throughout her career and is the consummate professional who will excel in representing Auburn University across all program areas in AFNR.”*

-Mike Phillips

Jennifer Lolley, first outreach administrator of Auburn University’s Kreher Preserve and Nature Center, retires

Jennifer Lolley, who supervised the management of Auburn University’s Kreher Preserve and Nature Center, or KPNC, as chief curator of programs, live collections and outreach activities since 2007, retired as outreach administrator March 4.

“Jennifer Lolley has been an asset to the Kreher Preserve and Nature Center,” said City of Auburn Mayor Ron Anders. “She turned a responsibility into a passion and has served the KPNC well. She is creative, industrious, thoughtful and kind. She has worked very hard for the children in the community.”

The KPNC, located on a 120-acre parcel of land, was donated to the Auburn’s College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment by Louise Kreher Turner and her husband, Frank Allan Turner, in 1993. The college slowly developed the land as an outreach facility with hiking

trails and several structures, including an amphitheater and pavilion.

However, it wasn’t until Lolley was hired that the facility grew to serve tens of thousands of area visitors and community members each year through its environmental education programs. Lolley, who graduated with a degree in biology from Auburn in 1986, worked in other areas of the state, including at the Landmark Park in Dothan for two years, before returning to the Auburn community with her husband, Mark, and three children, Kaitlin, Chelsea and Jordan, in 2006.

Janaki Alavalapati, dean of the college, said, “Jennifer Lolley is responsible for making the KPNC an invaluable resource for the community. She has a diverse knowledge of environmental education and a passion for community, which she used to make the preserve a better place.”

Barlow named Auburn College of Agriculture associate dean for extension, Alabama Extension assistant director

Becky Barlow was recently named associate dean for extension in the Auburn University College of Agriculture and assistant director for agriculture, forestry and natural resource extension programs in the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. She began the role June 1.

Barlow, Alabama Extension specialist and professor in the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment, served in the interim position for the last year. After an extensive national search, College of Agriculture Dean Paul Patterson and Alabama Extension Director Mike Phillips announced her selection on Tuesday.

“Dr. Barlow brings passion for Alabama Extension and agriculture, forestry and natural resources, or AFNR, as well as extensive experience in AFNR programming that is invaluable in this role,” Patterson said. “I look forward to continuing to work with her as she steps into the role permanently.”

As associate dean and assistant director, Barlow serves as a liaison between the College of Agriculture and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and coordinates and leads programs that Alabama Extension carries out in collaboration with the college as well as the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment and Alabama A&M University.

“Dr. Barlow brings a wealth of knowledge and compassion for extension work

across the wide array of subject matter expertise in agriculture, forestry and natural resources,” Phillips said. “She has demonstrated effective leadership in numerous capacities throughout her career and is the consummate professional who will excel in representing Auburn University across all program areas in AFNR.”

Phillips served as associate dean for extension and assistant director for agriculture, forestry and natural resource extension programs until March 2021, when he stepped into his current role as director of Alabama Extension.

Barlow came to Auburn as an assistant professor in 2007 after working for Weyerhaeuser Company as a land management forester for 12 years. She was named an associate professor in 2012 and full professor in 2018. She was honored with Auburn’s Harry Murphy Endowed Professorship in 2020.

“I am honored to have been selected for this position,” Barlow said. “As an extension professional, my goal is to inspire and empower all Alabama citizens so they can have a better life. This is an exciting opportunity because it allows me to work closely with the talented and dedicated professionals we have on the Alabama Extension, Auburn University and Alabama A&M University teams who are making a difference in a very real way.”



Pictured during Lolley’s retirement reception are, from left, Sarah Crim, KPNC education director, Michael Buckman, KPNC manager, Lolley and Janaki Alavalapati, dean.

Short Publication - BRONZE AWARD  
Chainsaw Safety: Personal Protective Equipment  
Bence Carter and Beau Brodbeck.

Televised Conference – Video Conference - Webinar -- SILVER AWARD  
Natural Resources Webinar Series  
Bence Carter, Norm Haley, Ryan Mitchell, Drew Metzler, David Cline, Nancy Loewenstein, Mary Dixon, Doug Fulghum, Mark Smith, Eve Brantley, Chip East, Richard Cristan, Becky Barlow, Lynn Dickinson, Robert Tufts, Wes Anderson, Kerry Steedley, Adam Maggard, and Lori Eckhardt.



An anonymous donation through the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment’s Fund for Excellence was made in honor of Charles “Charlie” F. Raper, a former professor in the college.

“He is a pioneer of the timberland investment business,” said Daowei Zhang, Alumni and George W. Peake Professor of Forest Economics and Policy and the college’s associate dean of research.

Charlie Raper was born in Decatur, Georgia, in 1930 to a family who owned

Anonymous donation made to college in honor of Charles “Charlie” Raper

4,000 acres of forestland. Naturally, Raper pursued a degree in forestry at North Carolina State University.

After graduation in 1954, Raper enlisted in the U.S. Army and served as a light aircraft pilot until 1958 when he was employed by Travelers Insurance Company within its agriculture division.

“Travelers hired Charlie as the first forester in the company and perhaps in the whole insurance industry in the U.S.,” said Zhang.

While working at Travelers, Raper received his MBA in finance in 1972, and his juris doctorate degree from the University of Connecticut School of Law in 1982.

After retiring in 1988 as the second-vice president in charge of real estate research and development for Travelers, Raper joined the Auburn University faculty where he served as the George W. Peake Professor of Forestry in, what it was known as at the time, the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences.

Auburn University Ever Auburn scholarships continue to be matched by Beth Stukes, education advocate with a heart for giving

Beth Stukes recently matched donations to Auburn University’s Ever Auburn scholarships, including many within the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment.

Stukes graduated from the University of Alabama at Birmingham in 1988 with a degree in early childhood education. Stukes served as a teacher in the Walker County school system.

Following retirement, she continues to advocate for education by working with the Walker Area Community Foundation to create opportunities for children ages zero to five. “As an elementary school teacher, I found myself always encouraging my students to further their training and education because I knew it would create a better quality of life for them,” Stukes said. “Although I am now retired from the classroom,

I am invested in student success.”

She is a member of Auburn’s 1856 Society Founders Circle, Petrie Society, Athletics Shug Jordan Society, the James E. Foy Loyalty Society, a life member of the Auburn Alumni Association, a member of the executive committee of Auburn’s Women’s Philanthropy Board in the College of Human Sciences, past chairman and director of the Walker Area Community Foundation, Samford University Board of Trustees and a director of her family’s company - the Drummond Company.

The relationship between the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment and the Birmingham-based, Drummond Company dates to the 1980s, when her mother, philanthropist Barbara Thorne, the daughter of Heman and Elza Drummond and an Auburn University

“I think he was ready to leave the big corporate world. He had something to offer to younger generations,” said the college’s Emeritus Dean Emmett Thompson.

Raper taught courses in forest finance, appraisal, and even forest policy. His colleagues believe his industry background and his educational qualifications in forestry, business and law were a unique combination that allowed him to bring expertise and knowledge to his students.

“The students appreciated him,” Thompson said. “He was so down to earth and accommodating. If students wanted to talk with him, he would talk to them.”

Raper held directorships in the South Alabama Land and Timber Company, Inc. and the Resource Management Services, Inc. and was advisory director of the Hancock Timber Resources Group. He also held memberships with the Society of American Foresters, American Bar Association, Alabama Bar Association,

Connecticut Bar Association and the National Council of Real Estate Investment Fiduciaries. He also was a member of the Investment Committee of the Society of American Foresters and was a registered forester in Alabama and Georgia.

“I am not surprised that someone would give a donation in his name,” Zhang said. “He’s well-liked by the people within the industry and by the students. It is a tribute to him.”

Donations to the Funds for Excellence may be used to support student leadership and learning opportunities, technology and facility improvements that enhance learning environments, equipment, forestry and wildlife sciences research, natural resources related outreach programs, faculty support or critical priorities as determined by the college’s dean.

“Charlie’s contributions to the school’s students will be forever remembered. He has made an incredible mark on hundreds of undergraduate students and mentored numerous graduate students who have benefited from his knowledge of forest investment and analysis,” said the college’s Emeritus Dean Richard Brinker.



Alavalapati, dean of the college. “Her contributions help to provide many of our students with the financial means to not only continue their education, but to flourish at Auburn.”

Stukes is married to former basketball coach Rick Stukes and has a son, Brent Uptain and a daughter-in-law, Karyn Emison Uptain.

Delaney’s gift of equipment to advance forestry and geospatial degree programs

Michael R. Delaney, an alumnus from the Auburn University College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment, helped facilitate a gift from Delaney Development, Inc. to support funding for technology upgrades.

The gift included funding to assist in upgrading the college’s technology for summer camps, including global positioning system, or GPS, units that will be used for surveying and other related programs.

“We have always been interested in supporting the school,” Delaney said. “The opportunity to give something tangible that we felt would have an immediate impact was enough to push us forward.”

Delaney and his coworkers have strong connections to the college.

Natives of Mobile, both Delaney and his twin brother, Scott Delaney, graduated from the college with a degree in forestry.

Al Derby, a 2008 graduate, chief forester and vice president, as well as Elliot Glass, a 2011 graduate, forester and wildlife biologist, both with Delaney Development, played key roles in deciding to make a gift to the college.

“Timber inventory is an important part of how our business operates,” Delaney said. “Enabling the

students to learn with the most up to date equipment will give them an advantage in real world business applications.”

Scott Enebak, the college’s associate dean of academic affairs and Dwain G. Luce Professor, is heading up the initiative.

Enebak says students were unable to download data from the units or access computers due to connectivity and software compatibility issues resulting in frustration for everyone involved.

“The donation from the Delaney’s came at a great time for the undergraduate students in the forestry program,” Enebak said. “Our current GPS units were technologically limiting us to what we could do in the classroom. Delaney Development’s gift allowed us to identify GPS units as well as, state-of-the-art management and inventory software that is identical to what the forestry industry and land management companies are moving toward using.”

“We are the first college to obtain this type of GPS unit and system for in-class instruction exposure,” said Janaki Alavalapati, the college’s dean. “The Delaney Development gift of equipment is helping our students to be successful in the workplace from day one.”



Michael Delaney and his brother, Scott Delaney.

Tiger Giving Day 2022 project managers, Todd Franks and Michael Buckman exceed their goals through the Auburn community’s generosity

Auburn’s Feb. 23 fundraising event, Tiger Giving Day, united campus and community needs with a record-breaking lineup of 50 projects.

For 24 hours, the Auburn Family supported a variety of campus-wide projects, including those to benefit projects proposed by faculty member Todd Franks and staff member Michael Buckman.

Franks serves as a coordinator for wildlife enterprise management in the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment and is an instructor for courses in the major.

Buckman works to enhance the communications, marketing and overall administrative management of the Kreher Preserve and Nature Center as its manager.

For Tiger Giving Day, Franks led a project to help fund the growth of the sporting firearms and archery course that introduces a new generation of Auburn students to the wide range of shooting sport activities.

Each donor’s gift helped enable the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment to expand upon its current offering of hands-on, expert marksmanship and safety training to meet the demand of the course’s increasing popularity.

“The sporting firearms and archery course is gaining popularity as it is not only an

integral part of the wildlife enterprise management program, but is a course that is made available to all students,” Franks said. “Financial support was needed to accommodate the increase in enrollment to allow for personalized instruction.”

A second project will benefit students as well as the community.

For Tiger Giving Day, Buckman managed a project to help the Kreher Preserve and Nature Center, or KPNC, maximize the functionality of its newest facility – the pond pavilion.

The KPNC is a beloved outdoor attraction for visitors of all ages, backgrounds and abilities within the Lee County community. Its natural beauty, nature trails and outdoor programs offer a perfect setting for environmental education for all ages.

The project raised the funds to install clear, roll-up vinyl curtain walls that will surround the entire pavilion to protect visitors from inclement weather without detracting from the serene, natural setting of the KPNC.

Similar curtains, which are currently in use at the KPNC’s main pavilion, have significantly increased the number and quality of programs the KPNC can offer within the structure, while minimizing cancellations due to inclement weather.



**Michael Buckman**, Manager, Kreher Preserve & Nature Center

Michael grew up with a passion for nature and the outdoors, exploring every animal and plant he came across. He graduated with a degree in Zoology from Auburn University in 2005 and spent over a decade focused on educating the public about our natural environment at Callaway Gardens’ Day Butterfly Center. He joined the team at the KPNC in November of 2018 and works to enhance the communications, marketing and overall administrative management of the Preserve.



**Todd Franks**, Professor and Program Coordinator, College of Forestry & Wildlife Sciences Professor

Franks is the Coordinator for Wildlife Enterprise Management in the College of Forestry & Wildlife Sciences and currently is an instructor for courses in the major. Franks has been in the hunting and hospitality industry for over 25 years and has extensive work and research experience in the hospitality and luxury outdoor recreation industries. A Texas native, he obtained his B.S. in Business and his M.S in Hospitality & Retail Management from Texas Tech University and is finalizing his Ph.D. from Colorado State University focusing on Nature-Based Tourism.

“The KPNC, having already garnered reservations, anticipates the pond pavilion to be a highly desired space for children, community groups and guests to engage

in the nature center’s renowned outdoor programming,” Buckman said.

The KPNC’s pond pavilion is slated for completion by this fall.

\$15,410

SHOOTING SPORTS

154% OF GOAL

75 DONORS

\$13,360

KREHER PRESERVE

111% OF GOAL

130 DONORS

TIGER GIVING DAY

THANK YOU!



Auburn alumni couple establish an Ever Auburn scholarship to benefit students in the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment

An Ever Auburn scholarship benefiting students in the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment, or CFWE, was created by Pierce and Becky Miller of Columbus, Georgia. The scholarship was established to support wildlife sciences and wildlife

enterprise management students.

Pierce and Becky met one another while attending college at Auburn University.

Pierce graduated in 2008 with a degree in wildlife sciences and returned to Columbus as one of the original

founders of Golden Row LLC.

Becky graduated in 2006 and began a career as a pharmaceutical sales representative following her passion to serve in the health care industry.

The Millers have two sons, Eli and Pierce Jr.

The Millers have served on the Board of Directors of numerous non-profit organizations, including PAWS Humane, Trees Columbus, Historic Columbus, Salvation Army, the Chattahoochee Valley Land Trust and Hope Harbour.

Pierce is connected with the W.C. Bradley Company that was founded in 1885 and is comprised of the following companies: Char-Broil, Zebco Brands and W.C. Bradley Co. Real Estate.

Becky serves as an Advisory Board member for the W.C. Bradley Company.

“The Millers scholarship will help our students pursue their educational goals,” said Janaki Alavalapati, dean of the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment. “Their contribution and support are greatly appreciated.”

Bryan Cole and Mickie L. Cole establish new Ever Auburn scholarships

The college combines our love for nature and the outdoors, with the importance of hard work and education, says the Coles.

“Growing up in small town Russellville helped us to stay grounded, but it also helped us to understand the importance of education and the opportunities that it provided,” Bryan said.

With financial help from their parents and hard work in the classroom, the Coles received their undergraduate degrees. Mickie earned a bachelor’s degree in marketing from the University of North Alabama in 1989. Bryan earned dual bachelor’s degrees in economics in 1991 and forestry management in 1992 from Auburn University.

The Coles learned about the struggles of life and the value of hard work from an early age. It did not take long for them to realize the value of their education and the doors that were opened to them as college graduates.

“We believe our education played a significant role in our success and that higher education provides a life changing impact for students and society,” Mickie said.

The Coles feel that sometimes life circumstances prevent people from having the financial resources to help them reach their full academic potential.

Ever Auburn, a scholarship and financial aid initiative through Auburn University, makes the Auburn experience accessible to deserving students who have the intellect, the drive and the desire — but not the means — to attend.

“The Ever Auburn Scholarship provided us with a way to give back and help deserving



students who otherwise might not of had this opportunity,” Bryan said.

The Coles hope the endowments will provide needed resources and create opportunities for success for all future scholarship awardees. “We hope the recipients will take advantage of the time to grow and flourish while one day offering others the same gift that they were provided,” Mickie said.

Auburn forestry graduate, philanthropist Elmo Ziebach honored with Outstanding Alumni Award

Elmo D. Ziebach, registered forester and co-founder of Ziebach and Webb Timber Company, has been recognized as the recipient of the 2021 Outstanding Alumni Award by Auburn University’s College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment.

Ziebach graduated from Auburn in 1969 with a degree in forest management. He is the first of three generations in his family to graduate from the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment. His son, Douglas Ziebach, graduated in 1995, and his grandson, Chase Luker, in 2014.

After graduation, Elmo Ziebach began his forestry career with International Paper Company in Perkinston, Mississippi. He was responsible for land management to wood yard relief at various short-wood yards. Later, he was hired as the procurement manager at Bendix

Forest Products at its grade sawmill in Vredenburgh, Alabama.

In 1979, Ziebach and Mike Webb founded Ziebach and Webb Timber Company. The company operates in central and south Alabama and northwest Florida, where they deliver a combined 1.7 million tons of raw material annually to various forest product mills. The company currently employs 13 Auburn forestry graduates.

Thomas Fell, a classmate of Ziebach, nominated him as alumnus of the year because of his character and good name.

“Elmo Ziebach is a boots-on-the-ground traditional forestry and wildlife manager whose career has been spent in the woods and forest with the regular folks rather than in the board room or a corporate office,” Fell said. “He has served the forestry and wildlife community landowners of all

socioeconomic levels for 43 years with integrity. His stewardship of the sustainable resources and the environment through partnership with the landowners and other stakeholders he has dealt with through the years serves as an example for all.”

Ziebach serves as senior partner and manages 22 timber harvesting crews. All logging crews are experienced in Best Management Practices, or BMP, guidelines set forth by the Logging Council of Alabama, ensuring all logging operations are conducted in an environmentally sound manner.

He served for 10 years as a board member for the Forest Fund. He has supported the college with donations and raised funds to construct Auburn’s new Forestry and Wildlife Sciences Building and is a major contributor to the Lt. Harry Prince, USA, Memorial Endowed Scholarship.

Ziebach contributes to numerous church and civic needs in Monroeville, Alabama. He has also authored two books, “The Second Head of Chocolata” and “A Bubba on Polecat Bay.”

“Through his career, Elmo Ziebach has seen the industry change from short-wood to long-wood and the modern mechanization of logging,” said Janaki Alavalapati, dean of the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment. “He has always been willing to adapt to the various needs of the forest products sector.”



News from the Compass Circle Young Alumni Giving Society

During the 2022 Compass Circle Social held last May, members elected Mr. Michael Heatherly '08 as Chairman, and Mr. Will Dunnam '20 as Vice Chairman. Outgoing Chairman, Ben Simms '11, will remain in an advisory role through the next year. Congratulations, Michael and Will!

A major milestone was reached this spring with the creation of the Compass Circle/Bashinsky Ever Auburn Endowed Scholarship in the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment. Since its inception, Compass Circle members have provided funds though annual memberships with the goal of creating an endowed scholarship. We are excited to share that not only did the Compass Circle exceed the \$25,000

needed to create the endowment, but they were also able to leverage matching funds of \$30,000 provided by the Bashinsky Foundation through the Ever Auburn Scholarship Program. Thanks to all past and current members for your contributions, and to then-Chairman Ben Simms for his leadership to move this \$60,000 endowed scholarship forward.

If you’re within 15 years of graduating from the CFWE, consider joining or renewing your membership today. Your annual membership will fund the Compass Circle/ Bashinsky Ever Auburn Scholarship or an area of the CFWE of your choice. Scan the QR code provided to be directed to the Compass Circle webpage to learn more.

Compass Circle Members

- To learn more about the benefits of Compass Circle membership and the flexible ways to join, please visit [sfws.auburn.edu/compass-circle/](https://sfws.auburn.edu/compass-circle/).
- 
- |                                      |                                   |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Mr. Thomas D. Bowen III '11          | Ms. Susan A. Hunter '11           |
| Mr. Joseph Thompson Capps '06        | Mr. Cody V. Krause '19            |
| Mr. Jameson S. Clark '10             | Mr. Kristopher Watson Lewis '10   |
| Mr. Samuel C. Colville '18           | Mr. William Thomas Liner '14      |
| Mr. Chase Lee Dixon '11              | Mr. Eddie L. Love '15             |
| Mr. Eric Lee Dooley '18              | Ms. Faith H. Lyles '16            |
| Mr. William Dunnam '20               | Mr. Lincoln A. McClearn '17       |
| Mr. Cedric O. Ellis '17              | Mr. Russell Cary Miller '11       |
| Mr. Adam T. Frame '09                | Mr. Sebastian Drake Rodriguez '15 |
| Mr. William M. Green '14             | Mr. James Benjamin Simms '11      |
| Ms. Hannah E. Gunter '13             | Mr. Charlie Smith '12             |
| Mr. George Stephenson Hazard III '08 | Ms. Emma Alyssa Vaters '18        |
| Mr. Michael W. Heatherly '08         | Mr. Kenneth Brian Watts '12       |



Woodlands and Wildlife Society Members

To learn more about the Woodlands and Wildlife Society, scan the QR code or visit [sfws.auburn.edu/woodlands-and-wildlife-society](http://sfws.auburn.edu/woodlands-and-wildlife-society).



ACEOA, Inc.  
African Safari Club of Florida Conservation Fund, Inc.  
Alabama Ag Credit, FLCA  
Alabama Chapter ACF  
Alabama Farm Credit  
Alabama Forestry Association  
Alabama Forestry Foundation  
Alabama Forests Forever Foundation  
Alabama Power Company  
Alabama TREASURE Forest Association  
Alabama Wildlife Federation, Inc.  
Dr. and Mrs. Janaki R.R. Alavalapati  
ALFA Foundation  
All For Children, LLC  
Dr. Brenda Maudine Allen '97  
American Endowment Foundation  
Arborgen, Inc.  
Arguta Resources, LLC  
AuburnBank  
Auburn-Opelika Tourism Bureau  
Dr. Orville Euing Bach, Jr. '69  
Beck's Turf, Inc.  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Jeffrey Bentley  
Mr. Walker Reynolds Bickerstaff '70  
Dr. and Mrs. Henry Cooper Black III  
Mr. Chris W. Bodine  
Mr. Andrew Lewis Boutwell '03  
Ms. Starr Lynn Boykin '80  
Bradley Murphy Forestry & Natural  
Dr. Richard W. Brinker  
Broadview Properties Family Limited  
Dr. John Clifford Brown '65  
Mr. and Mrs. Alan P. Bruce  
Burgin Timberland Management, LLC  
Mr. Robert F. Burgin III '81  
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene B. Butler  
Mr. and Mrs. William Byrd  
Campbell Global  
Canfor Southern Pine, Inc.  
Mr. David Carroll '86  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Edward Carter III  
Charles Barkley Foundation  
Charley Walker Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Chitty  
Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Wayne Cole  
Mrs. Denise Michelle Cole '10  
Community Foundation of the Chattahoochee Valley  
Mr. and Mrs. David Richard Conway, Jr.  
Coon Creek Club  
Mrs. Heather Vann Crozier '98  
CSP Technologies Inc.  
Curtis & Edith Munson Foundation  
Col. (Ret) James W. Danley and Dr. Beverly W. Danley  
Mr. Kenneth Day '81  
Delaney Foundation Inc  
Mr. Michael Ross Delaney '03  
Mr. Bob Dixon  
Mr. Dave Donaldson '95  
Drummond Company, Inc  
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.  
Mr. Robert Waren Dumas '76  
Mr. Arthur C. Dyas '73  
Mrs. Ellen Hunter Dyas '73  
EBSCO Industries Inc  
Exum Associates, Inc.  
Dr. Joe Hardeman Exum, Jr. '85  
F & W Forestry Service, Inc.  
F. Allen & Louise K. Turner Charitable Foundation  
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Fell, Jr.  
CDR and Mrs. William August Freise  
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Gallagher  
Dr. and Mrs. George Edward Gibson, Jr.  
Mr. David Benjamin Giles '76  
Dr. and Mrs. Glenn Ray Glover  
Mr. George Chandler Graham '00  
Mr. William Green '14  
Mr. Glenn Guthrie '62  
Dr. and Mrs. John E. Hackman  
Mr. Richard W. Hall '95  
Hancock Forest Management, Inc.  
Mr. and Mrs. John Anderson Harp  
Harrigan Lumber Co., Inc.

Mr. and Mrs. John Patrick Harrigan  
Mr. and Mrs. William Dwight Harrigan III  
Mr. Rodney M. Havens '80  
Mr. Arthur C. Herndon II  
Mrs. Magdalene P. Herring  
High Adventure Company  
Mr. William Webster Hindman '72  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Franklin Hoerlein  
Mrs. Margaret Elaine Holler  
Mr. Kenneth G. Hood '71  
Dr. Mary A. Hooten and Mr. William Russell Hooten  
Mr. David Emerson Housel '69  
Mr. Michael Kevin Hudson '98  
Dr. and Mrs. David M. Hyink  
IndusTREE Timber, Inc.  
Inventive Outdoors LLC  
Ms. Michelle A. Isenberg  
Jasper Lumber Company  
Mr. Rhett E. Johnson, Jr.  
Mrs. Belinda Jane Jones  
Mrs. Kay H. Jones and Mr. Burke C. Jones  
Mr. Larry Jones '92  
Dr. Robert H. Jones and Dr. Jeryl Christley Jones  
Dr. Crystal A. Kelley  
Mr. and Mrs. Leo Michael Kelly  
Ketchum Land & Timber, LLC  
Mr. Earl Ketchum '97  
Mr. James Jackson King, Jr. '80  
Mr. Jim King '80  
Dr. Emily B. Kling '03  
Kykenkee, Inc.  
Mr. John Harry Lange III '97  
Larson & McGowin, Inc.  
Mr. Hugh Cannon Lawley '95  
Lee County Rotary Club  
Mr. Curt W. LeVan '80  
Mr. and Mrs. John Lambert Lindley  
Mr. Dana Carl Little '79  
Mr. Wayne Little  
Long Leaf Lumber Company  
Maj Brandon James Loomis '16  
Louisiana-Pacific Corporation  
Mr. James Robert Lowe '59  
Dr. and Ms. Mark Lowe  
Ms. Hebe Lutz  
M C Dixon Lumber Company, Inc.  
Made Goods  
Mr. and Mrs. Lars Magnusson  
Mr. Alan Antonio Maio '93  
Mrs. Alice Johnson Mallory '66  
Mr. James William Martin '64  
Matthews Forest Services, LLC  
Mr. and Mrs. Hooper W. Matthews III  
Mr. Alexander McCall '93  
Mr. William David McEwen  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wilkinson McNeel III  
Mrs. Lisa H. Mende  
Mr. and Mrs. Lovick Pierce Miller  
Dr. Vikki Hart Miller and Mr. Todd Winfield Miller  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Moore  
Mr. Emory W. Mosley, Jr. '72  
Mr. Daniel Louis Moultrie '79  
Dr. Gary R. Mullen  
Ms. Stephanie Mullins  
Mr. Claude Nathan Nall '60  
Natural Resource Consultants, LLC  
NAVCO Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. Kenwood Nichols  
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel P. Norman  
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Edward Norton  
Oser Forestry Services  
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Lewis Oser  
Osmose  
Mr. and Mrs. G. Wayne Pearce  
Mrs. Sue Atchison Pearson '49  
Mr. Willard W. Peebles  
Mr. and Mrs. Tim Peters  
Capt Dennis Michael Pinkard '69  
Dr. and Mrs. Brent Andrew Ponce  
PrintPack  
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Dean Pylant III  
Mr. Joshua Raglin

Regions Bank  
Resource Management Service  
RL Investment Property LLC  
Mr. Joe Dalton Roberson '88  
Mr. Douglas Roberts '82  
Mrs. Elizabeth Herring Rogers  
Mr. and Mrs. Ben M. Rooke, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Darryl Conrad Rosser  
Russell Lands, Inc.  
Mr. Kevin Brian Savoy '91  
Mr. Paul Edward Schrantz '74  
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Schwarzauer, Sr.  
Mr. and Mrs. John Sechrist  
Ms. Emily S. Sexton '05  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Preston Sharp  
Sing Properties, LLC  
Mr. Austin Singleton '94  
Mr. Thomas Gray Skipper '94  
Mr. and Mrs. John Prentiss Smith, Jr.  
Dr. Mark D. Smith  
Ms. Pennie Lawson Smith  
Dr. Wayne H. Smith and Dr. Mitzi C. Austin  
Southeastern Land Group  
Southeastern Natural Resources  
Southern Company Services  
Stallworth Land Company  
Mr. Clinton Stanton  
Stella-Jones Corporation  
Mr. Frank Stewart '77  
Mr. Steven W. Stewart '74  
Dr. Steven Holt Stokes '71  
Mr. H. Christoph Stuhlinger '80  
Mrs. Beth Thorne Stukes '81  
Sunshine Pediatrics LLC  
Mr. Robert L. Sutton  
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Lewis Sweeten  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Melvin Tarver  
Mr. Charles L. Taylor '06  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Taylor  
Team Ag Marketing, LLC  
Tensaw Land & Timber Co., Inc.  
Mr. William R. Terry '76  
The Solon and Martha Dixon Foundation  
The Westervelt Company  
Mr. Charles Emmett Thompson  
Dr. and Mrs. Emmett Thompson  
Ms. Juli Thompson  
Timber Products Inspection, Inc.  
Toyota Motor Engineering & Mfg. North America, Inc.  
Mr. Oscar G. Traczewitz II '70  
Turkeys For Tomorrow  
Ms. Susan Wilcox Turner  
University Ace Hardware  
Mr. and Mrs. Noll A. Van Cleave Jr.  
Mr. Bennie F. Vinson, Jr. '74  
W. A. Freise & Sons Timber & Land Company, Inc.  
Mrs. Haley Christine Wade '14  
Mr. and Mrs. James D. Wadsworth  
Mr. L. Frank Walburn '79  
Mr. and Mrs. William Forrest Walker  
Mr. and Mrs. Marc Ashley Walley  
Dr. and Mrs. William Walley  
Mr. and Mrs. Ron Watson  
Mr. Kenneth Brian Watts '12  
Weiler Equipment  
Wells Fargo Foundation  
Westervelt Foundation  
WestRock  
Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund  
Mr. Marvin Guy Whitley, Jr. '64  
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Alan Whitley  
Mr. John C. Wild  
Willann LLC  
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald L. Williams  
Dr. W. Wes Williams and Ms. Sara I. Doornbos  
Mr. Larry D. Williamson '61  
Mrs. Cherie Leist Woodard '82  
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth W. Wright  
Ziebach & Webb Timber Co  
Mr. Elmo D. Ziebach '69  
Mr. and Mrs. Elmo Douglas Ziebach, Jr.