In This Issue
Administration .......................................................... 2
Research & Discovery .................................................. 3,6
Academics & Learning ...................................................... 4-5
Extension & Outreach ......................................................... 7
Alumni & Friends ........................................................ 8

Upcoming Events
Spring Commencement, 5/7/22

sfws.auburn.edu/giving
Learn how you can support CFWS.

sfws.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.

Visit auburn.edu/sfws for more stories.

Online Graduate Programs Broaden Opportunities

WHAT’S INSIDE
Graduate student and professor receive $415,000 grant to study invasive wild pigs' impact on water quality Pg. 3
Interdisciplinary team seeking to make strides in future manufacturing Pg. 3
Gulsky leads team researching causes of decline in turkey populations Pg. 6
Auburn forestry professor's new book examines revolutionary shifts in forestland ownership Pg. 7
College of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences to host international CLT conference in April Pg. 7
Spotlight on alumni Pg. 8

FEATURE STORY
Working with Nature for Society’s Well Being

Online Graduate Programs Broaden Opportunities

Fall Graduation

Holiday Celebration

Welcome Wednesday

On Campus & Beyond

Homecoming

Related articles

slide show
video
On-FIELD Recognition

The College of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences’ 75th Anniversary Celebration was highlighted during Auburn’s On-Field Recognition program Sept. 11. Dean Jennifer Alabado, Associate Dean Steven Dong and Dean’s Scholar Elizabeth Bradley, and members of the 75th Anniversary planning committee, shared the story.

Our faculty-led research teams have begun things in their respective fields, and we hope you enjoy learning more about them in the spring 2022 issue.

For more information, please contact the College of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences at (334) 844-3048.

PROMOTIONS

- Megan Alabado, Associate Professor in the College of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences

APPOINTMENTS

- Todd Strickland, Faculty Senate Chair
- Jamie Anderson, Dean, College of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences

Faculty, Staff, and Student Awards

- Elizabeth Bradley was selected a fellow of the American Geophysical Union
- Janaki Alavalapati was selected as a fellow of the American Meteorological Society
- Megan Alabado was selected as a fellow of the American Meteorological Society
- Steven Dong was selected as a fellow of the American Meteorological Society
- Elizabeth Bradley was selected as a fellow of the American Meteorological Society

In this research, Maria Soledad Peresin, associate professor of forest biomaterials in the College of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, is focused on nanobialkans production, characterization and chemical modifications to be included in bio-fine materials to improve the mechanical performance of the composite for 3D printing of housing and building components.

As with Althoff, his enthusiasm about the concept rests on the generation of science.

“The project offers a unique opportunity to both undergraduate and graduate students to be involved in cutting-edge technologies and develop valuable skills,” Althoff said.

That educational impact is a key component, Via said, as one of the goals of this research is to train new engineers in the field of biotechnology.
Online Master’s Degree Broadens Opportunities

Auburn University’s new online forest business and investment master’s degree to support career advancement for forestry, business professionals

Auburn University’s new online Master of Natural Resources (MNR) degree is designed for working professionals and students seeking a career advancement within the forest industry. The program offers a flexible, online format that enables students to balance their professional, family, and personal responsibilities while pursuing a degree.

The program is designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the forest sector, including its economic, social, and environmental impacts. Graduates of the MNR program will be prepared to work in a variety of sectors, including forest management, conservation, policy, and leadership.

One of the program’s unique features is its interdisciplinary approach, which brings together experts from various fields to provide a holistic view of the forest industry. Students will have the opportunity to take courses in topics such as forest economics, policy, and sustainability, as well as opportunities to engage in research and collaboration with industry partners.

To enroll in the MNR program, students must submit an application, provide transcripts from accredited institutions, and complete a set of prerequisite coursework. The program is open to students from diverse academic backgrounds, and students will have the opportunity to work with a faculty mentor to develop a personalized course plan.

One of the benefits of the MNR program is its online format, which allows students to complete coursework from anywhere. This flexibility is particularly important for working professionals who may have limited time or geographic constraints.

The MNR program is offered in partnership with the College of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences and the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences. For more information, visit the program’s website or contact Jessica Daniel at jrd0084@auburn.edu.

“Sitecore went from idea to reality in a single day. It was a great experience, and I’m excited to see where the future holds.”

“I really appreciated the multidisciplinary approach, utilizing expertise from Auburn’s different colleges and schools, as I was exposed to a variety of perspectives in the certificate program.”

“The program skills forestry business practices to their existing forestry skills. It also serves them with a solid foundation to develop into a leader who is familiar with the aspects of forestry finance and economics in order to become more competitive in job market or open their forestry-based businesses.”

The College of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences offers several graduate programs and certificate options online, allowing students from anywhere to learn from the College’s expert faculty. Students in these programs come from diverse academic backgrounds, and they all work together to deepen their professional knowledge base and advance their careers.

New online programs make graduate education accessible and convenient

The College of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences offers several graduate programs and certificate options online, allowing students from anywhere to learn from the College’s expert faculty. Students in these programs come from diverse academic backgrounds, and they all work together to deepen their professional knowledge base and advance their careers.

The new Master of Natural Resources (MNR) program is designed for working professionals and students seeking a career advancement within the forest industry. The program offers a flexible, online format that enables students to balance their professional, family, and personal responsibilities while pursuing a degree. The program is designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the forest sector, including its economic, social, and environmental impacts. Graduates of the MNR program will be prepared to work in a variety of sectors, including forest management, conservation, policy, and leadership.

One of the program’s unique features is its interdisciplinary approach, which brings together experts from various fields to provide a holistic view of the forest industry. Students will have the opportunity to take courses in topics such as forest economics, policy, and sustainability, as well as opportunities to engage in research and collaboration with industry partners.

To enroll in the MNR program, students must submit an application, provide transcripts from accredited institutions, and complete a set of prerequisite coursework. The program is open to students from diverse academic backgrounds, and students will have the opportunity to work with a faculty mentor to develop a personalized course plan.

The MNR program is offered in partnership with the College of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences and the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences. For more information, visit the program’s website or contact Jessica Daniel at jrd0084@auburn.edu.
This research has broad significance on several levels. "These findings can aid the design of protected area networks to avoid those areas exposed to high drying speeds," said co-author Rui Fu, a member of both the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Chinese Academy of Sciences. "In those arid regions facing a higher drying speed, breeding and management should be improved to correspond to water availability," Fu added. "For cities that would experience long-lasting drying, infrastructure for water supply to both humans and urban vegetation should be well equipped, and water-saving policies should be implemented."

College of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences Dean Jesse Alabaster said this Auburn-led research is a significant addition to the ever-growing body of knowledge on climate change.

"Climate change is likely to become one of the most significant drivers of biodiversity loss in the second half of the 21st century," the Auburn-led research presents a stark picture of what to come as well as what actions need to be taken," Alabaster said. "Conserving and sustainably managing biodiversity are essential components of natural resource solutions."

The study emphasized the need for action.

"This study underscores that strong and immediate greenhouse gas mitigation is required to avoid climate threats to biodiversity, agriculture and cities that provide people with essential goods and services," Tan said.
Forestry alum Michael Kelly endows Ever Auburn Scholarship to the College of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences

Michael Kelly, who earned a forestry degree from Auburn 1979 and has built a successful forestry career over the past four decades, has joined his wife, Karen, in endowing two Ever Auburn scholarships — including one to the Auburn University College of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences.

Ever Auburn scholarships, a new financial aid initiative created to make the Auburn experience more accessible to high-performing and driven students who otherwise would not have the means to attend Auburn, are matched dollar-for-dollar by the Auburn University Foundation.

Michael Kelly is chairman of the board of Forest Investment Associates, a timberland investment management organization that manages nearly 3 million acres of forestland in the United States and South America.

"Ever Auburn scholarships were the perfect opportunity to invest in the leaders of tomorrow and in the future of Auburn."

The gift is not only generous, but personal. Kelly was able to pursue his forestry degree through an academic scholarship, which he has said not only relieved some financial pressure but, more importantly, sent him the message, "You're doing something right!" His aim is to encourage forestry students to follow in his footsteps.

The Kellys' established an additional Ever Auburn scholarship in the Auburn University College of Human Sciences in honor of their daughter Leann, who graduated from August in that college with a degree in human development and family science.

Michael Kelly, who earned an MBA at the University of South Alabama following his Auburn education, is an active supporter of the forestry community, both regionally and nationally. He serves on the Forest History board, the National Alliance of Forest Owners Board of Directors, the Auburn University College of Forestry and Wildlife advisory council and the Auburn University Research advisory board. He is a registered forester and certified forester, a fellow of the Society of American Foresters and current chair of the Southeastern Society of American Foresters.

"I'm a believer in the value of higher education and passionate supporter of Auburn," Kelly said. "Ever Auburn scholarships were the perfect opportunity to invest in the leaders of tomorrow and in the future of Auburn.

During the first phase of Ever Auburn, which began this fall, the Auburn University Foundation has provided matching funds for the first 150 scholarships created, doubling the impact of each donor gift.

"The initiative creates an opportunity for members of the Auburn Family, like Michael and Karen Kelly, to immediately impact students' lives while increasing the university's ability to attract the brightest of students," said Janaki Alavalapati, dean of the College of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences.

CFWS News  sfws.auburn.edu