

# SNRE *niche*

## From the Director

Welcome to the Spring 2023 issue of the SNRE Niche, a biannual newsletter from the School of Natural Resources and Environment.

Our Environmental Science undergraduate program now has approximately 200 students (60% BS and 40% BA students), and during Spring 2023 we graduated 31 students. Our Interdisciplinary Ecology program is home to 116 graduate students (84% PhD and 16% MS students). This spring and summer we welcome 7 PhD and 2 MS students, and we are expecting 14 PhD and 6 MS students to start in the fall semester. Our students are advised by more than 300 faculty members from across the University of Florida.

SNRE's 2023 Research Symposium was a great success with more than 150 attendees. Thanks to students, staff, and faculty for their active participation in the symposium. We sincerely thank IFAS SVP, CALS Dean, and the Robin E. Nadeau Fund for the financial support of the SNRE Research Symposium. Thanks also to Rock Aboujaoude, Christy LaPlante, Karen Bray, Natalia Teryda, Stephanie Castellano, and Rachel Walsh for their excellent work in organizing the symposium.

We welcome Drs. Anita Anantharam, Ben Baiser, Basil Iannone, Dorota Porazinska and Sadie Ryan to serve a three-year term on the SNRE Faculty Advisory Council (FAC). We thank three outgoing members, Drs. Mysha Clarke, Lindsey Reisinger, and Laura Reynolds, for their dedicated service on the FAC.

We are also extremely grateful for the continued support of our alumni, affiliate and core faculty, staff, partner department chairs and directors of research centers and institutes, IFAS administration and private donors including the Robin Nadeau Family.

To our alumni, please stay in touch—we want to know how SNRE influenced your professional careers and development.

Please enjoy reading our newsletter and we wish you all a productive and restful summer semester.

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

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**300+  
Affiliate  
Faculty**

**50  
Departments**

**1,500+  
Graduates**

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## *Welcome to our new undergraduate academic advisor!*

The School of Natural Resources and Environment is pleased to announce that Tracy Moorman has joined its staff as the new undergraduate academic advisor. Tracy comes to the University of Florida from Santa Fe College, where she worked as an advisor in the High School Dual Enrollment Program. She is a UF graduate and is excited to be back at her alma mater, working with environmental science students. Her hometown is Dunedin, Florida.

Undergraduate and prospective students can find Tracy in her office at McCarty Hall D, Room 2044. She can also be reached by phone at 352-294-6381 or email at [tracy.moorman@ufl.edu](mailto:tracy.moorman@ufl.edu).

[Read more about Tracy here.](#)



Meet Tracy Moorman, SNRE's new undergraduate advisor

## *Farewell to Ashley, our former undergraduate advisor!*

SNRE would also like to thank our former undergraduate academic advisor, Ashley Martin, for her wonderful work with SNRE students pursuing their Environmental Science degrees. Ashley served as our undergraduate academic advisor from 2021 to 2023. She moved with her family to Spanish Fort, Alabama in spring 2023, and is now a program manager at the University of South Alabama's Stokes School of Marine & Environmental Sciences. We wish her all the best in her new position!



Thanks to Ashley Martin, our former undergraduate advisor!



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## Looking Back: The 2023 SNRE Research Symposium

April 4, 2023

Thank you to all our students, faculty and guests who helped make the 2023 SNRE Research Symposium a success! Thanks to Dr. Scott Angle (IFAS SVP) and Dr. Elaine Turner (CALS Dean) for providing introductory remarks in support of our natural resources and environmental sciences programs. Thanks to Dr. Robert D. Holt, Eminent Scholar and Arthur R. Marshall, Jr., Chair in Ecological Studies at the UF Biology Department, for his thought-provoking keynote presentation. We appreciate the presentations by early-career affiliate faculty members, Drs. Miguel Acevedo, Mysha Clarke, Jessica Kahler, and Jiangxiao Qiu, as well as the oral and poster presentations by our graduate and undergraduate students. Thank you also to our faculty and student judges, who helped select our award-winning presentations.

### We are thrilled to announce the 2023 Research Symposium Award winners!

#### Best Oral Presentation:

Emily Pappo (Advisors: Luke Flory and Chris Wilson, Agronomy)

#### Honorable Mention Oral Presentation:

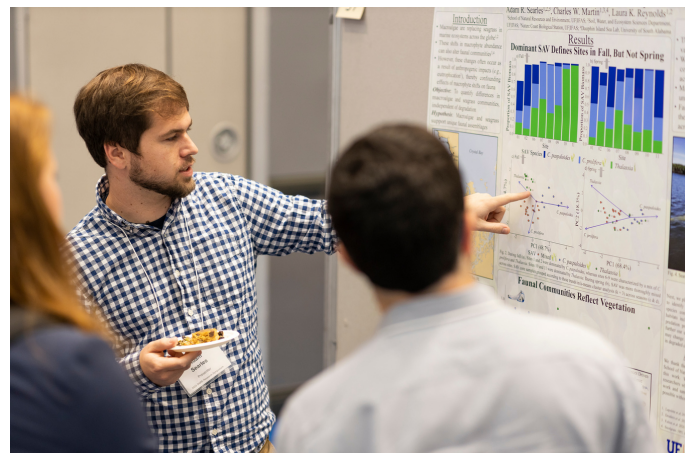
Maggie Jones (Advisors: Bob McCleery and Rob Fletcher, Wildlife Ecology and Conservation)

#### Best Poster Presentations:

Ana Yoko Ykeuti Meiga (Advisor: Denis Valle, Forest, Fisheries and Geomatic Sciences), Yiyang Kang (Advisor: David Kaplan, Environmental Engineering Sciences), Ashpreet Kaur (Advisor: Christine Overdevest, Sociology and Criminology & Law), Kendall Mackin (B.S. student)

#### Honorable Mention Poster Presentations:

Sarah Steele Cabrera (Advisor: Jaret Daniels, Florida Museum of Natural History), Josue St. Fort (Advisor: Carlene Chase, Horticultural Sciences), Alexis Irvin (B.S. student), Brooke Moffis (Advisor: Basil Iannone, Forest, Fisheries and Geomatic Sciences)





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Photo credit: David Klings, SNRE PhD candidate

## Spring 2023 New PhD Students



### **Taryn Chaya**

Chair: Dr. Todd Osborne,  
Whitney Laboratory for  
Marine Bioscience

Taryn's research will focus on the biogeochemical relationships between planted clams and seagrasses in the Indian River Lagoon estuary.



### **Jason Evert**

Chair: Dr. Todd Osborne,  
Whitney Laboratory for  
Marine Bioscience

Jason's research interests include the factors driving estuarine fish assemblages, and ecosystem services of living shorelines and habitat restoration.



### **Cassidy Haney**

Co-Chairs: Dr. Mark Clark,  
Department of Soil, Water,  
and Ecosystem Sciences, and  
Dr. Savanna Barry, Nature  
Coast Biological Station

Cassidy's research focuses on the effect of recreation on coastal ecosystems.



### **Jaiere Harlow**

Chair: Dr. Ray Carthy, Florida  
Cooperative Fish and Wildlife  
Research Unit and Department  
of Wildlife Ecology and  
Conservation

Jaiere will analyze how ecological and anthropogenic factors affect movement, foraging and behavioral patterns of Florida manatees.



### **Drew Hiatt**

Chair: Dr. Luke Flory,  
Agronomy Department

Drew is interested in understanding how post-introduction evolution, particularly to frost tolerance, impacts the spread of Brazilian peppertree (*Schinus terbinthifolia*).



### **Anna Klevtcova**

Chair: Dr. Jessica Kahler,  
Sociology and Criminology &  
Law

Anna will explore socio-physiological factors influencing hunters' attitudes toward management of their hunting lands.



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Photo credit: Vanessa Luna-Celino, SNRE IE PhD Student

## Fall 2022 Graduates

### PhD and MS, Interdisciplinary Ecology

Sam Zlotnik, PhD | Chair: Christine Miller, Entomology

Alize Hardin, MS | Chair: Michal Kowalewski, Florida Museum of Natural History

Amanda Brinton, PhD | Chair: Tim Townsend, Engineering School of Sustainable Infrastructure & Environment, Co-chair: David Diehl, Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences

Aaron Pilnick, PhD | Chair: Josh Patterson, Fisheries & Aquatic Sciences

Forrest Lefler, PhD | Chair: Dail Laughinghouse, Agronomy

Jamila Roth, PhD | Chair: Laura Reynolds, Soil, Water, and Ecosystem Sciences

Jesse Borden, PhD | Chair: Luke Flory, Agronomy

Carolyn Enloe, PhD | Chair: Rebecca Kimball, Biology

Joseph Littell, MS | Chair: Steve Johnson, Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

J. Scott Borsum, PhD | Chair: Ed Camp, Fisheries & Aquatic Sciences



Pictured above: The Loammi Skipper, an imperiled Florida butterfly, perches in a field. (Photo credit: Rachel Walsh, SNRE IE PhD student)

### BA and BS, Environmental Science

Mollie Dent, BS | Shannon McCloskey, BS | Mireya Abrucia, BA |  
Kayana Haeusser, BA | Marisa Lotito, BA



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Photo credit: UF/IFAS

## Spring 2023 Graduates

### PhD and MS, Interdisciplinary Ecology

Amanda Markee, MS | Chair: Akito Kawahara, Florida Museum of Natural History

Marc Duquette, MS | Chair: Kitty Emery, Anthropology

Emily Pappo, PhD | Chair: Luke Flory, Agronomy

### BA and BS, Environmental Science

Joel Beaudry, BA | Colin Dobbins, BA | Ashley Eachus, BA | Meghan Gregoire, BA | Vance Herbener, BA | Lauren Justice, BA | Alexandra Kolesnikov, BA | Sean Kurvers, BA | Kassandra Miller, BA | Nina Miniet, BA | Jacob Wheat, BA | Claudia Wolfenden, BA | Nico Andrade, BS | Marina Bunn, BS | Haiden Burrichter, BS | Priyanka Chandra, BS | Anand Chundi, BS | Michael Ettlinger, BS | Alexis Irvin, BS | Kendall Mackin, BS | Sarah Marc, BS | Ringo Mbuya, BS | Ellen Oldham, BS | Joseph Paoli, BS | Stone Pinchuk, BS | Kathleen Schoenberger, BS | Jenna Shaefer, BS | Bethany Sparks, BS | Johanna Walker, BS | Marion Warfel, BS | Kaitlin Yap, BS



Pictured above: B.S. Environmental Science student, Katie Schoenberger, collects water samples for her research on urban streams. (Photo credit: Katie Schoenberger, Environmental Science B.S. student)



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Photo credit: Drew Hiatt, SNRE IE PhD Student

## Announcing the 2023 SNRE Nadeau Graduate Research Award winners!

The Nadeau Graduate Research Award supports SNRE graduate students pursuing their master's or doctoral degrees in Interdisciplinary Ecology. The Robin E. Nadeau Fund was established to promote research and education in SNRE, and the annual award highlights the unique interdisciplinary studies happening across the school.

SNRE graduate students can apply for the Nadeau grant to support research activities such as travel to internationally recognized institutions to learn new techniques; participation in scientific meetings related to their research; presenting research at national and international meetings; and conducting research in the field. Applications open in the spring.

### The recipients of the 2023 Nadeau Graduate Research Award are:



#### Hannah Gottesman

Hannah is interested in movement ecology of fishes and fisheries sustainability. The Nadeau grant will support her dissertation research on the spatial ecology and population connectivity of gag grouper (*Mycteroperca microlepis*).



#### Vanessa Luna

Vanessa's research focuses on community-based fire management in the Peruvian Andes. The Robin E. Nadeau Award will support Vanessa in the final stage of the data collection for her dissertation.



#### Savannah Troy

Savannah will use the funds from the Nadeau research grant for a field expedition to Africa, where she will study the trophic relationships between birds, insects and plants in protected savanna habitats.



#### Natalia Uribe-Castañeda

Natalia's research focuses on community engagement in coral reef restoration. The Robin E. Nadeau Award will provide travel support as she assesses a reef restoration program in the Florida Keys.



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Photo credit: Anu Rai, SNRE IE MS 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:

- Diego River, President
- Paula Davo, Internal Vice President
- Tyler Hall, External Vice President
- Emily Reid, Secretary-Treasurer

To get involved, please contact Faculty Advisor Dr. Danny Coenen at [dcoenen@ufl.edu](mailto: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](#).



Navya Natarajan



Brynn Fricke



Grace Elwell



Zachary Loveland



Anna Mavrodieva



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Photo credit: Anu Rai, SNRE IE MS Student

## Meet our IEC 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](#)



**Ana Yoko**  
[Meet Ana](#) | [Email Ana](#)



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

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IEC 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.

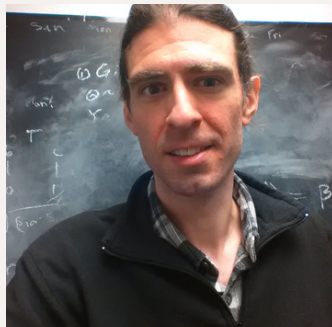
If you are an SNRE alum, please use the link below to fill out a short form with your current contact information. You can use the comment section to include any updates about your personal or professional life. We look forward to hearing from you!

[\*\*Connect With Us\*\*](#)

## Meet our Graduate Student Council



**Jenna Reimer,**  
President



**Jeff Mintz,**  
Vice President



**Natalia Uribe-Castañeda,**  
Treasurer

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](mailto:reimerj@ufl.edu).



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Photo credit: Fernando Noriega, SNRE PhD Student

## Affiliate Faculty Highlights

This year three SNRE affiliate faculty members were named Lifetime Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, one the most distinctive honors in academia. The award recognizes extraordinary achievement and impact across disciplines. Congratulations to the following faculty members:

- Dr. Emilio Bruna, Wildlife Ecology and Conservation
- Dr. Pam Soltis, Florida Museum of Natural History
- Dr. Matthew Smith, Plant Pathology

We also would like to congratulate Dr. Samira Daroub, an affiliate faculty member from the Department of Soil, Water, and Ecosystem Sciences, for being elected as President of the Soil Science Society of America (SSSA). She will serve her term in the year 2024. The SSSA has more than 6,000 members and brings together professionals who are advancing the field of soil science.

Visit our [SNRE website](#) for a full list of student and faculty awards from the Fall 2022 semester.



Photo credit: UF/IFAS



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Photo credit: UF/IFAS

## 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), Director and Professor, Tropical Conservation and Development Program
- Mike Allen, Director and Professor, Nature Coast Biological Station
- Anita Anantharam, Associate Professor, Department of Gender, Sexualities, and Women's Studies
- Ben Baiser, Associate Professor, Wildlife Ecology and Conservation
- Luke Flory, Professor, Agronomy Department
- Basil Iannone, Assistant Professor, School of Forest, Fisheries, & Geomatics Sciences
- James Jawitz, Professor, Department of Soil, Water, and Ecosystem Sciences
- David Kaplan, Associate Professor, Engineering School of Sustainable Infrastructure and Environment
- Greg Kiker, Professor, Agricultural and Biological Engineering Department
- Jeremy Lichstein, Associate Professor, Biology Department
- Jamie Loizzo, Assistant Professor, Agricultural Education and Communication Department
- Robert McCleery, Professor, Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Department
- Stephen Perz, Chair and Professor, Sociology and Criminology & Law Department
- Dorota Porazinska, Assistant Professor, Entomology and Nematology Department
- Sadie Ryan, Associate Professor, Geography Department



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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](mailto:scastellano@ufl.edu) or Christy LaPlante at [christyn@ufl.edu](mailto:christyn@ufl.edu).

Thank you for reading!



Pictured: First Place Winner of SNRE Spring 2023 Photo Contest, submitted by Vanessa Luna-Celino, SNRE IE PhD student, featuring her work on community-based fire management in the Peruvian Andes.