

NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Welcome!



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ALABAMA A&M UNIVERSITY

IN THE NEWS

AROUND THE DEPARTMENT

By Dr. Elica Moss and Patience Knight

NRES ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT

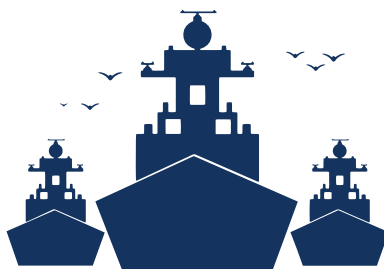
Antionette Fowlkes identifies problems, implements solutions, and builds relationships through her gifts of being a natural connector and leader of people. She focuses on open and honest communication, empowering those around her, and developing healthy relationships.

She joined FEMA in January 2022 as a Hazard Mitigation Assistance Community Planner serving on the Building Resilience Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC DTA) direct technical assistance team. As a BRIC-DTA team member, Antionette works with state, local, and tribal nations to secure federal hazard mitigation funds. However, prior to joining FEMA, she was an Urban Planner for the City of Virginia Beach and Hampton, Virginia, where she served external partners and also volunteered with her local community. In addition to her years of leadership skills and relationship building, her experience includes project management, analytical knowledge, and premier customer service.

Ms. Fowlkes is currently a lieutenant in the United States Navy Reserves as an Environmental Health Officer. Furthermore, she holds a B.S. from Alabama A&M University in Environmental Science with a concentration in Environmental Health, as well as a master's degree in Community and Regional Planning from Iowa State University.

She is a native of Birmingham, AL, and resides in Atlanta, GA. In her spare time, she enjoys family, golfing, bicycling, and volunteering.

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THE UNITED STATES NAVY PRESENTS CLASS 24080 OF THE OFFICER TRAINING COMMAND NEWPORT OFFICER DEVELOPMENT SCHOOL



Congratulations

LIEUTENANT JUNIOR GRADE

ANTIONETTE A. FOWLKES

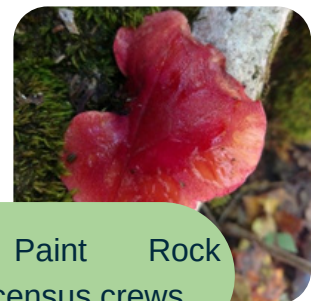
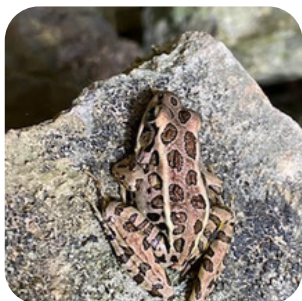
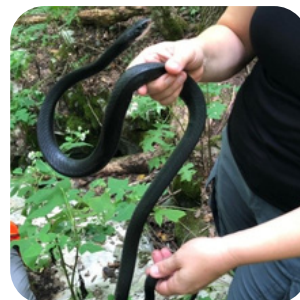
JOIN THE VIRTUAL CELEBRATION ON
SEPTEMBER 27, 2024 AT 11AM
VIA FACEBOOK



ECO-FRIENDLY FRIDAYS - PATIENCE KNIGHT

Biological diversity, or biodiversity, measures the abundance and different types of organisms in a defined area and their patterns of distribution within that area; it is a very scale-dependent concept that can range from varying types of DNA within individuals to types of plant and wildlife communities within a landscape or even across landscapes. The highest biodiversity in the world is concentrated in ecosystems between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn because of constant warm temperatures and high amounts of rainfall that lead to highly productive environments. Biological hotspots, or bio-hotspots, outside of the tropics are often in temperate forests, like those found in the southeastern US and in eastern to central Asia. However, temperate hotspots are also supported by complex historic and current topographies, geologies, and ecological interactions.

Alabama is a bio-hotspot for many different plant and animal species, as evidenced by studies like the Paint Rock Forest Dynamics Plot (which inventories 79 species of trees and shrubs within 20 hectares) in The Nature Conservancy's Sharp-Bingham Mountain Preserve in Jackson County. In a world of increasingly imperiled species and habitats, it is vitally important for us to do everything we can to protect the rich diversity within Alabama. To that end, we must be better stewards of natural resources and our environment. Homeowners and private landowners can do their part by planting or preserving native plant species, avoiding the use of and removing invasive species from the landscape, seeking technical assistance from federal and local organizations for conservative practices, and informing themselves through educational programs and citizen science projects.



Photos by Paint Rock ForestGEO plot census crews

EVENTS

HOMECOMING

By Promise Johnson, Julia Mapp Williams, and Rachel Stone



Homecoming 2024 will mark the beginning of the 150-year celebration of the Alabama A&M University (AAMU) Legendary Legacy! As AAMU approaches its sesquicentennial anniversary, we want to recognize what Homecoming has brought to the Spirit of AAMU in the last 149 years.

The Spirit of Homecoming -

Every year, even weeks before the event, the excitement can be felt in the air as the University prepares for its annual homecoming. You see, *Homecoming smells* like hot dogs, hamburgers, and smoke from grills. *Homecoming looks* like tailgating, camaraderie, alumni, step shows, AAMU paraphernalia, and no place to park. And, *Homecoming sounds* like A&M alumni stories, laughter, vibrant music, the Marching Maroon & White, and cheering Bulldog Fans routing the football team to victory!

Homecoming isn't just another cookout. It is a gathering of tradition. It is the recognition of years and years of success and trial. It's a time where faculty, staff, students, and community supporters can mingle and meet off the record to foster deeper relationships. AAMU's homecoming is not only a momentous occasion for the University, but also a highly profitable opportunity for shared financial benefit for the community, vendors, and invited entrepreneurs, making the environment one resembling a modern Black Wall Street, as businesses are set up to showcase and promote their goods. So, as you can see, Homecoming at AAMU has continued impact on the community!

As we prepare for the 150th anniversary celebration in 2025, we anticipate the tradition of AAMU will continue and this special year will be even more memorable!



HOMECOMING CONTINUED....



Homecoming week at Alabama A&M was unforgettable this year! The energy on campus was electric from the moment it started with the homecoming kick-off party. And the night ended beautifully with the closing fireworks show. Each day brought something new and exciting for my first homecoming, but I especially loved the sense of community and family that was felt throughout the week when interacting with the alumni. The whole campus came together, and it felt like one big family reunion. From the kickoff party to the Homecoming Concert, there was never a dull moment.



The highlight of the week for me was definitely the Comedy Show. Everyone showed up looking their best, and the show was hilarious. I also got to catch up with friends I hadn't seen due to conflicting schedules. The whole experience reminded me of how special it is to be part of the AAMU community. I can't wait to participate in the Homecoming Festivities next year and celebrate Alabama A&M's 150th anniversary.

-Julia Mapp Williams, Sophomore



HOMECOMING CONTINUED....

Homecoming week in the NRES Department was bustling. The Forestry and Environmental Science Clubs teamed up to decorate one of the Forestry trucks for the Homecoming parade. They used chicken wire and tissue paper to showcase their Bulldog pride and school spirit. Both clubs worked on creating the decorations together after classes. Dr. Moss showed up to help create decorations and support the students.

On Friday, October 11th, the Forestry Club held a Homecoming BBQ behind the ARC building. Burgers, hot dogs, and corn were grilled and shared by students and faculty. It was a great way to relax and spend time with others in the department.

On October 12th, the Queens dressed in their formal wear and waved regally to the crowd from the back of the truck. A huge crowd showed up to watch the parade and cheer on the Bulldogs.



Photos by Chris Burns, Jaiden Ellington, Lisa Fisher-Jackson, Mike Johnson, Kourtney Lamar, Dr. Kozma Naka, Elijah Nall, Alexis-Marie Parrish, Penny Stone, Rachel Stone, and Julia Mapp Williams

SOIL JUDGING COMPETITION

By Colton Gunnels, Miles Tolbert, and Rachel Stone



Soil judging is a very intrinsic competition encompassing several aspects of soil science. One of the topics in the competition was soil morphology. Soil morphology is the study of the physical properties of soil, including its color, texture, structure, and consistency. The competition introduced aspects of geomorphology. Geomorphology is the designation of landscape positions and the slope associated with these landscape positions. The genesis of soil, or the origin and formation, was also observed in this contest for students to better understand how soil has developed over time.

The Southeast Regional Collegiate Soil Judging Competition focused on the individual competitor. There will be a group contest at the national competition in April. These scores (individual and group) will be compiled and awards will be given to teams, individuals, and group levels.

The four of us (Miles Tolbert, Jarius Whitehead, Colton Gunnels, and Dynasty Collins) had different pathways of being introduced to the team and competition. One thing that brought all of us together is the love for conservation and understanding of our soils. Soils is one of, if not the most, important natural resource on our planet. A better understanding of these soils provides a brighter future for future generations.

This contest allows students to be a part of that, and it was an honor to represent Alabama A&M University in this contest.



SOIL JUDGING COMPETITION CONTINUED...

During the Soil Judging Competition, we (Miles Tolbert, Jarius Whitehead, Colton Gunnels, and Dynasty Collins) traveled to Lexington, Kentucky to compete in a rigorous soil evaluation contest with criteria including soil color, texture, horizon distinctions, and various other characteristics. Alabama A&M University was one of only two HBCUs represented, alongside Tuskegee University. All team members placed within the top 24 individually, and Alabama A&M secured fifth place overall, qualifying us to advance to the national competition in Wisconsin, scheduled for late April to early May. This achievement reflects our team's hard work, consistent practice, and dedication to learning.



Photos by Dr. Monday Mbila

2024 Regional Soil Judging Ranking

1	Virginia Tech
2	West Virginia University
3	North Carolina State University
4	University of Tennessee-Knoxville
5	Alabama A&M University
6	Clemson University
7	University of Tennessee-Martin
8	University of Florida
9	University of Georgia
10	Auburn University
11	Tuskegee University
12	Western Kentucky University

AAMU's Soil Judging Team placed 5th at Regionals, securing a spot in Nationals. Not only is AAMU going to the National Contest in Wisconsin next year, we will also be the first HBCU to do so. Please congratulate the students who competed in Regionals. We are very proud of them!

AAMU was voted to host the Southeast Regional competition in 2027. This is a great honor for the University.

Congratulations!



HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR, COMMUNITY COLLEGE, AND GRADUATE STUDENT DAY

By Rachel Stone

High School Senior, Community College, and Graduate Student Day had a great turnout for AAMU. Many prospective and incoming students visited campus on Saturday, November 2nd to get a taste of our esteemed university and learn about our history and campus culture. The Marching Maroon & White Band welcomed visitors to the Event Center with their powerful music that filled the building. More performances were given by other organizations, such as the Bulldog Cheerleaders, the Baby Bulldog Cheerleaders, "The Bulldog Beat," and the Greek Houses.

At 10:00 AM, the students were released to explore the different department tables and take a tour of campus. Several members of our faculty, staff, and students manned the Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences table. The NRES members sported the new department t-shirts, which were designed by senior Heaven Pollard and staff member Rachel Stone. A larger order will be made for the entire department.

Many students stopped by the NRES table to speak to our students or take some brochures and goodies.



Photos by Rachel Stone

CLUBS

10

FUN WITH NRES CLUBS

By Julia Mapp Williams, Alexis Marie Parrish, and Rachel Stone



1890 CAREER CONFERENCE IN ATLANTA

By Julia Mapp Williams

On October 22-24, fifteen students from the Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences department attended a conference hosted by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The 1890 Career Conference was hosted in Atlanta, Georgia. During the mixer on the first night of the three-day conference, students met with like-minded individuals from other 1890 land-grant HBCUs. The next day was jam-packed with seminars on career readiness, federal resume building, interview etiquette, and how to obtain the future of our dreams. The final day consisted of in-person and online interviews for an opportunity to land a job or internship with NRCS. Interviews lasted 60 seconds and were a chance for the students to pitch themselves to possible future employers. This conference was a fantastic opportunity for NRES students to start planning for their futures.



Photos by Elijah Nall

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE CLUB HIKE

By Alexis-Marie Parrish, Senior and President of the ESC

On October 19th, members of the Environmental Science Club joined the Forestry Club and National Park Trust Ambassadors for an invigorating hike at Chapman Nature Preserve, promoting camaraderie and a shared passion for environmental stewardship. Earlier, on October 12th, the club teamed up with the Forestry Club to participate in the Homecoming Parade, proudly showcasing Miss Environmental Science Club and Miss Forestry to celebrate our dedication to environmental awareness on campus.

TRUNK OR TREAT

By Alexis-Marie Parrish, Senior and President of the ESC

On October 30th, the Environmental Science Club partnered with the University Echo Student Ambassadors for their annual Trunk or Treat event, where the Environmental Science Club transformed our space with a Jurassic Park theme, blending fun and education to engage students of all ages. Through these events, our club continues to foster partnerships and highlight the importance of environmental responsibility within our university community.



Photos by Alexis-Marie Parrish, Khendal Jackson, and Jaiden Ellington

TREE PLANTING WITH MAYOR TOMMY BATTLE

By Rachel Stone



On Saturday, November 2nd, members from the Environmental Science Club teamed up with the City of Huntsville's Green Team and Mayor Tommy Battle to help plant 300 trees in Brahan Spring Park at the City's annual Tree Planting Day. Several varieties of trees were planted, including maples, oaks, yellow poplar, southern magnolia, redbuds, river birch, dogwoods, bald cypress, and elms. The Environmental Science Club planted a willow oak, a yellow poplar, and a river birch.

This team-up shows the ESC's dedication to making our planet a greener place. Planting trees is important for many reasons, including air quality, wildlife, soil erosion, biodiversity, and river health. Trees can also bring communities together, just like they did during Tree Planting Day.



**MAYOR TOMMY BATTLE'S
TREE PLANTING DAY**

Saturday, November 2 • 9 - Noon
2213 Drake Ave SW.

We need your help to plant trees — hundreds will be planted to expand the tree canopy. You can drop in any time!

No experience is needed. All ages and groups are welcome. Volunteers receive free seedling trees and litter cleanup supplies to take home.

Please call Green Team at 256-532-5326 or email Green.Team@huntsvilleal.gov for more information.



Photos by Alexis-Marie Parrish, Erica Doss, and Preston Landon

HUNTING CLUB- OH DEER!

By Dr. William Stone

The Alabama A&M University "Academics Afield" hunting club recently returned from an archery deer hunt in Bullock County this weekend (November 2nd). Five AAMU students participated in the most recent hunt following the club's participation in a "Hunter 101" workshop and dove shoot in late September. Fifteen students participated in that event at Swan Creek WMA in Limestone County. The workshop included practice on the shooting range with a rifle and shotgun shooting targets and clay pigeons.

The archery deer hunt was only the second such event since the club's first year of hunting activities in 2022-2023. Chris Burns, a Forestry Ecology and Wildlife program senior coordinated this recent hunt. Two students, Keenan Bradley and Trinity Adams both shot a deer. Along with Chris and two other students, Keenan and Trinity processed the two deer which produced enough venison for all to take home a couple of gallon bags of meat to their families.

In addition to the five students, Dr. William Stone and Jeremy Whigham also traveled with the group and helped mentor the students in hunting techniques and methods to process the deer. The hunt was sponsored by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Hunter Education program and took place on Daryl Lamb's farm near Union Springs.

Dr. Stone mentioned that this was the third trip the hunting club has taken to this property in three years and they will return next year in early February to hunt deer again, during the rifle season. The participants also learned about the importance of hunting for wildlife management in the State, tree stand safety, and practiced with the crossbow and arrows.

Photos by Dr. William Stone



OPPORTUNITIES

By Rachel Stone

Opportunities for students, both undergraduate and graduate, will be posted on the NRES Group Dashboard. Please scan the QR code and join the group to stay updated on opportunities and events. If you would like to announce opportunities, club outings, research trips, get-togethers, etc. please email either Rachel Stone or Promise Johnson.



Scan for NRES Dashboard



Photos by Dr. William Stone, Patience Knight, and Preston Landon

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

>>> ECO-FRIENDLY FRIDAYS

Contact Karnita Garner
kfg0003@aces.edu
ext. 8331

>>> FORESTRY CLUB

Contact Dr. Troy Bowman
troy.bowman@aamu.edu
ext. 4249

>>> ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE CLUB

Contact Dr. Elica Moss
elica.moss@aamu.edu
ext. 8219

>>> SOIL JUDGING COMPETITION

Contact Dr. Monday Mbila
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ext. 4185

>>> 1890 CONFERENCE, TRUNK OR TREAT, TREE PLANTING

Contact Dr. Elica Moss
elica.moss@aamu.edu
ext. 8219

>>> HUNTING CLUB

Contact Dr. William Stone
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>>> HS SENIOR, COMMUNITY COLLEGE, GRADUATE STUDENT DAY

Contact Dr. Wubishet Tadesse
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**CONTACT
NRESNEWSLETTER@AAMU.EDU
FOR YOUR STORY TO BE
SHARED!**

