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CFWE Career Fair 9/28/22

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Dear Alumni and Friends,

I am pleased to inform you that during its Feb. 4 meeting, the Auburn University Board of Trustee unanimously approved the change designation of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences to that of College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment. This designation was an important milestone in recognition of the college’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.

Following the designation change, the Board of Trustees then approved the college’s change to the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment at its April meeting.

The word “environment” was adapted to better reflect the breadth of research, outreach and extension programs currently supported by the academic unit related to environmental sciences, such as climate variability and disease ecology, as well as forest health, conservation and the policies and natural resources.

The renaming demonstrates the college’s commitment to offer programs that integrate traditional disciplines of forestry and wildlife sciences with the growing areas of environmental sciences, theories and problems driving to meet the emerging needs of industry and government.

We are confident the name change will position the college as a leader in the expanding platform 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 the future.

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 as we look forward to the future.

Scott Enebak, associate dean of academic affairs, Dwain G. Luce Professor and associate dean of research, Forestry, Wildlife & Environment.
Academics & Research

2021 Spring Graduation

2021 Graduate Research Symposium

2021 Summer Practicum

Water quality testing at sites disturbed by wild pigs

Summia Rahman wins Auburn's 3MT Competition

Outreach

DIXON CENTER FOREST MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES:

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

KREHER PRESERVE AND NATURE CENTER:

- 15 ACRES PRESCRIBED BURNED
- 1,000 SHORT LEAF PINES PLANTED

- PROGRAM ATTENDANCE DOUBLED OVER 2020

Prescribed fire at KPNC

Specialist Adam Maggard gives portable sawmill demo

REA Kerry Steedley leads Teen Nature Club

SDFEC provides field instruction for Yale students

Gallagher leads field exercise at 2021 Council on Forest Engineering Meeting

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

2021 GRADUATED MS/PH.D. STUDENTS

85

35

PASS RATE for Registered Foresters

90%

90%

5 NEW MINORS Initiated

8%

62%

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

62%

Undergraduate Enrollment 2015-21

Graduate Enrollment 2015-21

GRADUATE STUDENT ENROLLMENT REACHED

164 in fall 2021

23% from 2020

60% from 2019

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

2020-21 TOTAL DOLLARS RAISED

TIGER GIVING DAY

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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 10 faculty members from U.S. universities to participate in research through the National Center for Atmospheric Research, or NCAR, and its sister program, the National Science Foundation. Through this NCAR award, Dunning received $50,000 to study how marginalized communities are adapting to changing climate in coral reefs.

The NCAR Early Career Faculty Innovation Program was founded in 2019 to enhance NCAR’s capacity as 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 local in coastal communities in Florida and the U.S. Virgin Islands using NCAR climate data.

Through fieldwork, Dunning relays the stories of stakeholders on the ground working in coral reef management.

“I ask them what types of policy responses they would need 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 interview whitefish stakeholders working to conserve mardained American corral 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 Jankai Alavalapati, the college’s dean. “It is an honor that one of our faculty will play a vital role in this impactful program.”

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 five-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 incentives 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 at the field scale.

“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 Neeman-Benjamin and Tang.

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

-Kelly Dunning

“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 100-acre tract of forestland located beside the Forestry and Wildlife Sciences Building on the corner of South Donahue Drive and Lamp Morrison Drive.

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

The natural space contains a healthy, native forested habitat with some established trees estimated to be around 200 years old. Used 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 the area with walking trails to create an outdoor learning laboratory to provide greater opportunities for students to engage in the natural environment,” Counterman said.

With the support of the Owers, the college will establish one walking trail and three interpretive educational kiosks and interpretive signs. The main pathway and the identification signs using Donahue Drive have been completed.

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

-Jankai 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, both for educational and recreational purposes. Weagle Woods is an area popular for residents and students alike, who enjoy walking and the outdoors.”

“Beyond the CFWE’s Jeff Butler Park and Kent Van-Clere Pavilion, the property extends an attractive tract of forestland called Weagle Woods. New students receive instruction and participate in management and land-burning projects.”

-Auburn University
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 Gusman Performing Arts Center on April 10 featuring a keynote address and performance by Rolling Stones keyboardist and honorary U.S. Forest Service singer Chuck Leavell and a proclamation from Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey. Leavell said it has three real passions: “My family, my home and my music.” He is a recognized authority on forestry and conservation, serving in organizations such as the American Forest Foundation, the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities and the Georgia Land Conservation Council.

Mary Kambria-Pittman, from the Office of the Governor, presented the 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,” Leavell said through a video message. “Throughout the years, the 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, students and friends who have provided the college strength 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 Green, professor emeritus and former forestry graduate; Wilson Green, a state wildlife warden and current forestry and wildlife divisions director; and “Rolling Stones”’s formidable and enduring presence on two continents, by recognizing the college’s donors and industry partners.

Leavell said that, throughout his career, “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 Forestry and Communities and the Georgia Land Conservation Council.

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The evening also included remarks by former Auburn President Jay Gogue and current president Dr. Daren Hoyt, Mark Smith, professor and Alabama Extension wildlife specialist and anniversary celebration organizing committee chair, and industry partner Charles McCrary.

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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 Dairy 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 200 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 science, 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 pressured layers. This unique engineering gives the panel exceptional strength and 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 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 ecosystems 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 Embree, associate dean and professor in the college, commenced the session with welcoming remarks and introduced James M. Reeve, 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 8 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 three pieces together into a strong economic force,” said Reeve 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 Reeve’s opening remarks, Jeff Peters, southeast regional director of WoodWorks-Wood Products Council, began the keynote address by asking the audience, “What’s your Why?” An 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 Smartfurn 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 wood or concrete structure, but very little in comparison to a mass timber building.”

Showering 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 lobby and dancer 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 50,000 square foot Advanced Structural Engineering Lab to learn about CLT structural testing research. Partially designed using CLT, the 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 Reeve Culinary Science Center at Auburn University. The 6,000 square foot building houses a dining hall and business center and was constructed using CLT and glue-laminated timber, or GLT.

“The 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 Jasinski Alvaralopez, 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 Gun College of Engineering and the Office of Sustainability and the University Architect to host the event.

To learn more about the speakers, visit cfwe.auburn.edu/clt-conference.

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

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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 is a professor in the College of Agriculture and interim department head for Extension and Outreach. She has served as interim in that capacity since February 2021. Barlow will retain that title until June 2022, at which time she will assume the role of associate dean and assistant director for agriculture, forestry and natural resource extension programs. Barlow was named the extension associate and interim assistant director for the College of Agriculture and interim head for the Alabama Cooperative Extension System in February 2021.

Jennifer Lolley, first outreach administrator of Auburn University’s Kreher Preserve and Natural Resources Team, retires

Jennifer Lolley, who supervised the undergraduate, graduate and professional education of the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Natural Resources, has retired as outreach administrator for the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Natural Resources. Lolley will continue to serve as the director of the Walker Area Community Foundation, a role she has held since 2000. Lolley will also continue to serve as a member of the Auburn University Board of Trustees.

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

An anonymous donation of $20,000 was made to the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment’s Fund for Excellence in honor of Charles “Charlie” F. Raper. The donation will support the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment’s Fund for Excellence, a charitable fund that provides assistance to students who demonstrate financial need.

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

Beth Stokes recently matched donations to Auburn University’s Ever Auburn scholarships, including many within the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment. Stokes graduated from the University of Alabama at Birmingham in 1988 with a degree in early childhood education. Stokes serves as a teacher in the Walker County school system.

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 Auburn University’s College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment for equipment to advance education and research in the school’s forestry and geospatial programs.

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Alumni & Friends

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. “Dr. Barlow 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.”

Jennifer Lolley has been an asset to the committee, she and the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment’s Fund for Excellence were made in honor of Charles “Charlie” F. Raper, a former professor in the college. “He is a pioneer of the wooded investment business,” said David Zhang, Auburn and George W. Pfeake Professor of Forest Economics and Policy and the college’s associate dean of research. Charles Raper was born in Dothan, Georgia, in 1930 to a family who owned 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 and navigator when he was employed by Travelers Insurance Company in its agriculture division. “Travelers hired Charles as the first forest scientist 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 1989 as the second- generation president in charge of real estate research and development for Travelers, Raper joined the Auburn University faculty where he served as the George W. Pfeake Professor of Forestry and Policy. Raper was known as at the time, the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences.

“The students appreciated him,” Thompson said. “He was so down to earth, so accommodating. It’s, you know, it’s really something to talk with him, you would talk to him.”

Raper held directorships in the South Alabama Land and Timber Company, Inc. and the Resource Management Services, Inc. and was advisory director of the Hendrich 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 sure that someone would have a donation in their name,” Zhang said. “It’s hard for the people within the industry to find the students. It is a tribute to him.”

Donations to the Fund for Excellence may be used to support leadership and learning opportunities, technology and facility improvements that enhance learning environments, equipment, forestry and wildlife sciences research, natural resources related advisory groups, faculty support or critical needs as identified by the college’s dean.

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

Mike Phillips

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Auburn university 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 Millar of Columbus, Georgia. The scholarship was established to support wildlife sciences and wildlife management enterprise 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 Rule LLC. Becky graduated in 2011 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 PAMS-Hearties, Tusk Community, Historic Columbus, Salvation Army, the Chattahoochee Valley Land Trust and Hope Harbour.

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

Auburn’s Feb. 25 fundrasing event, Tiger Giving Day, united campus and community needs with a record-breaking turnout of new 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 the course. Buckman works to enhance the communications, marketing and overall administrative management of the Krisher Preserve and Nature Center as its manager.

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

Michael Buckman, Manager, Krisher 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 2008 and spent over a decade focused on educating the public about our natural environment at Callaway Gardens/Daisy 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 is currently an instructor for courses in the major. Franks has been in the hunting and hospitality industry for over 24 years and has extensive work and research experience in the hospitality and luxury outdoor recreation industries. As a Texan native, he obtained his B.S. in business and M.S in Hospitality & Retail Management from Texas Tech University and is finishing his Ph.D. from Colorado State University focusing on Nature-Based Tourism.

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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 were provided,” Bryan said.

With financial help from their parents and hard work in the classroom, the Coles have been able to make the most of the University of North Alabama in 1991. Bryan earned dual bachelor degrees in economics in 2011 and 2013 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 capability to help them reach their full academic potential. Ever Auburn, a scholarship and financial aid initiative through the Auburn University Office of Student Life, 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 have had this opportunity,” Bryan said.

The Coles hope the endowments will provide needed resources and create opportunities for success for all future students.

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

Elmo D. Ziebach, registered forester and co-founder of Zebco Timber Company, has been recognized as the recipient of the 2019 Outstanding Alumni Award by Auburn University’s College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment.

Ziebach graduated from Auburn in 1978 with a degree in Forest Products. He is the first of three generations in his family to graduate from the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment.

After graduation, Elmo Ziebach began his forestry career with International Paper Company in Parkersburg, West Virginia. He was responsible for land management to woodlands and various short-wood farms. Later, he was hired as the procurement manager at Baxley\n
Forest Products at its grade sawmill in Venderburgh, Alabama.

In 1985, Ziebach founded Timber & Zebco Timber Company. The company operates in central and south Alabama and northwest Florida, where they deliver a combined 1.3 million tons of raw material annually to various forest product mills. The company currently employs 130 Auburn forestry graduates.

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

Ziebach is a boot in 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 boardroom or a corporate office," Fell said. “He has served the forestry and wildlife community landowners of all ecocconomo levels for 44 years with loyalty. His commitment to the sustainable resources and the environment through partnerships with the landowners and other stakeholders he has dealt with through the years serve as an example for all.

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

He served for ten years as a board member for the Forest Fund. He has supported the college with donations and matched funds to construct Auburn’s new Forestry and Wildlife Sciences Building and awarded a major contribution to the USFS Mento Endowed Scholarship.

Ziebach contributes to numerous church and civic needs in Montevalle, Alabama. He has also authored two books, “The Second Head of Chocolate” and “A Video on Porcatah Day.”

“Through his career, Elmo Ziebach has seen the industry change from short-term to long-term and the modern mechanization of logging,” said Jerni Kauhanen, 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.”

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