Florida is home to one of the most (if not the most) impressive wildlife resources in the country. It is sometimes easy to take the state’s wildlife for granted, and many of us regularly pass by eagles, alligators, egrets, ibises, herons, turtles, storks, and many other species of wildlife with little more than a glance – encounters that many people from other parts of the country would (and do!) spend considerable money to come to Florida to experience.

Some recent experiences have caused me to reflect on Florida’s fantastic wildlife resources and the delicate relationship between some of our wildlife populations and Florida’s rapidly expanding human population. Last week I spent a day in north Florida with new WEC faculty member, Dr. Holly Ober (see p. 5), and scientists from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, for an update on information needs and the status of Florida’s bat populations. While sitting in a postage-stamp size habitat island wedged among a suite of housing developments, we watched some 25,000 Southeastern Bats emerge from a cave into the night sky, on their way to feed on millions of insects (many of which are pests of plants important to the state). The cave entrance was guarded by a gray rat snake, who managed to dine on three of the emerging bats that it snatched during their exit from the cave. Throughout this time, we were serenaded by the sounds of human voices, tractor trailers, and ambulance sirens.

This experience – the impressive natural history event and the juxtaposition of our wildlife populations and human development – blends with a number of others to impress upon me the importance of WEC’s mission – “to foster education, expand knowledge, and reward scholarship, using multi-disciplinary approaches for the purpose of understanding, managing, and conserving biological resources.”

This issue of Field Notes provides a glimpse at some of our efforts to fulfill our mission, including an overview of some of our work with sensitive species (p. 3), community development (p. 4), and wildlife and agriculture (p. 5), aspects of the Department’s innovative extension (p. 4) and educational programs (p. 6), and our work with tropical research and education (p. 2). In addition, in this issue we report on exciting developments linking the Ordway-Swisher Biological Station to an important new national effort in the ecological sciences (p. 6). Having just completed my first academic year at the University of Florida, I am more excited than ever about the events taking place in WEC and the opportunities awaiting us in the coming months and years. In this issue of Field Notes we provide a look at some of these exciting things... I hope you enjoy reading about them.
Dexter Fellowships in Tropical Conservation Biology

“Our Dexter Fellowship Program in Tropical Conservation Biology enhances the conservation of biodiversity by supporting the training and research of outstanding graduate students from tropical countries where the needs and opportunities for biological conservation are greatest,” says Dr. Susan Jacobson, professor and director of WEC’s Program for Studies in Tropical Conservation. The generous support of the Lewis Anthony Dexter Fund has created an innovative fellowship program at the University of Florida. The Dexter Fellowship Program in Tropical Conservation Biology was established to honor Mr. Lewis Anthony Dexter, and his family, Robert Cloutman Dexter and Elisabeth Anthony Dexter. Lewis Dexter was a renowned political scientist, who became increasingly interested in environmental conservation later in life.

The Dexter Fellowship Program supports students from tropical developing countries who are pursuing graduate studies at the University of Florida in the natural sciences. Fellowship recipients are individuals who show strong leadership capacity, excellent communication and critical thinking skills, and the ability to make a significant contribution to tropical conservation through their work, personal abilities, and dedication. The objective is to produce graduates who are able to contribute to the conservation of natural systems and to appropriate development necessary for long-term sustainability.

The first recipient of a Dexter Fellowship, Arjun Gopalaswamy, graduated with his MS degree in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation. His thesis was on “Estimating site occupancy rates and abundance of sloth bears in Nagarabhole, India.” He has returned to India, where he coordinates a major new initiative for the Wildlife Conservation Society on monitoring tigers and their prey in Western Ghats. “I will be heading up the research division and will be responsible for designing and conducting monitoring programs for tigers and prey in this region,” Gopalaswamy explains. “I also will be involved with teaching and local capacity building. My studies at UF allowed me to build up a ‘toolbox’ of essential theoretical principles and concepts of ecology, statistics, as well as the necessary field skills that will aid in designing and conducting rigorous scientific field studies to promote biodiversity conservation in Asia.”

WEC’s Program for Studies in Tropical Conservation has helped fund the research of 30 international students in 14 departments since 2000. “But the Dexter Fellowships are outstanding,” says Professor Jacobson. “They provide funding for coursework and training of really exceptional individuals who otherwise would not be able to get advanced degrees. They’ll be able to return to their home countries and make a significant impact on tropical conservation.

Dexter Fellows

2007 Mariela Pajuelo (Peru) MS studies in Zoology on the ecology of sea turtles on the Peruvian coast.

2006 Aditya Singh (India) PhD studies in Interdisciplinary Ecology on the population dynamics of Indian mammals.

2005 Omar Antonia Figueroa (Belize) PhD studies in WEC on wetlands conservation for jaguars in Central America.

2004 Maria Camila Pizano (Colombia) PhD studies in Botany on soil-plant dynamics in the regeneration of tropical montane forests.

Arjun Gopalaswamy practicing tranquilizer techniques for large mammals. Photo credit: Kim Annis
Changes in Store for Gopher Tortoise Regulation and Conservation

The gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*), whose sandy burrows remain common wherever the soil is deep and well drained, faces significant conservation challenges. Loss of uplands to development is estimated to have reduced the available habitat and gopher population in Florida by 60 to 70% since 1900. Designated a Species of Special Concern by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) in 1979, the FWC is now proposing the species be listed as a Threatened species under Florida's newly adopted (2004) listing rules.

Dr. Perran Ross, a faculty member in the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, is working closely with a team of FWC specialists in consultation with a diverse group of stakeholders to help draft a species management plan for the gopher tortoise. According to Ross, "We have moved well beyond the point where agencies can act independently on sensitive conservation issues, and working in close consultation with stakeholders is key to developing effective conservation strategies in the 21st century." Ross is making an important contribution to the process by facilitating stakeholder meetings of people representing diverse interests, including agriculture, forestry, mining, conservation, local governments, development interests, animal advocacy groups and the general public. The result of this effort was a draft conservation plan, which was released for public comment in February and will be reviewed by the FWC commissioners at their meeting in June. The plan is based on four goals: managing protected habitat to optimize carrying capacity (largely with prescribed fire); acquiring additional habitat for the species, both through public purchase (such as through the Florida Forever program or new County Conservation Lands) and by conservation easements on private lands; restocking tortoises in suitable habitat that currently have low tortoise density due to past exploitation or land use; and reducing the mortality of tortoises displaced by development.

An important element of the plan is a structure of permit costs and habitat loss mitigation charges structured to encourage developers to move tortoises and private land owners to receive them. Developers will pay a fee that land owners can use to cover future management costs. According to Ross, "Reducing the number of gophers buried and left to die under building foundations turns out to be an objective of both the concerned public and many developers. Broadening the possibilities for relocation to willing land owners could provide a revenue stream to help conservation for tortoises while at the same time help provide extra income that may help maintain some of our agricultural and forestry land base. There is also increasing interest among some private owners in generating tax relief thru conservation easements that combine personal financial and wildlife needs. Trying to find ‘win-win’ solutions with strong buy-in from diverse stakeholders is becoming a cornerstone of many conservation strategies when humans and the natural world interface.”

Florida Stakeholders Fish & Wildlife Forum

A statewide conference to address conservation issues

**Date:** 6-7 June 2007

**Location:** Orlando, Crowne Plaza Hotel

**Hosted by:** The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and The University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

**Who Should Attend:**
This top level conference is a ‘must attend’ for every sector of the conservation spectrum that is concerned about the future of Florida’s wildlife:

- Conservation
- Business, commercial and development
- Wildlife and land management
- Marine and freshwater fisheries
- Agriculture, forestry and mining
- Tourism
- Angler and hunter organizations
- Citizen and recreational organizations

For up-to-date information, visit the conference Web site: [http://wild.ifas.ufl.edu/](http://wild.ifas.ufl.edu/)
Florida Wildlife Extension
Sustainability in Florida - Program for Resource Efficient Communities

Residential construction is one of the biggest industries driving the Florida economy. Just this past year, over 200,000 building permits were issued in Florida. As the population and number of residences grow, the loss of habitat and demands for energy, water, and other resources also steadily increase. As a result of the dramatic growth in the region, developing resource efficient communities is an important element of conservation in the state.

To identify and coordinate educational and analytical resources available at UF to support the design, construction, and management of more resource efficient developments, Dr. Mark Hostetler, an associate professor in the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, and Dr. Pierce Jones, a professor in the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering, worked with partners at the University of Florida to establish the Program for Resource Efficient Communities (PREC) in 2004 (see http://www.energy.ufl.edu). PREC uses a multi-disciplinary approach to focus on best practices for application in residential community design and management, using teams with expertise in environmental engineering, energy, water, wildlife, forestry, landscape architecture, building construction, and other fields to work with developers interested in sustainable development. The focus of PREC extends from lot level through site development to surrounding lands and ecological systems. PREC supports the implementation of resource efficient community development through: 1) direct training and consulting activities, 2) applied research projects and/or case studies, 3) academic courses and degree programs, and 4) partnering with “green” certification programs.

PREC is truly innovative on several levels. According to Hostetler, “PREC effectively reaches audiences, such as design/build professionals (eg. Architects, engineers, etc.) and policymakers, who are not always reached by traditional Extension programs. These are key audiences since developers and policymakers can play a major roles in creating healthy, resource efficient communities.” PREC has been actively partnering with policymakers and design/build professionals to create “model” resource efficient communities.

Most of PREC’s activities are fee-based. Whether the activities are continuing education courses or consultation activities with developers, monies generated from the activities are funneled back into the program to fund graduate students, conduct research, and to further develop continuing education and other Extension activities.

An example of PREC’s work is the incorporation of design and management approaches to conserve natural resources in the Town of Harmony, Florida. Highlights of this development include funding to develop and implement a long term environmental educational program within the community; all of the homes are EnergyStar certified; creation of covenants, codes and restrictions that address environmental issues; use of native plants in the landscaping palette; and conservation and management of open space. More information about the sustainable features in the Town of Harmony can be found on the Living in Harmony Web site: http://www.wec.ufl.edu/extension/gc/harmony/.

Living Green is a half-hour TV show designed to help individuals understand what it means to “live green” in their own communities. Living Green focuses on how communities incorporate environmental concerns into their homes, neighborhoods, and businesses to help conserve natural resources and wildlife for future generations.

The Living Green series is a collaborative effort between public television station WUFT-TV/DT, and the University of Florida Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation. Each episode, hosted and produced by Dr. Mark Hostetler, incorporates an upbeat and humorous approach to the myriad of challenges and solutions associated with environmental issues. Living Green hopes to inspire individuals to take local action and make a difference. Each episode highlights a specific environmental issue, emphasizing the need for a united response at the local, and most important individual level. Specific attention is paid to the solutions to growth and environmental challenges, and the opportunities for individuals, developers, and counties to search for ‘win-win’ strategies that balance socioeconomic and environmental concerns in their own community.

The Web site, http://livinggreen.ifas.ufl.edu, is a companion to the show, and it helps one make informed decisions to cultivate a healthy environment in a community. The Web site provides additional information about sustainable living practices, including fact sheets and links to additional resources. Mark Hostetler, Elizabeth Swiman, and Sarah Miller originally created the content and design, and Jennifer Walford Vann currently maintains it. With the help of IFAS Communications, the current look and functionality was built for the Solutions for Your Life Extension Web site in 2006.

The TV shows are currently aired across the United States, particularly in Florida, and can be viewed on local PBS stations, government access channels, and local cable stations. To date, we have produced four shows: Landscaping for Wildlife, Invasive Exotics, Conservation Easements, and Renewable Energy. These shows have been well received and have won various broadcast media awards including The Communicator Award of Distinction and the Videographer Award of Distinction. If you have not seen it aired in your area, you can view the streamed video online at http://livinggreen.ifas.ufl.edu. Our next shows in production are on energy conservation and sustainable fishing... stay tuned!
Dr. Holly Ober

Dr. Holly Ober was recently hired as an assistant professor in the UF Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation. She arrived in Florida in March, and is stationed at the University’s North Florida Research and Education Center in Quincy, near Tallahassee. Ober’s appointment has both research and extension components. Originally from the northeast, Ober obtained a B.S. in biology from Duke University, an M.S. in wildlife science from the University of Arizona, and a dual Ph.D. in forest science and wildlife science from Oregon State University. Ober worked on the aspects of the ecology and behavior of bats for both of her graduate degrees, examining interactions between agaves and nectar-feeding bats in southern Arizona, and food webs linking riparian vegetation to insects to bats in forests of western Oregon. However, Ober’s background has included research on a wide variety of species, including geese, seabirds, bowlerbirds, burrowing owls, small mammals, and primates, at a diversity of locations.

In her new position, Ober will focus on wildlife ecology and management in forests. She plans to develop an integrated research and extension program, fostering collaboration with colleagues in a diverse suite of natural resource sciences, both in the University of Florida and with state and federal agencies in Florida. She anticipates emphasizing research questions that will enhance basic and applied understanding of wildlife-habitat relationships in forests. By examining functional relationships between wildlife and habitats, she hopes to determine causal mechanisms underlying observable patterns, with the ultimate goal of enabling predictions of wildlife response to alternative management strategies.

Dr. Robert Fletcher

Dr. Rob Fletcher recently accepted the landscape ecologist position in the UF Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation. He is a landscape ecologist who blends many approaches to better understand wildlife biology and ecology. He received a B.S. from the University of Colorado and a Ph.D. from Iowa State University. Between undergraduate and graduate degrees, he spent nearly a year doing research in the Everglades National Park on the non-breeding ecology of the endangered Cape Sable seaside sparrow. Fletcher is currently a research assistant professor at the University of Montana, and will be moving to UF this summer.

Fletcher’s research broadly revolves around themes critical for understanding population and community ecology at large spatial scales. He primarily focuses on linking mechanisms influencing individuals to the conservation of populations and communities at landscape scales. He is also interested in improving concepts and theory in ecology. He has worked in a variety of ecosystems, including grassland, wetland, and riparian habitats, and most of his research to date has centered on birds. Some of Fletcher’s current research directions include identifying the fundamental processes that are influenced by habitat loss and fragmentation; developing conceptual and predictive frameworks for interpreting human impacts; evaluating the impacts of habitat restoration; and understanding the consequences of individual behavior at large scales. According to Fletcher, “I am excited about joining the faculty at the University of Florida. I see this as a great environment to further my research and teaching interests and to work closely with state and federal agencies to develop conservation strategies in the state.”

Teaching Across the State - Enhancing Teaching with Technology in WEC

Undergraduate education is a key mission of the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation (WEC). Most of the department’s undergraduate courses are taught by faculty on the main campus in Gainesville, Florida. However, WEC also has faculty stationed at Research and Education Centers across the state from Milton in Florida’s panhandle, to Fort Lauderdale in south Florida. For a number of the WEC faculty housed away from the main campus, teaching undergraduates is a significant part of their jobs. New technology is helping to broaden their educational impact and enhance the teaching programs of these faculty.

One example of how WEC faculty are enhancing teaching through the use of technology is a course on Conservation of Amphibians and Reptiles offered by Dr. Steve Johnson this spring. Dr. Johnson co-taught the course with WEC graduate students Betsy Roznik and Kris Hoffman. The course was taught simultaneously to students in Gainesville and at the Plant City campus of the Gulf Coast Research and Education Center using videoconferencing technology on a system called Polycom. The Polycom system allowed the students and instructors at one location to see and hear the students and instructors at the other location and to participate in discussions with them in real time. It also allowed the instructors to share PowerPoint presentations between the two sites.

The Conservation of Amphibians and Reptiles course combined use of the Polycom with other technology, including use of a program called WebCT Vista. WebCT Vista is an online course management system available to all University of Florida teaching faculty. Dr. Johnson and his co-instructors posted presentations, the course syllabus, handouts, and student grades online using this program. This provided students from both campuses equal access to their grades and course materials whenever they needed them.

Using technology in teaching, such as Polycom, is one way for WEC faculty to share their expertise with students at geographically distant campuses and enhance their learning experiences. According to Dr. Johnson, “Use of this technology is helping us to bridge the gap between traditional distance education courses taught online with more traditional approaches using live, in-class presentations. As technology evolves and access to videoconferencing hardware and other technology becomes more commonplace, we anticipate that this approach will be an important tool to help us reach non-traditional students in locations across the state.”
Owls, Rodents, and Agriculture

The Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA), located primarily in western Palm Beach County, FL, contains 400,000 acres of sugarcane cropland. This agricultural landscape is home to several species of rodents that eat crops and gnaw on farm equipment, resulting in millions of dollars in damage each year. Rodenticides are used to reduce the number of rats; however, these chemicals are expensive and may have unintended ecological side-effects. Natural predators, such as barn owls, may offer an environmentally friendly and cost-effective alternative to chemical rodenticides. In recognition of the potential role barn owls can play in these systems, over the past 20 years EAA farmers have increased the population of these predators by installing nest boxes in agricultural fields. While there is anecdotal evidence that barn owls may have reduced the number of rats in some areas, quantitative data have not been collected.

Jason Martin, a graduate student in the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, is conducting research focused on determining if the artificially inflated barn owl population in the EAA is impacting pest rodent abundance. He conducts capture-mark-recapture studies to compare rodent populations in areas with and without owls, and is manipulating the density of barn owls in some locations by installing large numbers of nest boxes. According to Martin, “Although barn owls clearly play some role by preying on rodents in these fields, my findings suggest that the overall impact of owls is limited because of the sheer number of rodents in these fields. Barn owls are not the lone solution to the rodent problem, but incorporating them into an integrated pest management strategy that includes other eco-friendly techniques may reduce the need for rodenticides while maintaining, or possibly enhancing, current levels of rodent control.”

Martin’s research also involves monitoring population dynamics, patterns of nest box use, and nesting success of barn owls in the area. He determines which boxes are used for nesting, tracks the number of eggs and chicks produced in each nest, and marks adults and chicks with leg bands to study their activities over time. While this species appears to be doing quite well in the EAA, it is declining in many portions of its near-global range. Martin hopes that determining why the species is successful in the EAA may benefit barn owls elsewhere.

The EAA barn owl program is an example of how ecologically sound management techniques can benefit wildlife as well as the farming industry; agricultural development and wildlife conservation need not be mutually exclusive approaches to land management. For more information on the EAA barn owl project, visit the study’s Web site: http://erec.ifas.ufl.edu/barnowl/owlindex.htm.

NEON and the Ordway-Swisher Biological Station

NEON, the National Ecological Observatory Network, is a major federal research initiative to address continental-scale ecological questions and monitor environmental change in the face of changes in land use and climatic conditions. To accomplish this, the National Science Foundation has designed a program that will implement a network of twenty core ecological observatories ranging from the Alaskan tundra to Hawaii, and from the forests of the northeastern United States to Puerto Rico. Each of these core sites will also coordinate activities at a group of satellite sites located nearby.

Early this year, NEON announced that its candidate site for the Southeast is the Ordway-Swisher Biological Station (OSBS). “Candidate” status indicates that the establishment of a core site at the location is likely if future site visits demonstrate that the site meets all of the needs and qualifications required by NEON.

We view this as a tremendous opportunity for OSBS, and one that will open the doors to substantial new activities at the Station. Establishment of a core site at OSBS will result in deployment of a diverse set of sensor arrays established to measure characteristics and monitor changes in atmospheric chemistry, soil characteristics, aquatic conditions, and biodiversity, and access to research and educational funding targeted at NEON sites.

Inclusion in NEON will truly be transformational, and will result in a significant enhancement in the benefits that the Station will provide to the University, Florida, and the public. We look forward to sharing progress with you on implementation in future issues of Field Notes.
AnneMarie van Doorn

After successfully defending her Ph.D. dissertation in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation at the University of Florida in November, Annemarie van Doorn returned to northern Australia where she is living in a remote location near Litchfield National Park. Van Doorn is continuing her work there on the Purple-crowned Fairy-wren (Malurus coronatus). The wren is a threatened species, and its habitat requirements and present status make it a prime candidate for studying the impacts of some of the key threats to biodiversity in riparian zones of northern Australia. Additional funding this year has made it possible for van Doorn to work with multiple agencies on determining the feasibility of rehabilitation measures of the primary habitat of the wren. Heavy cattle grazing and the highly fragmented distribution of the primary habitat of the wrens indicate that the future of this species is of great concern.

In addition to working on wrens, van Doorn frequently conducts bird surveys for an environmental consulting firm that focuses predominately on threatened species. She has recently started her own environmental consulting firm, allowing her to be contracted by multiple agencies for various projects. In the future, she hopes to continue working on threatened bird species in the Northern Territory. According to van Doorn, “Living on a national park offers many opportunities for research in an area where many species have remained virtually unstudied.”

Paul Gray

After earning his B.S. from the University of Missouri, and an M.S. at Texas Tech University working on playa lakes, Paul Gray came to the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation where he completed his Ph.D. in 1993, working on Florida's Mottled Duck. After a period of time working with the Florida Game and Fish Commission, Gray began working with Audubon of Florida, where he is currently the Science Coordinator of Audubon's Lake Okeechobee Watershed Program. “My work centers on restoring Lake Okeechobee and its watershed,” Gray says. “The lake faces myriad environmental problems, including phosphorus pollution, water level control, exotic species, and downstream problems from its severely polluted water. I must work on diverse issues with technical teams and the lay public, across a wide geographic range, and within a volatile political framework. I feel very fortunate for my time at UF because the interdisciplinary focus (both in science and human management), and landscape planning focus, really helped prepare me for the variety of situations I have to deal with.”

Gray has become a ‘go-to’ person for Okeechobee issues and appears often in the media; recently on “Water’s Journey: Everglades” that features him getting his airboat stuck, while trying to explain Okeechobee issues. Gray is the senior author of a recent analysis of Okeechobee’s situation that is now featured on Audubon of Florida’s Web site, along with a link to Water’s Journey.

David White

David White had almost completed his graduate studies at UF when he became convinced that wildlife policy and ecosystem management was based as much on politics and economics as it was on sound science. Armed with a B.S. in Zoology (UF 1980) and an M.S. in Wildlife Ecology (UF 1983), White went on to receive his law degree (UF 1986), specializing in environmental law.

White worked as the Regional Counsel for the National Wildlife Federation for the next 9 years, litigating endangered species cases and advocating for conservation of wetlands. He worked on litigation to protect the Everglades from agricultural pollution, and filed several lawsuits to protect endangered Key deer and other vulnerable species in the Florida Keys.

White currently serves as the Regional Director for the Ocean Conservancy in St. Petersburg, where he works on establishing marine protected areas and advocating for ecosystem based management in the oceans. After more than 20 years practicing environmental law, White still believes that, while sound science is important in informing environmental policy, many resource decisions are driven more by politics than long-term sustainability. “We have an obligation to future generations not to ruin the planet,” says White. “A world of disappearing species, impaired ecosystems and deteriorating environmental conditions should not be our legacy to future generations.”

Kris Thomas

After graduating from the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation with a Bachelor’s degree last year, Kris Thomas was hired by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s Habitat Conservation Scientific Services Section in the North Central Region in November of 2006. Her responsibilities include providing a very diverse group of private landowners with wildlife related technical assistance. This assistance ranges from answering simple wildlife related questions to more involved assistance helping landowners develop and implement their land management goals. Thomas helps facilitate this process by working with the landowners to find additional funding resources, complete application reviews, develop wildlife practice plans, and conduct site visits to verify completed practices for numerous programs such as the FARM Bill Conservation Programs, the Florida Forest Stewardship Program, or the Landowner Incentive Program.

According to Thomas, “Among the most exciting parts of my job is having the privilege of working with private landowners to help them see their management goals become realized, and meeting some very interesting people.”
Faculty & Staff

Dr. Bill Giuliano – WEC Undergraduate Faculty of the Year, 1st Place Florida Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals Award: Quail Program Web Page and Slide Set / Computer Graphics

Dr. Mark Hostetler – Award of Distinction for Broadcast Media from The Videographer Awards: Living Green: Conservation Easements; Honorable Mention for Broadcast Media from The Communicator Awards: Living Green: Invasive Exotics

Dr. Perran Ross and Dr. Katie Sieving – WEC Graduate Faculty of the Year Award

Dr. Mel Sunquist – WEC Undergraduate Faculty of the Year Award

Dr. George Tanner – Selected to serve as a member of the Science Advisory Board to the Science and Technology Program of the Louisiana Coastal Area Ecosystem Restoration Study

Steve Coates – WEC Staff of the Year

Sam Jones – 33 Years of Service!

Laura Hayes – 15 years of Service.

Students

Julien Martin and Rafael Reyna – UF Outstanding International Students Award

Montana Atwater, Andrea Ayala, and Scott Travers – University Scholars

Aletris Neils – UF Graduate Student Teaching Award, Agricultural Women’s Club Dee Ann Conner and Marceita Hoffmann Scholarship

Vanessa Oquendo – Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society’s 9th Annual Undergraduate Scholarship, WEC Outstanding Service to the Department and University Award

Arpat Ozgul – UF Chapter of Sigma Xi’s Graduate Student of the Year Award

Jose Silva-Lugo – Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society’s Best Student Paper Award

Julia Altmann – WEC Outstanding Undergraduate Academic Achievement Award

Judit Ungvari-Martin and Daniel Gualtieri – WEC Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award

Lauryn Cannon – WEC Outstanding Service to the Department and University Award

Courtney Hooker, Lindsay Jacobs, Leander Lacy, Jr., Jonathan Saunders, and Eric Thomas – WEC Outstanding Professional Promise Awards