

SNRE *niche*



Photo credit: David Klinges, SNRE IE PhD candidate

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Letter from our Director



Welcome to the SNRE Niche, a biannual newsletter from the School of Natural Resources and Environment.

SNRE's mission is to provide interdisciplinary educational programs to help students understand the complex issues related to

ecology, the environment and socio-economic stability in Florida, the nation, and the world. To accomplish this goal, SNRE offers a university-wide program in ecology, environmental science, and sustainability.

SNRE's primary resources are its students and affiliate faculty from several departments and research centers across the UF campus. Base funding is provided by the CALS Dean's Office, IFAS-SVP, and the Graduate School Dean's Office to support SNRE programs. SNRE affiliate faculty grants and contracts provide matching support to graduate student assistantships.

Students are also supported by fellowships from Fulbright, NSF, Wildlife Conservation Society, private donors, and

others. Some international students are also supported by their governments. We are very appreciative of financial support from all these groups, which is vital to student success and professional development.

During Fall 2021-Summer 2022, we welcomed 52 undergraduates in Environmental Science, and 30 graduate Interdisciplinary Ecology students. Our undergraduate program started in 1994 and our graduate programs started in 1999. To date, we have graduated more than 1,500 students (65% BA/BS, 19% MS, and 16% PhD). Our graduates are employed as faculty members in universities, as senior scientists and managers in state and federal agencies, and as ecologists and environmental scientists with leading consulting firms.

In this newsletter, we celebrate accomplishments of our undergraduate and graduate students. We are extremely grateful for the continued support of our alumni, affiliate and core faculty, staff, partner department chairs, directors of research centers and institutes, and IFAS administration.

K. Ramesh Reddy
Director, School of Natural Resources and Environment

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Save the Date

Photo credit: David Klinges, SNRE PhD candidate

2023 SNRE Research Symposium

April 4, 2023

Keynote Speaker
Dr. Robert D. Holt
Eminent Scholar and Arthur R. Marshall, Jr., Chair in Ecological Studies
Department of Biology, University of Florida

Please join us for the 2023 SNRE Research Symposium!

The symposium will showcase SNRE graduate and undergraduate research in ecology and environmental sciences and provide an opportunity to network with representatives from state and federal agencies, private consulting firms and industry, and SNRE students and faculty.

Undergraduate Programs

SNRE offers BS and BA degrees in Environmental Science, which are science-based, interdisciplinary, and academically rigorous. The curriculum spans the range of human knowledge needed to solve complex environmental problems. It offers access to 300 courses taught in 56 departments, uniting much of the University's academic program in a future-oriented liberal science. The curriculum combines the basic and applied sciences needed to diagnose problems, the technical skills needed to devise solutions, and the social sciences of human processes and institutions needed to act. For more information, [see our website](#).

Graduate Programs

SNRE offers MS and PhD degrees in Interdisciplinary Ecology. These degree programs promote interdisciplinary thinking in natural resources and the environment by combining (1) coursework in the basic and applied science of ecology and the social, political, and economic sciences with (2) competence in an approved program in one of these fields of study. Interdisciplinary Ecology graduate students are hosted in one of the more than 50 participating academic departments and more than 20 research centers and institutes at UF. The cross-departmental composition of students' supervisory committee and of the curriculum empowers them to take on an unusually broad, challenging program of study. For more information, [see our website](#).

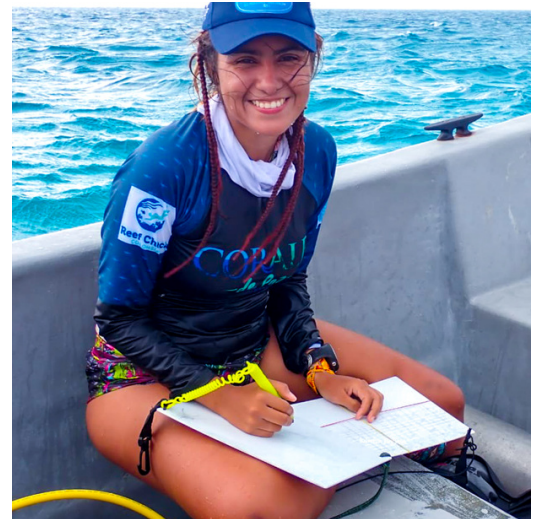


Photo credit: Natalia Uribe-Castañeda,
SNRE IE PhD student

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Photo credit: Jesse Borden, SNRE IE PhD candidate

New PhD Students



Jordan Bajema

(Chair: Dr. Will Patterson, School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences)

Jordan's research focuses on the northward range expansion of common snook and their impacts on other economically important species in the region.



Minjin Choi

(Chair: Dr. Stephen Enloe, Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants)

Minjin's research focuses on the ecology of *Lygodium microphyllum*, also known as Old World Climbing Fern, a fern that is problematic in South Florida.



Silvia de Melo Futada

(Chair: Dr. Joel Correia, Center for Latin American Studies)

Silvia plans to collaborate with the Waimiri Atroari, an indigenous group from Brazilian Amazonia, studying interdisciplinary and political ecology.



John "Jack" Harling

(Chair: Dr. Esteban Rios, Agronomy Department)

Jack will study aspects of livestock systems in Sub-Saharan Africa, and how they interact with their environment to allow for sustainable agricultural systems.



Medelin Kant

(Chair: Dr. William Hammond, Agronomy Department)

Medelin is interested in understanding how climate change, particularly heatwaves and intensified drought, impacts tree physiology and defining mechanisms of tree mortality.



Beatrice Kyasiimire

(Chair: Dr. Mark Hostetler, Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Department)

Beatrice will study ecological impacts of linear infrastructure in protected areas on large mammals, the potential of pipeline corridors as habitat for birds, and social impacts on tourism.

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New PhD Students



Saneer Lamichhane

(Chair: Dr. Madan Oli, Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Department)

Saneer's research will investigate how humans influence predator-prey community dynamics, with a focus on tigers.



Morgan Manning

(Chair: Dr. Miguel Acevedo, Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Department)

Morgan's research focuses on modeling mammal responses to disturbance and the potential for sustainable harvest in Amazonian indigenous territories.



Tina McIntyre

(Chair: Dr. Laura Warner, Agricultural Education and Communication Department)

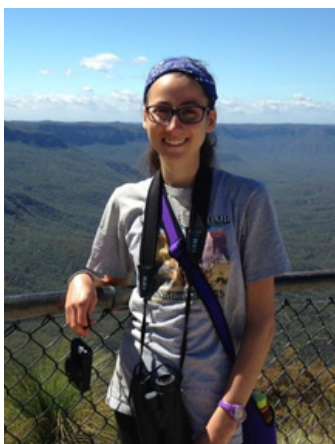
Tina plans to study behavior changes related to non-point source pollution, including fertilizer and reclaimed water.



Varshitha Prasanna

(Chair: Dr. Vivek Sharma, Agricultural and Biological Engineering Department)

Varshitha previously worked at the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research. She will be studying precision irrigation management and crop modeling in potato.



Lydia Soifer

(Chair: Dr. Brett Scheffers, Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Department)

Lydia plans to focus on how three-dimensional microclimates influence habitat connectivity for arboreal organisms in Madagascar.



Akshay Vinod Anand

(Chair: Dr. Rob Guralnick, Florida Museum of Natural History)

Akshay will study the role of ecological and environmental drivers in determining avian species distribution and community organization along elevational gradients in the Western Ghats.



Photo credit: Matyas Prommer, SNRE IE PhD student

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New PhD Students



Rachel Walsh

(Chair: Dr. Akito Kawahara, Florida Museum of Natural History)

Rachel will be studying conservation genetics and ecology of the Loammi skipper (*Atrytonopsis loammi*), an imperiled Florida butterfly, with hopes to aid its recovery.



Ana Yoko Ykeuti Meiga

(Chair: Dr. Denis Valle, School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences)

Ana will focus her doctoral research on movement and spatial ecology and wildlife conservation, mainly with threatened species of mammals from Brazil.

New MS Students



Stephanie Castellano

(Chair: Dr. Mysha Clarke, School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences)

Stephanie will study stakeholder priorities around sea-level rise and ecological restoration in the Everglades.



Allison Schmidt

(Chair: Dr. Gabriel Maltais-Landry, Soil, Water, and Ecosystem Sciences Department)

Allison will study sustainable nutrient management and soil nitrogen availability in crop production.



Christian Wanamaker

(Chair: Dr. Deah Lieurance, Agronomy Department)

Christian plans to study invasion science and plant ecology. He previously worked at the UF/IFAS Assessment for Non-Native Plants and at the UF Herbarium in the Florida Museum of Natural History.



**Welcome to all of our talented new
Interdisciplinary Ecology graduate students!**

Photo credit: Rachel Walsh, SNRE IE PhD student

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Photo credit: Natalia Uribe-Castañeda, SNRE IE PhD student

PhD and MS Graduates

Dr. Robert Botta

Chair: Dr. Ed Camp; School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences

Dr. Carolina De Oliveira Jordao

Chair: Dr. Bob Buschbacher; School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences

Dr. Renata Diaz

Chair: Dr. Morgan Ernest; Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Department

Kylee DiMaggio, MS

Chair: Dr. Miguel Acevedo; Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Department

Dr. Shane Feyers

Chair: Dr. Taylor Stein; School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences

Dr. Emily Khazan

Chair: Dr. Jaret Daniels; Florida Museum of Natural History, Co-Chair: Dr. Bette Loiselle; Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Department

Dr. Pamela Montero Alvarez

Chair: Dr. Stephen Perz; Sociology and Criminology & Law, Co-Chair: Dr. Angelica Almeyda Zambrano; Center for Latin American Studies

Dr. Pablo Moreno-Garcia

Chair: Dr. Ben Baiser; Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Department

Dr. Sergio Padilla Paz

Chair: Steve Johnson; Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Department

Dr. Gretchen Stokes

Chair: Tom Frazer, Co-Chair: Dr. Sam Smidt; Soil, Water, and Ecosystem Sciences Department

Dr. Elizabeth Webb

Chair: Dr. Jeremy Lichstein; Biology Department

BS and BA Graduates

BS, Environmental Science

Jarrett Altieri, Julia Best, Lauren Bradley, Nicholas Bratton-Cox, Mia Forsman, Gabriella Foursa, Sarah Garavaglia, Sofia Garcia, Wistride Lumas, Zachary Moore, Lola Myers, William Patrone, Amber Riner, Kassidy Robinson, Amelia Rooks, Jillian Scairus, Ashley Schuler, Eli Shaw, Charles Spieske, Mitchell Stevenson, Maya Strickland, Jules Velasquez, Daniella Wachman, Race Walker, Xinlin Wang, Jardon Wargo, Alexandra Wissinger

BA, Environmental Science

Karla Arteaga, Alexis Caton, Eva Domas, Gabriela Gotsman, Tenney Kapellusch, Connor Milton, Coleen Sailsman, Shannon Salvatori, Joshua Tepper, Victoria Tesch, Jenmarie Vega

Congratulations to all our new graduates!



Photo credit: Orlando Acevedo-Charry, SNRE IE PhD student

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Photo credit: Alex Baecher, SNRE IE PhD candidate

Graduate Student Awards

Orlando Acevedo-Charry, PhD student

Global Ranavirus Consortium, Inc. Travel Award, American Ornithological Society Travel Award, Tropical Conservation and Development Field Research Grant

Hernan G. Alvarez, PhD student

Tropical Conservation and Development Field Research Grant, Robin E. Nadeau Graduate Research Award

Alex Baecher, PhD candidate

Robin E. Nadeau Graduate Research Award

Amanda Brinton, PhD candidate

William C. and Bertha M. Cornett Fellowship

Trista Brophy-Duron, PhD candidate

Doris and Earl Lowe and Verna Lowe Scholarship

Po-An Chen, PhD student

Werner and Hildegard Hesse Research Award

Sinomar Ferreira Da Fonseca, Jr., PhD candidate

Wildlife Conservation Network Scholarship, Doris Lowe and Earl and Verna Lowe Scholarship, Robin E. Nadeau Graduate Research Award

Priyanka Hari Haran, PhD student

ATBC Seed Research Grant, James Davidson Graduate Travel Scholarship, American Ornithological Society Travel Award, Tropical Conservation and Development Field Research Grant, Tropical Conservation and Development Conference Award



Photo credit: David Klinges, SNRE IE PhD candidate



Photo credit: Orlando Acevedo-Charry, SNRE IE PhD candidate

Hermudananto, PhD candidate

Indonesian Lecturer Excellence Scholarship, Overseas Travel Grant; American-Indonesian Cultural & Educational Foundation

Maggie Jones, PhD candidate

Robin E. Nadeau Graduate Research Award

Emily Khazan, PhD

Doris and Earl Lowe and Verna Lowe Scholarship

David Klinges, PhD candidate

Tropical Conservation and Development Practitioner Grant, Robin E. Nadeau Graduate Research Award, Research Mini-Grant; Southeast Climate Adaptation Science Center, Research Abroad for Doctoral Students (RAD); UF International Center

Dakota Lewis, PhD student

Forage Fish Research Program Fellowship, UF Biodiversity Institute Graduate Student Summer Fellowship

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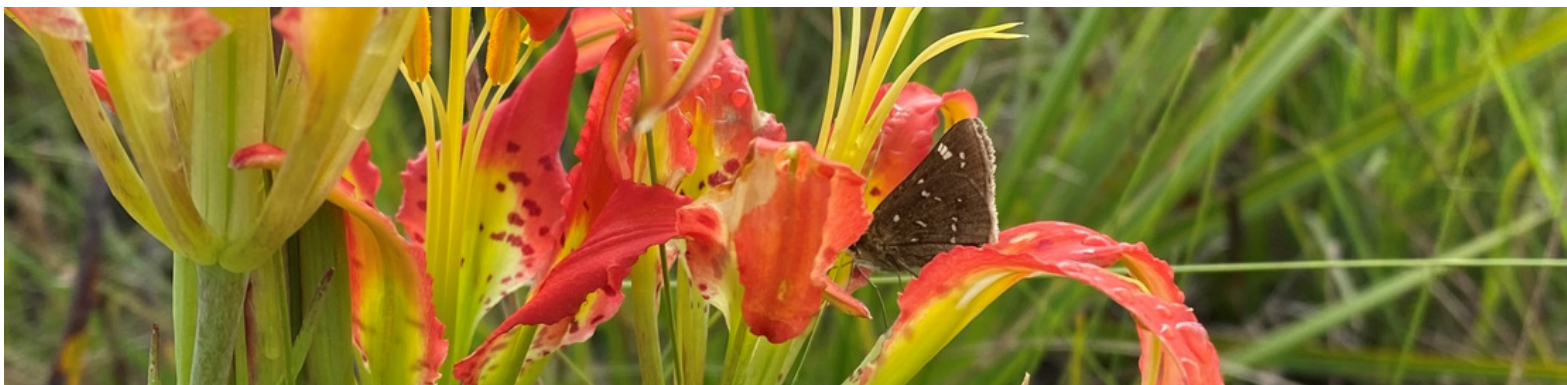


Photo credit: Rachel Walsh, SNRE IE PhD student

Vanessa Luna-Celino, PhD candidate	Doris and Earl Lowe and Verna Lowe Scholarship
Angela Melidosian, PhD candidate	William C. and Bertha M. Cornett Fellowship
Amanda Muni-Morgan, PhD student	Florida Stormwater Association Educational Foundation Scholarship, William C. and Bertha M. Cornett Fellowship
Emily Pappo, PhD candidate	Lewis and Clark Fund for Exploration and Field Research
Justin Pitts, PhD student	UF Food Systems Institute Graduate Fellowship
Seth Robinson, PhD candidate	Margaret A. Davidson Graduate Fellowship
Esteban Rodofili, PhD candidate	Robin E. Nadeau Graduate Research Award
Jamila Roth, PhD candidate	William C. and Bertha M. Cornett Fellowship
Sarah Steele Cabrera, PhD candidate	Robin E. Nadeau Graduate Research Award
Natalia Teryda, PhD student	Doris and Earl Lowe and Verna Lowe Scholarship, Sigma Xi Grant in Aid of Research
Natalia Uribe-Castañeda, PhD student	Wave of Change Scholarship, Tropical Conservation and Development Field Research Grant, International Coral Reef Society Ruth Gates Fellowship, Reef Futures Scholarship, Biodiversity Institute Fellowship, William C. and Bertha M. Cornett Fellowship
Ernesto Viveiros de Castro, PhD candidate	Robin E. Nadeau Graduate Research Award
Sam Zlotnik, PhD candidate	AAAS 2022 Mass Media Fellowship

Photo credit: Amanda Muni-Morgan
SNRE IE PhD student

Undergraduate Student Awards

Diego Rivera received a NOAA Hollings Scholarship; Katie Schoenberger received a Jim Roberts Scholarship from the National Association of Environmental Professionals; Kimberly Makrai received a FLAS (Foreign Language Area Studies) Scholarship; and Connor Milton and Colleen Sailsman both received a UF Thompson Earth Systems Institute Environmental Leaders Fellowship.

At the end of the spring 2022 semester, 72 of our Environmental Science students were named to either the Dean's List or the President's Honor Roll, comprising 41% of our enrolled undergraduate students. Congratulations to our undergrads!

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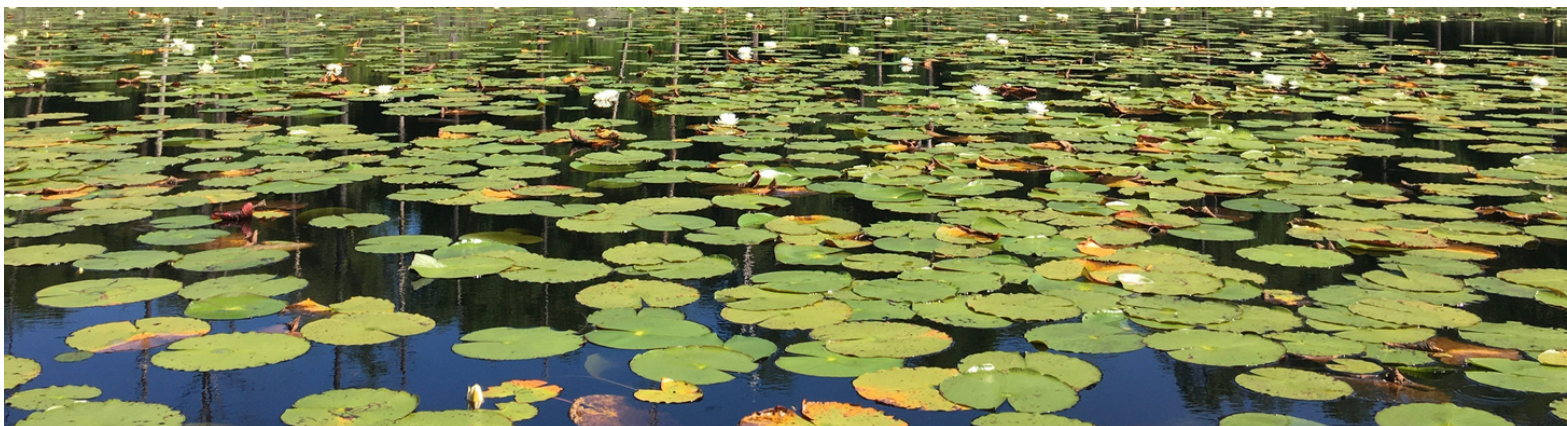


Photo credit: Annabel Schreiber, SNRE BS student

Meet the Environmental Science Alliance

The Environmental Science Alliance is the official undergraduate student organization for current and prospective Environmental Science majors and minors at the University of Florida. The organization is led by the following elected officers:

- Joel Beaudry, President
- Ashley Eachus, Internal Vice President
- Vance Herbener, External Vice President
- Nina Miniet, Secretary-Treasurer

To get involved, please contact Vance at herbenerv@ufl.edu, Joel at joel.beaudry@ufl.edu, or Dr. Danny Coenen at dcoenen@ufl.edu.



Meet our Undergraduate Liaisons

SNRE Liaisons are upper-class Environmental Science students who have a minimum GPA of 3.0 and possess leadership experiences in student organizations and societies. They assist the Environmental Science Alliance and SNRE with prospective student visits, recruitment, and acclimating new students to our school. Learn more about our liaisons [here](#).



Alexis Irvin



Katie Schoenberger



Grace Elwell



Austin Burtin

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Photo credit: Jesse Borden, SNRE IE PhD candidate

Meet our IE Connectors



Rock Aboujaoude, Jr.
[Meet Rock](#) | [Email Rock](#)



Orlando Acevedo-Charry
[Meet Orlando](#) | [Email Orlando](#)



Hernan Alvarez
[Meet Hernan](#) | [Email Hernan](#)



Sarah Steele Cabrera
[Meet Sarah](#) | [Email Sarah](#)



Emily Pappo
[Meet Emily](#) | [Email Emily](#)



Muzi Sibiya
[Meet Muzi](#) | [Email Muzi](#)

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IE Connectors are a select, small group of diverse Interdisciplinary Ecology graduate students who help new graduate students become acclimated to the School of Natural Resources and Environment. New students should feel free to reach out to our Connectors with any questions.

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SNRE ALUMNI

We want to keep in touch with SNRE alumni as they work toward sustainable environment and human solutions for today's complex challenges.

If you are an SNRE alum, please use the link below to fill out a short form with your current contact information. You can use the comment section to include any updates about your personal or professional life. We look forward to hearing from you!

[Connect With Us](#)

Meet our Graduate Student Council



Jenna Reimer,
President



Natalia Uribe-Castañeda,
Treasurer



Ashpreet Kaur,
Secretary

The SNRE Graduate Student Council exists to promote interaction among graduate students. Recently, the Council has assisted with planning the SNRE Research Symposium, organized a qualifying exams panel, and hosted a trivia night. Join the Council's Microsoft Teams page for more information or contact Jenna Reimer at reimerj@ufl.edu.

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Photo credit: David Klinges, SNRE IE PhD candidate

Affiliate Faculty Highlights



Congratulations to Dr. Robert D. Holt!

Dr. Robert Holt, Eminent Scholar and Arthur R. Marshall, Jr., Chair in Ecological Studies in the Biology Department, was elected to the National Academy of Sciences. This prestigious appointment acknowledges Dr. Holt's contributions to the fields of evolutionary, population, and community ecology.



Congratulations to Dr. Bette Loiselle!

Dr. Bette Loiselle, Director of the Tropical Conservation and Development Program and Professor in the Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Department, was elected to the American Academy of Arts & Sciences. She also received the 2021-22 UF Faculty Doctoral Mentoring Award.



Photo credit: Brooke Moffis, SNRE IE PhD student

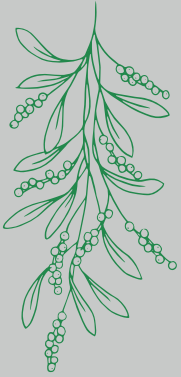
Our faculty and students earned so many awards this past year, we couldn't include them all! Visit our [SNRE website](#) for a full list of student and faculty awards from the previous academic year.

Meet our Faculty Advisory Council

The School of Natural Resources and Environment's Faculty Advisory Council (FAC) is made up of 15 affiliate faculty members who serve three-year staggered terms. The FAC advises the SNRE Director and staff on the formulation and execution of SNRE academic programs, plans, and policies. Learn more about the Faculty Advisory Council [here](#).

Current members: Bette Loiselle - Chair; Mike Allen, Anita Anantharam, Ben Baiser, Mysha Clarke, Luke Flory, James Jawitz, David Kaplan, Greg Kiker, Jeremy Lichstein, Jamie Loizzo, Robert McCleery, Stephen Perz, Lindsey Reisinger, Laura Reynolds

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GIVING

Donor gifts from alumni and friends are a boost to our academic programs and without their support, we would not be able to maintain a high level of academic excellence. We sincerely thank our alumni and friends for their generous support of SNRE programs. [Please donate today.](#)

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is a biannual update from the School of Natural Resources and Environment. For questions, comments, or submissions, please contact Stephanie Castellano at scastellano@ufl.edu; Christy LaPlante at christyn@ufl.edu; and Rachel Walsh at rachel.walsh@ufl.edu.

Thank you for reading!

From all of us at the
School of Natural Resources and Environment
Wishing you

Happy Holidays