Dr. Carrie Castille, President of the FWF Alumni Association, called the 2016 Annual Meeting to order at 2 p.m. on May 7th, 2016 at the School of Renewable Natural Resources on the LSU campus. The meeting was attended by approximately 75 alumni, faculty, students, and friends.

A moment of silence was observed in recognition of recently deceased alumni: Mr. John Barry Crain, BSF ’68, Mr. Reed Huckabay, BSF ’98, Mr. Adrin Keith, BSF ’63, Mr. Frank Kelly, BSF ’51, Mr. Wendell Joseph Lorio, MS Fisheries ’64, Mr. Lewis Carroll Peter, BSF ’50, Miss Lauren Smith, BS NREM ’14, and Mr. James Allen Vaughn, BS ’75, MS Wildlife ’77.

Dinah Schuster, Senior Director of Development for Agriculture, updated the group on efforts to renovate 3 classrooms in the RNR building, with renovations to room 230 complete, and rooms 141 and 142 scheduled for renovation this summer. Alumni of the School funded these renovations, and no state support was available or utilized.

Lindsey Kelly, Director of Alumni Relationships and Stewardship, invited alumni to join the LSU College of Agriculture Alumni Association. A COAAA membership includes membership in the LSU Alumni Association. A joint membership option for all 3 associations is being planned for next year.

Gigi Gauthier, Internship Coordinator for the LSU College of Agriculture, made an appeal and offer of assistance for new internships for students of the School of Renewable Natural Resources. Additional undergraduate internships are a priority for the College of Agriculture. Alumni mentors are also needed.

Dr. Castille presented the nominations of Dr. Jay Huner, former director of the Crawfish Research Center at ULL (retired), and Mr. Larry Reynolds, Waterfowl Study Leader, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, for honorary membership in the FWFAA. Dr. Huner and Mr. Reynolds were elected by acclamation.

Mr. John D. Newsom, MS Wildlife Management ’49, Dr. Ben Box, BSF ’57, MF ’59, and Mr. Gaston Lanaux, III, BSF ’68, were inducted into the LSU Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries and School of Renewable Natural Resources Hall of Fame. Mr. Newsom was introduced by Dr. Don Reed, Dr. Box by Mr. Jim Barnett, and Mr. Lanaux by Dr. Bill Kelso.

Dr. Jim Chambers introduced the 2016 Alumnus of the Year, Dr. Ken Krauss, Research Ecologist at the U. S. Geological Service, MS Forestry ’97.

Dr. Luke Laborde presented the report of the Executive Secretary. Minutes of the 2015 were reviewed, and a motion to approve was made by Mr. Will deGravelles, seconded by Mr. Gaston Lanaux III, and passed by the membership. The financial report identified revenues of $5,763.00 and expenses of $4,856.33 since the 2015 annual meeting, with a balance of $8,763.67 held in the FWFAA account at Campus Federal. The School of Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries Alumni Scholarship Fund held an endowed balance of $116,881.69 at the LSU Foundation as of 6/30/2015. Three $1,000 FWFAA scholarships of $1,000 each were awarded for the 2015-2016 academic year to RNR undergraduates Kayla Smith, Brandon Thibodaux, and Madelyn Smith. As of May 6th, the FWFAA had 64 paid 2016
A motion to approve the financial report was made by Mr. Craig Gothreaux, seconded by Mr. Buck Vandersteen, and passed by the membership. Dr. Laborde presented 2 recommendations to the group. 1. That distributions be made from the Campus Federal account in the amount of $3,000 to the SFWF Alumni Scholarship Fund and $2,000 to the School of Renewable Natural Resources Academic Excellence fund. 2. That President Castille appoint a committee to review and propose updates to the FWFAA Constitution and By-Laws. A motion to approve the 2 recommendations was made by Mr. Paul Yakupzack, seconded by Dr. Paul Coreil, and passed by the membership. Mr. Will deGravelles, Mr. Buck Vandersteen, Dr. Paul Coreil, and Dr. Luke Laborde were appointed to the by-laws review committee.

Students of the School of Renewable Natural Resources reported on club activities: Sara King and Tyler Loeb representing the Aquaculture and Fisheries Club, Kasie Dugas representing the Honor Society of Xi Sigma Pi, Bill Childress representing the RNR Grad Student’s Association, Mason Leblanc representing the Society of American Foresters Student Chapter, David Gurley representing The Wildlife Society Student Chapter, and Colin Albert representing Tiger Chapter Ducks Unlimited.

Dr. Allen Rutherford, Director of the School of Renewable Natural Resources, informed the group that forestry, wildlife, and fisheries now generate $3.3 billion in annual economic impact to the state of Louisiana. The School currently has 30 faculty members representing Forestry, Forest Products, Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture. Dr. Kevin Ringelman, Assistant Professor of Waterfowl Ecology and Management, and Dr. Wei Xu, Assistant Professor of Aquaculture, have joined the faculty since the last meeting. Faculty members currently generate about $6 million per year in research grants to the School. Undergraduate enrollment was 306 for the 2015-2016 academic year, and increase of 145% over the past 10 years; however, that number includes only 20 undergraduates in the forestry areas of concentration. Graduate enrollment of 60 was evenly split between 30 MS students and 30 PhD students, level over the past decade. Faculty taught 33 lectures and 18 labs during the 2015-2016 academic year. The School is currently awaiting findings of the SAF accreditation review conducted this spring. Dr. Rutherford identified as critical needs of the School classroom upgrades (in progress), undergraduate internships, vehicle and boat storage facilities, and graduate teaching assistantships. With increased undergraduate enrollment, additional faculty members are needed to maintain target class sizes of 20-25. Additional information on the School is available at www.rnr.lsu.edu or on Facebook, LSU School of Renewable Natural Resources.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m., and followed by a crawfish boil hosted by the LSU Aquaculture and Fisheries Club.