Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting
12:05 p.m. April 5, 2019
Room 142 RNR Building

Mr. Will deGravelles, President of the SRNR/FWF Alumni Association, called the 2019 Annual
General Meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. The meeting was attended by approximately 55 alumni, faculty,
students, and friends.

In memoriam, a moment of silence was observed for alumni who passed away during the last
year: William Joseph "Billy" Andrepon (B.S.F. ’05), John Lawrence Bardwell, Jr. (B.S.F. ‘61; M.S. F.W.M.
’62), Joe Dae Burns (B.S.F. ‘46, M.F. ’47), David John Hamburger (B.S.F. ’73), Paul Bruce Hursey (B.S.F. ’64,
m.F. ‘66), David Neal Pashley (PhD W.F.S. ’88), Manuel Segovia (PhD W.F.S. ’00), Joseph L. Spinks (B.S.F.
’66), and Arnold B. Smith (B.S.F. ’60).

The minutes of the 2018 annual meeting were approved.

Dr. Allen Rutherford, Director of the LSU School of Renewable Natural Resources (SRNR),
reported that the School has enrolled approximately 295 undergraduate and 60 graduate students with
35 M.S and 25 PhD. Faculty of the department have generated $6.5 million in research grants, with a total
economic impact of $6.8 billion. Two vacant faculty positions were recently filled by Dr. Brett Wolfe, who
will be teaching forest biology, and Dr. Kristin DeMarco, wetland ecology specialist. Priorities for the
department include funding new graduate scholarships, internship opportunities, and creating
opportunities for undergraduate students to engage in research.

Director of Alumni Relations & Stewardship, Lindsey Kelly, for the LSU College of Agriculture and
LSU AgCenter reported that the College of Agriculture is growing, and new admission applications are
up. Joint memberships are now available online for the LSU Alumni Association, the College of
Agriculture Alumni Association, and the SRNR/FWF Alumni Association. She reminded alumni of
opportunities to develop internships, mentor students, and endow scholarships and professorships to
support the School.

Ashley Grant, Director of Internships for the LSU College of Agriculture and LSU AgCenter, is
working with alumnus Scott Durham at LDWF to get new internships with SRNR students.
Additional internships are available through A. Wilbert’s Sons, but more are needed.

We received updates on the activities of SRNR student organizations. The Aquaculture and
Fisheries Club was represented by Miss Courtney Muir, Xi Sigma Pi was represented by Mr. Fan Zhang,
the Society of American Foresters (SAF) was represented by Miss Skylar Bueche’, The Wildlife Society
(TWS) was represented by Miss Amanda Benge, and Tiger Chapter Ducks Unlimited (TCDU) also was
represented by Miss Amanda Benge. Highlights of the reports included TWS winning the waterfowl,
Wetland, and wildlife techniques competition at the Southeast Wildlife Conclave, and TCDU winning
Ducks Unlimited National Champions as the #1 university chapter in the U. S. for calendar years 2017 and
2018.
Joe Dae Burns, BSF '46 and MF '47, passed away on May 18, 2018 at the age of 94. He founded Burns Forest Products, serving his community and the forest industry for over 50 years, and served as both the President of the Louisiana Forestry Association and a board member of the Louisiana Forestry Association. In 2011, Joe Dae Burns was elected in to the Hall of Fame of the School of Renewable Natural Resources and bequeathed a legacy gift to the School in his will. As a token of appreciation for the generosity of Joe Dae Burns, members of the Burns family were present and received an engraved cutting board made of native Louisiana wood panels that were recovered from the Old Forestry Building.

Mr. Ray Aycock, retiree of the Wildlife Services Program, was inducted into the Hall of Fame of the School of Renewable Natural Resources. Mr. Aycock, originally from DeRidder, Louisiana, received his BSF in Forestry ('66) and his MS in Wildlife Management ('68) from Louisiana State University. He spent 40 years with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service working on various programs, and was instrumental in the conservation of numerous species including Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, Red Wolves, American Alligators, various species of waterfowl, and the Louisiana Black Bear. After retiring in 2008, Ray took up wetland and wildlife consulting and became a founding member of two conservation organizations: the Lower Delta Partnership and the Black Bear Conservation Coalition. He now lives in Mississippi with Betsy, his wife of 55 years, and is the father of two and a grandfather to seven.

Dr. Luke Laborde, Executive Secretary, (Ph.D. ’14), reported that for Fiscal Year ended 3/31/2018, the SRNR/FWF Alumni Association earned revenues of $11,152.22, and incurred expenses of $9,930.67, including a $2,000 contribution to the Director’s Excellence Fund. A current balance of $7,617.21 is held at Campus Federal Credit Union. Dr. Laborde recommended that $3,000.00 be appropriated to the Director’s Excellence Fund. A motion was made by Craig Gothreaux, seconded by Louis Heaton, and passed by acclamation.

The School of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries Endowed Alumni Scholarship Fund has a current balance of $124,815. During the 2017-2018 school year, a total of four $1,000 scholarships were awarded. Recipients were Bryce Loschen, Lindsey Newton, Micah Rodrigue, and Anna West, all undergraduates in the School of Renewable Natural Resources.

Dr. Jim Chambers was nominated for honorary membership in to the School of Renewable Natural Resources/Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries Alumni Association. Dr. Chambers, who retired in January 2019 after 40 years of service to the LSU Agricultural Center, was awarded an endowed professorship as the Weaver Brothers Distinguished Professor of Forestry. Dr. Chambers earned his B.S. and M.S. at Southern Illinois University and Ph.D. from the University of Missouri before coming to LSU to teach courses such as Forest Ecology, Forest Fire Ecology and Management, Forest Eco-Physiology, Research Methodology, Advanced Silviculture, Forest Biology, and Woody Plant Identification. Dr. Chambers was inducted by acclamation.

Ms. Claire Coco, BSF ‘95, was nominated to fill an open 2-year seat as an At-Large Board Member. Ms. Rachel Villani was nominated to fill an open 2-year seat as President-Elect, and Mr. Craig Gothreaux was nominated to fill an open 2-year seat as President. Officers were elected by acclamation. Officers for 2019-2020 are --
Craig Gothreaux        President
Rachel Villani        President-elect
Luke Laborde          Secretary-Treasurer
Claire Coco           At-large Board Member
Louis Heaton          At-large Board Member
Tanner Jones           At-large Board Member

In closing comments, President deGravelles recognized the “Science Thursday” events featuring presentations by faculty and alumni of the School of Renewable Natural Resources. Also recognized was Stephen Hanks, who prepared brunch before the meeting, and Jay Curiole, who framed prints and constructed cutting boards from wood preserved from the Old Forestry Building.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.