



From the Director

Welcome to the School of Natural Resources and Environment (SNRE) Fall 2025 newsletter – SNRE niche informs readers about SNRE activities and connects with alumni, faculty, students, UF partners, and external stakeholders.

In this newsletter, we celebrate the accomplishments of its students, including fellowship awards and high-quality research outcomes. During the Summer 2025 semester, 3 undergraduate Environmental Science students and 12 Interdisciplinary Ecology (IEC) graduate students (3 M.S. and 9 Ph.D.) graduated.

SNRE also welcomed 48 Environmental Science B.A./B.S. students and 30 Interdisciplinary Ecology students (8 M.S. and 22 Ph.D.) this semester. Currently, SNRE has 200 undergraduate students and 148 graduate students. In Fall 2025, SNRE initiated an online M.S. Interdisciplinary Ecology degree program ([Online MS Degree - SNRE](#)) and is currently accepting applications.

The 2025 SNRE Research Symposium was a great success with approximately 350+ attendees. The keynote speaker for this year’s research symposium was Dr. Nicholas Aumen, an Aquatic Ecologist (formerly with USGS), who presented on the topic, “Integrative interdisciplinary science in support of ecological restoration: the Everglades case study.” We are grateful for the generous financial support provided by UF/IFAS CALS, UF Graduate School, and 18 academic partners (see [2025-SNRE-Research-Symposium-Booklet.pdf](#)).

We are incredibly grateful for the continued support of our alumni, affiliate faculty, administrative leaders of partner academic units, and research centers and institutes, as well as the SNRE Faculty Advisory Council and the UF/IFAS administration.

To our alumni, we invite you to share your stories with us. We would like to know how SNRE academic programs have influenced your professional career and development.

We wish you all a happy and safe holiday season. Go Gators!

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

In this Issue

Online IEC M.S. Program 2

2025 SNRE Research Symposium 3

Welcome New Graduate Students 4

Congratulations Recent Graduates 8

Spotlight: SNRE Alumni 9

Spotlight: Student Awardees 10

UF Graduate School BRIDGE Program ... 11

Student Organizations..... 12

New Affiliate Faculty 14

Photo Contest Winners 17

About the Newsletter 18

Save the Date

SNRE

Research
Symposium

J. Wayne Reitz Union
Grand Ballroom

Thursday
November 5, 2026



SNRE *niche*

Interdisciplinary Ecology Online

The School of Natural Resources and Environment launched the Online Professional Master of Science (MS) Degree in Interdisciplinary Ecology beginning Fall 2025. The online MS degree will have the same requirements as the current on-campus MS degree program and is accepting applications for students since the beginning of this semester.

This new professional degree program will support place-bound professionals in ecology and environmental sciences. The program captures the interdisciplinary nature of the ecology graduate program by enriching opportunities for board education to students engaged in core disciplines and professional degree programs; integrating discipline-centered graduate education to offer both basic and applied science and policy analysis as related to ecosystems and associated with environmental science.

Learn about our Master of Science Degree for thesis and non-thesis tracks in Interdisciplinary Ecology for distance education [here!](#)

Accepting Applications

The SNRE is now accepting applications for our new M.S. in Interdisciplinary Ecology online program for distance education students.

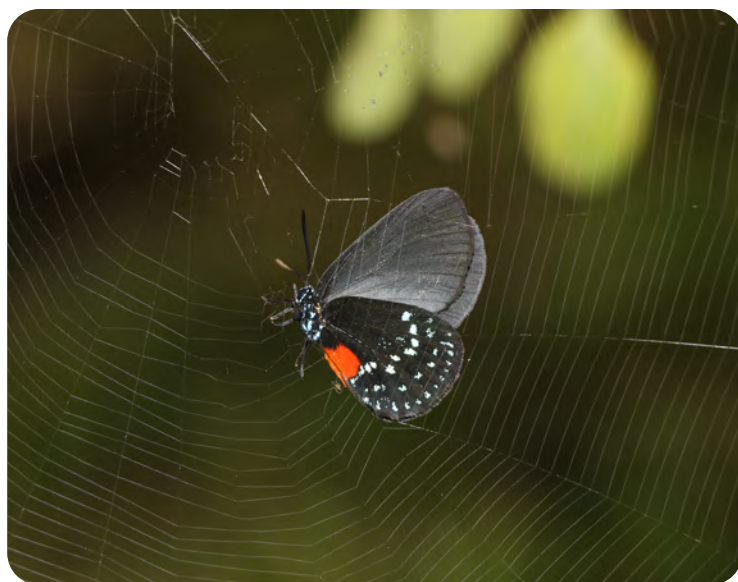


Photo Credit: Anisha Sapkota, IEC Ph.D. Student

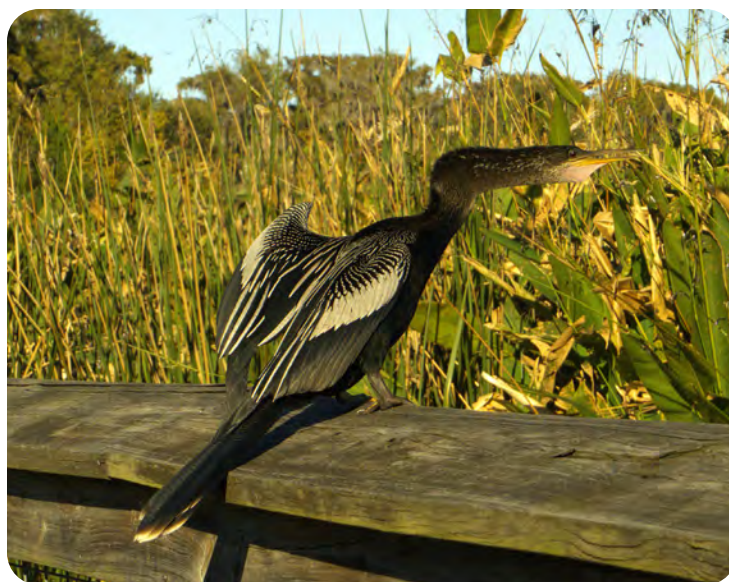


Photo Credit: Jelvi Fika, IEC M.S. Student

SNRE *niche*

2025 SNRE Research Symposium

The 2025 SNRE Research Symposium was held on October 14, 2025, and hosted over 350 attendees, faculty, and students. The goals of this symposium were to provide graduate and undergraduate students a framework to showcase their interdisciplinary research, enhance interaction among students and faculty with participants from the state and federal agencies, and private consulting firms and industry. This year, we had over 75 presenters, and a few were recognized for their innovative research and communicating it effectively.



Photo Credit: Rola Jiang, IEC M.S. Student



Keynote Speaker: Dr. Nicholas G. Aumen, Aquatic Ecologist

Keynote Address: Integrative Interdisciplinary Science in Support of Ecological Restoration: the Everglades Case Study

Dr. Nicholas Aumen served as Acting Deputy Regional Director for the USGS Southeast Region and held key roles in the Greater Everglades Priority Ecosystem Sciences Program, Everglades National Park, and the South Florida Water Management District. He chaired the committee for the biennial Greater Everglades Ecosystem Restoration (GEER) science conference for 12 years. With over 40 years of experience, Dr. Aumen has contributed to the restoration and conservation of ecosystems across the southeastern US, with major efforts in Florida.

Congratulations Awardees!

Best Oral Presentation:

- **Medelin Kant** (Chair: Dr. William Hammond, Agronomy)

Honorable mention Oral Presentation:

- **Rachel Walsh** (Chairs: Dr. Akito Kawahara and Dr. Jaret Daniels, Florida Museum of Natural History)

Best Poster Presentation, BS/BA Student:

- **Cailin Fouraker** (Chair: Dr. Dengjun Wang, Agricultural and Biological Engineering)
- **Andrew Lebowitz** (Chair: Dr. Matthew Cohen, Forest, Fisheries and Geomatics Sciences)

Best Poster Presentation, MS Student:

- **Nicole Luchau** (Chair: Dr. David Chagaris, Nature Coast Biological Station)

Honorable Mention Poster Presentation, MS Student:

- **Madyson D'Espies** (Chair: Dr. Iske Larkin, Large Animal Clinical Sciences)

Best Poster Presentations, PhD Student:

- **Hernan Alvarez** (Chair: Dr. Jessica Kahler, Sociology and Criminology & Law)
- **Oluwasegun Olubisi** (Chairs: Dr. Mary Lusk, Gulf Coast Research and Education Center and Dr. Davie Kadyampakeni, Citrus Research and Education Center)
- **Carolina Simon Pardo** (Chairs: Dr. Yue Li, Forest, Fisheries and Geomatics Sciences and Dr. Julie Brown, Teaching and Learning)
- **Lydia Soifer** (Chair: Dr. Brett Schaffers, Wildlife Ecology and Conservation)
- **Ana Yoko Ykeuti Meiga** (Chair: Dr. Denis Valle, Forest, Fisheries and Geomatics Sciences)

Honorable Mention Poster Presentation, PhD Student:

- **Yukti Taneja** (Chair: Dr. Luke Flory, Agronomy)

SNRE *niche*

summer & Fall 2025 New M.S. students



C. Analise Fussell Persaud

Chair: Dr. Corey Callaghan, Fort Lauderdale REC

Research: Assessing the potential of citizen science data to track changes in abundance of wading birds in South Florida



Rola Jiang

Chair: Dr. Jamie Loizzo, Agricultural Education and Communication

Research: Project-based learning, Environmental Education



Alex Mione

Chair: Dr. Travis Thomas, Nature Coast Biological Station, Cedar Key, FL



Miguel Romero-Olvera

Chair: Dr. Christina Romagosa, Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

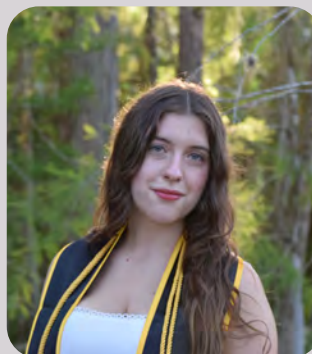
Research: Exploring optimal habitats for next bow placement for support of Southeastern American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius paulus*) restoration by increasing nesting success and post-fledging survival



Md. Jahir Rayhan

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

Research: Linnean and Wallacean Shortfalls (addressing knowledge gaps) in moths and butterflies



Christy Walton

Chair: Dr. William Hammond, Agronomy

Research: Hurricane Helene's Impact on Pine Tree Hydraulic Function and Disease Risk



Nigel G. Williams

Chair: Dr. Carolina Baruzzi, North Florida REC, Quincy, FL

Research: Integrated Ecological and social research on deer-crop depredation in North Florida



Morgan Wingo

Chair: Dr. Carolina Baruzzi, North Florida REC, Quincy, FL

Research: Grassland community ecology, fire ecology, and wildlife site-use

SNRE *niche*

summer & Fall 2025 New Ph.D. students



Edison Bonilla Liberato

Chair: Dr. Sergio Balaguera-Reina, Fort Lauderdale REC

Co-Chair: Dr. Frank Mazzotti, Fort Lauderdale REC

Research: Ecology, management, and population status of the American alligator in the Everglades



Miles Buddy

Chair: Dr. Nico Cellinese, Florida Museum of Natural History

Co-Chair: Dr. Nicolas Gauthier, Florida Museum of Natural History

Research: Phylogenetics and phylogeny of Campunulaceae in the Mediterranean Basin



Sagar Budhathoki

Chair: Dr. Jeremy Lichstein, Biology

Research: Seedling dynamics under disturbance scenarios



Diogenes Castillo Berroa

Chair: Dr. Robert Lamb, Nature Coast Biological Station, Cedar Key, FL

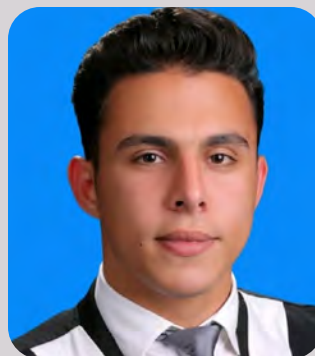
Research: Assessing genetic diversity and management of key Dominican freshwater fishes



Cameron Dasher

Chair: Dr. Luke Flory, Agronomy

Research: The Role of Anthropogenic Disturbance in Shaping Plant Communities and Facilitating Plant Invasions at the Eastern Andean Treeline



Mohanad Diab

Chair: Dr. Chang Zhao, Agronomy

Research: GeoAI, Artificial Intelligence, Remote Sensing



Bailey Dunn

Chair: Dr. Brian Child, Geography

Research: Governance issues in rural communities located near protected areas in southern Africa



Gabrielle Foursa

Chair: Dr. Ashley Smyth, Tropical REC, Homestead, FL

Co-Chair: Dr. Angela Collins, Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences

Research: Restoration Ecology

SNRE *niche*

summer & Fall 2025 New Ph.D. students



David Hagyar

Chair: Dr. Nico Cellinese, Florida Museum of Natural History

Co-Chair: Dr. Vaughn Shirey, Florida Museum of Natural History

Research: Longleaf Pine Conservation and Phylogenetics



Meghan Holst

Chair: Dr. Jonathan Nations, Florida Museum of Natural History

Research: Mammalian morphology and coloration



Sarina Kawaii

Chair: Dr. Matthew Hallett, Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

Research: Human-Wildlife Conflict in the Rupununi, Guyana



Hope Morris

Chair: Dr. Flavia Tabay Zambon, Indian River REC, Fort Pierce, FL

Research: How soil amendments affect young grapefruit tree health and establishment in HLB and canker affected trees



Ildephonse Niragire

Chair: Dr. Dorota Porazinska, Entomology and Nematology

Research: Nematode diversity across a gradient of habitats in the Nebraska Sandhills



Caleb Atsu Nyatuame

Chair: Dr. Yue Li, Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences

Research: Integrating AI Tools into Teaching Pedagogy for a Culturally Responsive Environmental Education to Enhance Teacher Capacity Building



Sacha Alex Orenstein

Chair: Dr. Gerrit Hoogenboom, Agricultural and Biological Engineering

Research: Agro-Pastoral Ecology in West Africa



Kaitlin Robb Price

Chair: Dr. Laura Warner, Agricultural Education and Communication

Research: Understanding High Water Users - Strategies for Reducing Residential Water Use

SNRE *niche*

summer & Fall 2025 New Ph.D. students



Daniela Rojas-Canizales

Chair: Dr. Vanessa Hull, Wildlife, Ecology and Conservation

Research: Examining the human behaviors and motivations behind the legal and illegal take of sea turtles



Anisha Sapkota

Chair: Dr. Vaughn Shirey, Florida Museum of Natural History

Research: The Role of Iridescence in Cryptic Speciation of Lycaenid Butterflies and Its Vulnerability to Climate Change



Carolina Simon-Pardo

Chair: Dr. Yue Li, Forest, Fisheries and Geomatics Sciences

Co-Chair: Dr. Julie Brown, Teaching and Learning

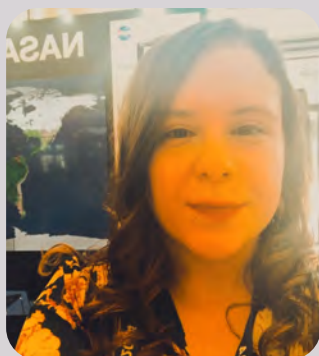
Research: Biocultural Conservation, Science and Environmental Education of Indigenous Youth in the Colombian Amazon



Ondine Wells

Chair: Dr. Paul Monaghan, Agricultural Education and Communication

Research: Extension education approaches for achieving water resource protection across key stakeholder groups



Melpomeni Zoka

Chair: Dr. Nikolaos Tziolas, Southwest Florida REC

Co-Chair: Dr. James Jawitz, Soil, Water, and Ecosystem Sciences

Research: Physics-Informed Neural Networks and Earth Observation for Natural Resources Applications

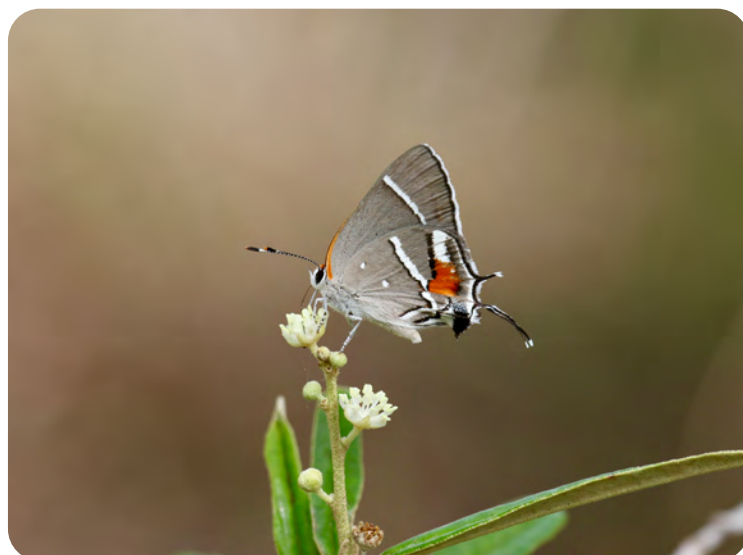


Photo Credit: Anisha Sapkota, IEC Ph.D. Student

SNRE *niche*

Summer 2025 Graduates

Ph.D. and M.S., Interdisciplinary Ecology

Photo Credit: UF/IFAS



Yiyang Kang, Ph.D.

Chair: Dr. David Kaplan, Environmental Engineering Sciences



Mayra Rivas, Ph.D.

Chair: Dr. Conner Mullally, Food and Resource Economics



Adam Searles, Ph.D.

Chair: Dr. Charlie Martin, Nature Coast Biological Station

Co-Chair: Dr. Laura Reynolds, Soil, Water, and Ecosystem Sciences



Josue St Fort, Ph.D.

Chair: Dr. Carlene A. Chase, Horticultural Sciences
Co-Chair: Dr. Vivek Sharma, Agricultural and Biological Engineering



Jessica Tittl, Ph.D.

Chair: Dr. Julie Meyer, Soil, Water, and Ecosystem Sciences

Not Pictured:

Allison Cauvin, Ph.D.

Chair: Dr. Julie Meyer, Soil, Water, and Ecosystem Science

Co-Chair: Andrew Altieri, Environmental Engineering Sciences

Sarah Steele Cabrera, Ph.D.

Chair: Dr. Jaret Daniels, Florida Museum of Natural History

Savanna Troy, Ph.D.

Chair: Dr. Robert Fletcher, Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

Co-Chair: Ben Baiser, Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

Ran Zhi, Ph.D.

Chair: Dr. Jiangxiao Qiu, Fort Lauderdale REC

Andrew Cinquini, M.S.

Chair: Dr. William Hammond, Agronomy

Samantha Lowe, M.S.

Chair: Dr. Corey Callaghan, Fort Lauderdale REC

Kathleen Schoenberger, M.S.

Chair: Dr. David Kaplan, Environmental Engineering Sciences

Environmental Science, B.S.

Dara Desai

Brianna Loughran

Emily Reid

*Congratulations
Graduates!*

SNRE *niche*

Spotlight: SNRE Alumni



Celine Carneiro, IEC M.S. Graduate, 2021

Since graduating from SNRE, I've started my Ph.D. in Integrative Biology at The University of Texas at Austin in their Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior program with Dr. Kelly Zamudio. In her lab, I've been studying the potential consequences of future climate change on Puerto Rican frogs using genomics and ecological modeling. Part of my research focuses on the future persistence of a single, endemic species: *Eleutherodactylus coqui*, also known as the coquí común or common coquí.

This year, we published a literature review in Molecular Ecology that quantifies global disparities in genomic resources for amphibians and reptiles, as well as collaboration biases between Global North and Global South institutions.

Dave Klinges, IEC Ph.D. Graduate, 2024

Currently, I'm a postdoctoral Associate at the Yale School of the Environment (Yale University, New Haven) with a joint appointment with the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History. Broadly, I conduct research exploring the realized impacts of past, present, and future climate change as actually experienced by life on earth. In September 2026, I will begin as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources at Rutgers University (New Brunswick, NJ). My new research group, [EcoClimate](#), will be hiring in 2026 - check out [our lab page](#) to see if you are interested in joining.



Milton Diaz, IEC Ph.D. Graduate, 2019

Currently, I am the curator of the Clavijero Botanic Garden, Xalapa, East Mexico City. Working at the Botanic Garden has given me opportunity to expand my research. My research focuses on fire ecology, community ecology, biodiversity studies, diversity, cloud forest shrub species, functional groups, and ecological restoration. Another strong area of my research includes the interaction of fire with fire-dependent ecosystems. Based on this work, I have developed a series of working hypotheses contrasting functional groups of herbaceous species with respect to root structure, leaf dynamics, and litter production in different ecosystems.

Devant'e Dawson, IEC Ph.D. Graduate, 2023

Postdoctoral Researcher at Hopkins Marine Station, Stanford University

I am a marine microbiologist and coral reef ecologist working at the intersection of science, policy, and community. My research focuses on identifying heat-resistant corals to guide climate-resilient conservation and restoration efforts in Belize. I integrate field experimentation and community-based approaches to support sustainable reef management. I also mentor students and engages in outreach to help build inclusive ocean science networks that center equity and belonging.



SNRE *niche*

Spotlight: Student Awards

FNGLA's Annual Convention

Brooke Moffis, Ph.D. Student, (Chair: Dr. Basil Iannone)
(pictured on the right)

- Brooke was awarded the 2025 Outstanding Educator Industry Award at the FNGLA's Annual Convention

National Science Foundation

Cameron Dasher, Ph.D. Student, (Chair: Dr. Luke Flory)

Carolina Simon-Pardo, Ph.D. Student, (Chairs: Dr. Yue Li and Dr. Julie Brown)

- Cam and Carolina were awarded a 3-year National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program

Simons Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship

Anisha Sapkota, Ph.D. Student, (Chair: Dr. Vaughn Shirey)

- Anisha was awarded the Simons Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship in Ecology and Evolution, which supports interdisciplinary research that bridges ecological and evolutionary processes, connecting biology with fields such as physics, computer science, mathematics, and chemistry.

UF International Center

The following SNRE doctoral students recieved research abroad travel awards 2025-2026:

Wania Cardoso, Ph.D. Student, (Chair: Dr. Cynthia Simmons)

- Research in Brazil

Rajani Maharjan, Ph.D. Student, (Chair: Dr. Bron Taylor)

- Research in Nepal

Yukti Taneja, Ph.D. Student, (Chair: Dr. Luke Flory)

- Research in the Galápagos Islands, Ecuador



Photo Credit: Miranda Millard-Bruzos
Environmental Science B.S. Student



Photo Credit: Amelia McKay
Environmental Science B.S. Student

SNRE *niche*

Hitting the Ground Running: Alex Orenstein's Success With the UF Graduate School BRIDGE Program

Alex Orenstein, an Interdisciplinary Ecology Ph.D. student, found himself facing a major challenge: **reintegrating into academia after a 15-year hiatus**. As Alex remarked, “George W. Bush was still president last time I was in a classroom!”. Feeling uneasy, he applied to the [**UF Graduate School BRIDGE Program**](#) after his advisor, Dr. Gerrit Hoogenboom, shared the invitation.

Alex found the BRIDGE program “super helpful”, stating that doing the program over the summer allowed him to “hit the ground running once the fall semester began”. Designed to ease new doctoral students into their programs, BRIDGE provided a vital “crash course in statistics, academic writing, seminars on navigating the campus resources, etc.”

However, for Alex, the most important component was the community. He described the participants as becoming “pretty fast friends,” relying on one another for advice, and affectionately called them “a lovely bunch of nerds.”

Alex absolutely recommends the program, especially for students returning after a long hiatus. He hopes more students from CALS/IFAS—his college—apply next year, noting he was surprised to be the only one from his college participating this year.



Alex Orenstein,
IEC Ph.D. Student



BRIDGE (Building Retention in Doctoral Graduate Education) is designed to support new UF Ph.D. students as they transition into their doctoral studies.

The **BRIDGE** program acts like a pre-flight checklist for Ph.D. students: ensuring all necessary systems (academic skills, resources, and social support) are fully operational before the intense journey of doctoral studies begins.

SNRE *niche*

Graduate Student Council

The SNRE Graduate Student Council (GSC) exists to promote interaction among graduate students. The Council plans events and coordinates travel grant distribution for the School of Natural Resources and Environment.

Interested students can connect with the SNRE GSC through its [Facebook page](#) and [Microsoft Teams page](#), or contact Raj Singh at singhrajkaranbir@ufl.edu



Raj Singh
President



Sylvia Adisa
Vice President



Jelvi Fika
Secretary

IEC Connectors



Ana Yoko Meiga
Ykeuti



Isaac Coleman



Oscar Godinez
Gomez

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.

[About the Connectors](#)



Joel Wixson



Shelby Kucharski



Beatrice
Kyasiimire



Yukti Taneja



Silvia de Melo
Futuda



Akshay Vinod
Anand

SNRE *niche*

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 current Officers are:

President - Eliza Sperry

Vice President of Internal Affairs - Melia Ogle

Vice President of External Affairs - Drew Kent

Treasurer - Avery Gladson

Secretary - Jillian Toppin

Media Manager - Nicole Schmidt

Alumni Relations Director - Tyler Hall

Outreach Director - Daniel Pena

From EVSA

In accordance with our ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship, the Environmental Science Alliance (EVSA) has partnered with the city of Gainesville's **Adopt-a-Street Program**. Through our Service and Sweets series, we have the honor of directly contributing to maintaining the cleanliness and beauty of our Alachua County while fostering a sense of responsibility among our members.

Three times a semester, EVSA members congregate to clean up litter and debris along our adopted street, NE 8th Avenue. We have devised a carpooling system to and from the cleanup location to prioritize sustainability and spend extra quality time with each other, reducing our collective carbon emissions and promoting eco-friendly transportation options.

This act of routine service reminds our members of the importance of taking the time to show commitment to the environment outside of our studies and extracurricular activities. Our efforts not only improve upon the aesthetic appeal of Gainesville but also produce a tangible impact on the health of our environment and waterways. Upon seeing the fruits of their labor, our members have expressed pride in the work they put into these hours. We aim to inspire fellow students to actively participate in preserving our beloved city. Our Service and Sweets series serves as a reminder of the importance of building community through environmental stewardship, and we encourage anyone to join us in these endeavors. We are proud members of Gainesville's Adopt-a-Street program.



SNRE *niche*

Meet our New Affiliate Faculty



Dr. Joseph Bisesi
Environmental and Global Health
Research Topics: Evolutionary Biology, Environmental Governance & Policy, Environmental Science, Invasive Species, Aquatic Toxicology



Dr. Catherine Campbell
Family, Youth and Community Sciences
Research Topics: Environmental Governance & Policy, Human Dimensions, Public Health, Social Science, Sustainable Food Systems



Dr. Angela Collins
Forest, Fisheries and Geomatics Sciences
Research Topics: Coastal Ecology, Ecosystem Services, Marine Ecology, Natural Resource Conservation and Management, Science Communication



Dr. Flavia Tabay Zambon
Indian River REC
Research Topics: Citrus Crop Production, Horticulture Research



Dr. Niguss Hailegnaw
Everglades REC
Research Topics: Agricultural Production, Artificial Intelligence Machine Learning, Environmental Science, Soil Resources, Sustainability



Dr. Matthew Hallett
Wildlife Ecology and Conservation
Research Topics: Tropical Ecology & Conservation, Participatory Research, Community-based Wildlife Conservation & Management



Dr. Joel Harley
Electrical and Computer Engineering
Research Topics: Signal Processing, Data Science, Acoustics, Nondestructive Evaluation, Structural Health Monitoring, Speech Processing



Dr. Grace John
Biology
Research Topics: Ecosystem Services, Environmental Science, Plant Ecology, Urban Ecology, Water Resources, Plant Ecophysiology

SNRE *niche*

Meet our New Affiliate Faculty



Dr. Jonathan Judy
Soil, Water, and Ecosystem
Sciences

Research Topics: Carbon
Dynamics and Ecosystem
Services, Nutrient, Pesticide and
Waste Management



Dr. Michelle LeFebvre
Florida Museum of Natural
History

Research Topics: Anthropology,
Archaeology, Biodiversity, Socio-
Ecological Systems, Sustainability,
Heritage Conservation



Dr. Yue Li
Forest, Fisheries and Geomatics
Sciences

Research Topics: Artificial
Intelligence Machine Learning,
Environmental Education, Social
Science, Sustainability



Dr. Melissa Miller
Fort Lauderdale REC

Research Topics: Invasion
Ecology, Invasion Mechanisms



Dr. Carey Minter
Indian River REC

Research Topics: Biodiversity,
Invasive Species, Natural
Resource Conservation and
Management, Natural Science,
Plant Ecology



Dr. Jonathan Nations
Florida Museum of Natural
History

Research Topics: Biodiversity,
Biogeography, Evolutionary Biology,
Phylogenetics, Wildlife Ecology,
Systematics, Evolutionary Ecology



Dr. Jose Rolando
Fort Lauderdale REC

Research Topics: Biogeochemistry,
Climate Change, Ecological/
Environmental Genomics, Global
Change Ecology, Microbial Ecology



Dr. Jorge Ruiz-Menjivar
Family, Youth and Community
Sciences

Research Topics: Cross-
Cultural Study Financial Risk
Tolerance, Financial Well-Being,
Financial Literacy

SNRE *niche*

Meet our New Affiliate Faculty



Dr. Misti Sharp

Food and Resource Economics

Research Topics: Ecological Economics, Natural Resource Conservation and Management, Sustainable Food Systems, Water Resources



Dr. Daniel Smith

Landscape Architecture

Research Topics: Conservation Biology, Human Dimensions, Landscape Ecology, Urban and Regional Planning, Wildlife Ecology



Dr. Travis Thomas

Nature Coast Biological Station, Cedar Key, FL

Research Topics: Technology, Remote Sensor Development, Coastal Ecology



Dr. Quenton Tuckett

Forest, Fisheries and Geomatics Sciences

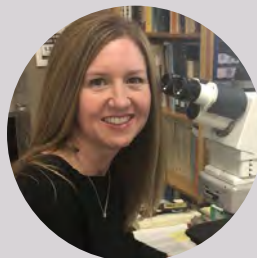
Research Topics: Disturbance Ecology, Evolutionary Biology, Freshwater Ecology, Invasive Species



Dr. Dengjun Wang

Agricultural and Biological Engineering

Research Topics: Biogeochemistry, Ecological Restoration, Environmental Science, Hydrology, Soil Resources, Water Resources



Dr. Heather Walden

Veterinary Medicine

Research Topics: Comparative, Diagnostic and Poulation Medicine, Parasitology

Congratulations! 15 years of dedicated service with SNRE, UF/IFAS

Karen Bray has served as the Academic Programs Advisor III for the past 15 years (December 2010 to present) with the UF School of Natural Resources and Environment, UF/IFAS. From December 2009 to December 2010, Karen worked with the Chemical & Biomedical Engineering Department at the University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida. Karen served as Academic Programs II from May 2004 to December 2009 with the UF's College of Engineering. From 1989 to May 1992, Karen worked as a staff member with the UF's Division of Housing. For the past 25 years, in all assigned responsibilities, Karen has consistently performed an outstanding job at each of these locations, including in her current position as Academic Advisor with the Interdisciplinary Ecology graduate program at SNRE. She cares immensely about each student and takes the time to listen to their individual needs and concerns. Thank you, Karen, for your dedicated service with SNRE, UF/IFAS.



Karen Bray
Academic Advisor

SNRE *niche*

Congratulations

**SNRE Photo Contest
Winners:**

**Mónica Mora
&
Isabella Eury**



Photo Credit: Monica Mora, IEC Ph.D. Student



Photo Credit: Isabella Eury
Environmental Science B.S. Student

We are excited to announce that Monica and Isabella are the winners of recent photo contest! Their stunning submissions captivated us with its creativity and impact.

Thank you to everyone who participated and shared their amazing work. We will be featuring submitted pictures in our future newsletters, print media, and on our social media channels.

SNRE *niche*

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.

After much anticipation, there is now an [SNRE Alumni Group](#) on LinkedIn! It's open to all SNRE graduates from our B.S./B.A. and Ph.D./M.S. programs. Use this space to collaborate and connect with fellow SNRE alumni, share professional accomplishments, or just update us on your journey!

If you are an SNRE alum who is not on LinkedIn, 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](#)

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 send an email to SNRE@ifas.ufl.edu

Thank you for reading!

Follow us on Social Media!



[YouTube](#)



[Instagram](#)



[Facebook](#)



[X](#)

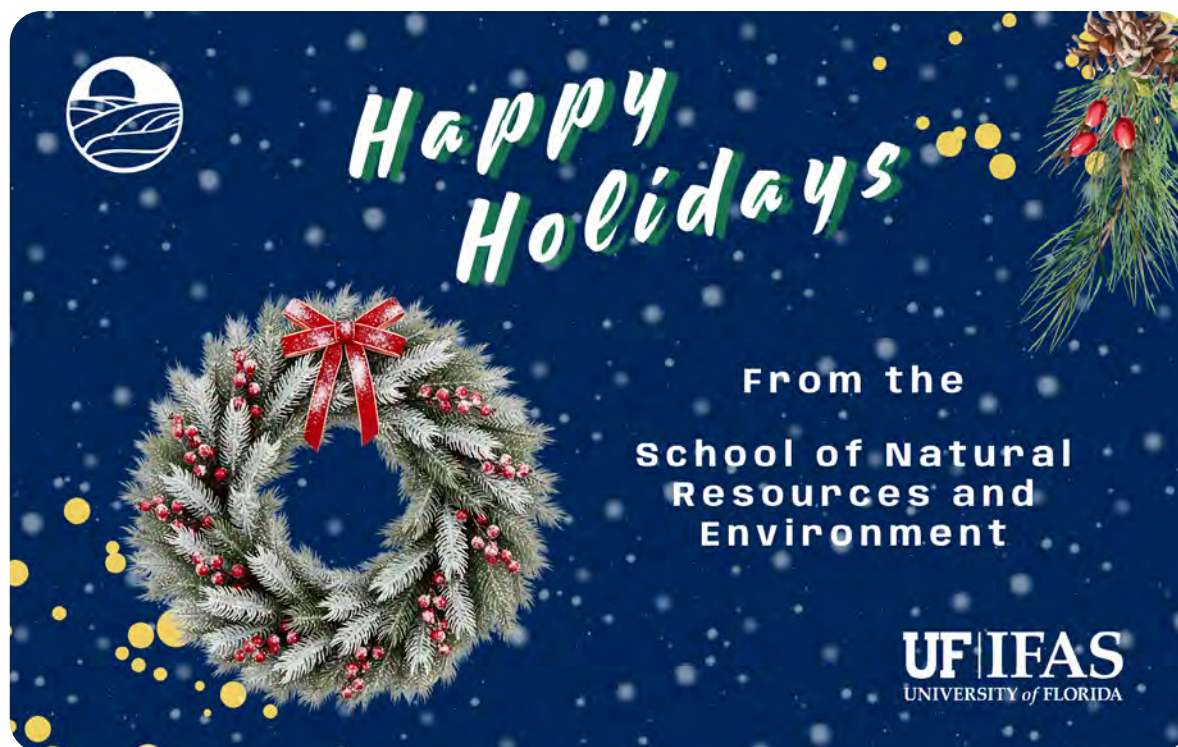


[LinkedIn](#)



[Blogs](#)

SNRE *niche*



From left: Dr. Ramesh Reddy, Natalia Teryda, Alexandra Goetz, Karen Bray, Patricia Escobar Torres, Rola Jiang, Christy LaPlante