

# REUNION & SYMPOSIUM

THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF ECOLOGY



Odum School of Ecology  
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

# SCHEDULE & MAP

## FRIDAY at Ecology (4-7 PM)

- FIRST FRIDAY RECEPTION
- ODUM SCHOOL ART EXHIBIT
- ECOTONES
- ALUMNI SLIDE SHOW

## SATURDAY begins at Forestry (7:30AM-10PM)

BREAKFAST & REGISTRATION .....	Ecology
OPENING PLENARY SESSION .....	Forestry, (page 4)
FOUNDATIONAL RESEARCH AND CURRENT CONNECTIONS: ALUMNI PERSPECTIVES .....	Forestry (page 5)
REMARKS   JERE MOREHEAD   PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA .....	Forestry
LUNCH (12-1:30 PM) .....	Ecology
FOUNDATIONAL RESEARCH AND CURRENT CONNECTIONS: FACULTY PERSPECTIVES .....	Forestry (page 6)
MOVING FORWARD TO A STRONGER, MORE DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE ECOLOGY .....	Forestry (page 7)
ALUMNI RAPID-FIRE UPDATES .....	Ecology (page 8)
RECEPTION, STUDENT POSTER DISPLAY, COMMUNAL ART ACTIVITY .....	Ecology (page 8)
DROP-IN NETWORKING .....	Ecology (page 8)
ALUMNI WEEKEND BANQUET AND CLOSING PLENARY SESSION .....	Georgia Center (page 9)

## SUNDAY at Ecology (8 -11 AM)

COFFEE AND PASTRIES	Ecology
JOHN K. SPENCER MEMORIAL 5K	(page 10)
GUIDED TOURS	



Bus Parking Deck



ERGIA CENTER

SANFORD DR.

W. GREEN STREET

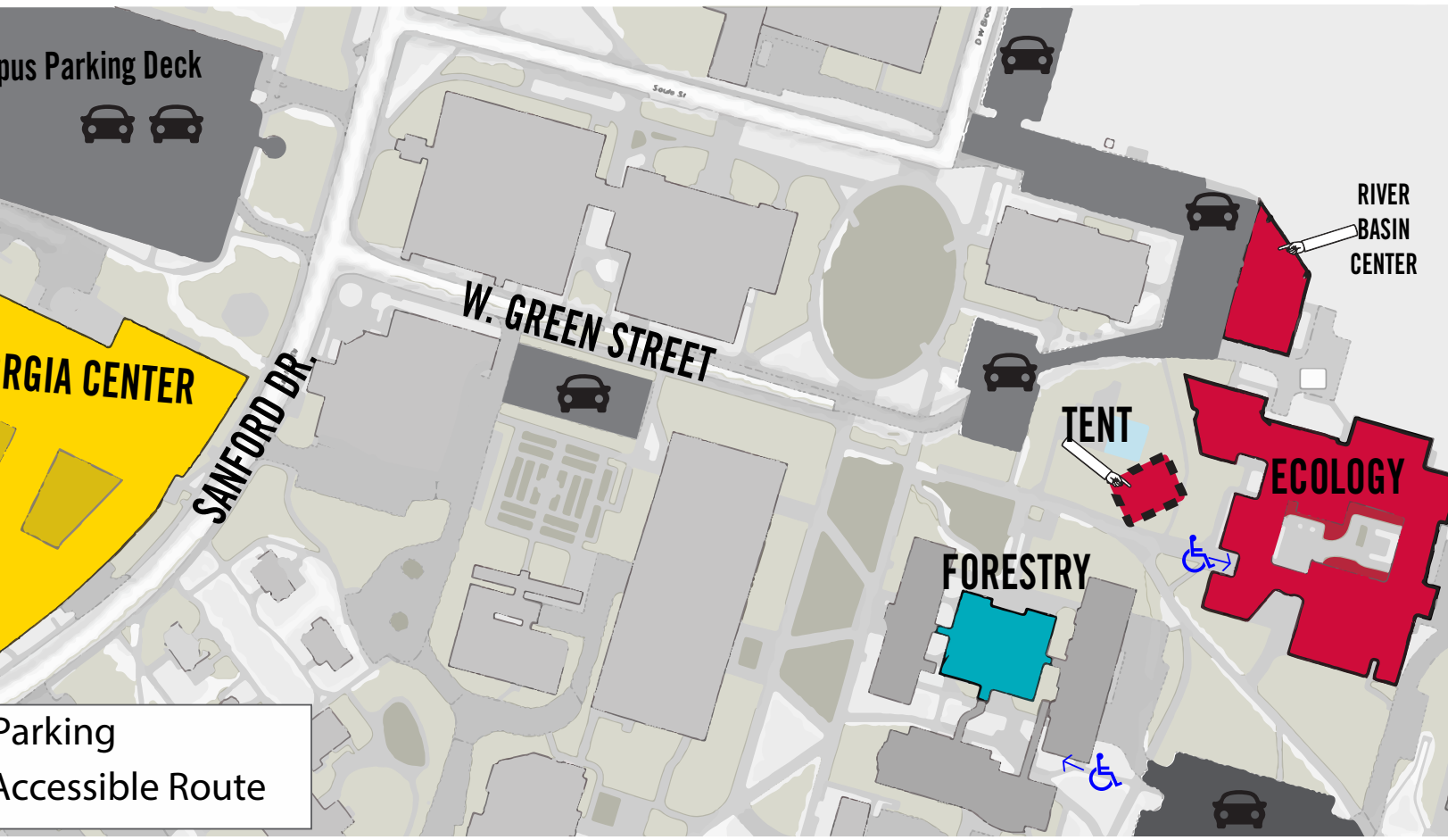
RIVER BASIN CENTER

TENT

ECOLOGY

FORESTRY

Parking  
Accessible Route



# OPENING PLENARY SESSION

**WELCOME** | John Gittleman, Dean, Odum School of Ecology

**OPENING REMARKS** | Pamela Whitten, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

**INTRODUCTION** | Peter Raven, President Emeritus of the Missouri Botanical Garden and former Home Secretary of the National Academy of Sciences

## **Ecosystems and the Ecology of Change** **Plenary Address**

“Ecosystems and ecology change constantly, but accelerating rates of environmental change challenge science and society. Understanding when, where, and why abrupt and fundamental changes occur is among the most pressing challenges in contemporary ecology. Holistic, collaborative, and pioneering research, hallmarks of Georgia ecology, is key to meeting the myriad challenges of a no-analogue world.”

**Monica Turner**, a member of the National Academy of Sciences since 2004 and Past President of the Ecological Society of America, is a landscape ecologist who studies the ecosystem effects of fire and other disturbances and the ecological effects of climate and land use change.



**MONICA**  
**TURNER**  
**PhD '85**

# FOUNDATIONAL RESEARCH AND CURRENT CONNECTIONS: ALUMNI PERSPECTIVES

SAT  
10:15-11:30  
FORESTRY



**Christopher D'Elia**

Ph.D. '74



**Weixin Cheng**

Ph.D. '89



**Evelyn Gaiser**

Ph.D. '97



**Christina Faust**

B.S./M.S. '09

SESSION II

## REMARKS | **JERE MOREHEAD, PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA**

11:30-12:00

Jere Morehead, 22nd President of the University of Georgia, previously served as Senior V.P. for Academic Affairs and Provost, Vice President for Instruction, and Assoc. Provost and Director of the Honors program. His commitment to students is reflected in his many University-wide teaching awards, including the Josiah Meigs Professorship, the Richard B. Russell Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, the Teacher of the Year Award in the Terry College of Business, the Lothar Tresp Outstanding Honors Professor Award, and the Distinguished Service Scroll Award.

JOHN DRAKE



disease ecology

VANESSA EZENWA



behavioral / evolutionary ecology

ELIZABETH KING



conservation ecology

# FOUNDATIONAL RESEARCH AND CURRENT CONNECTIONS: FACULTY PERSPECTIVES



community ecology



aquatic ecosystem ecology



terrestrial ecosystem ecology

6 CRAIG OSENBERG

CATHERINE PRINGLE

NINA WURZBURGER

# MOVING FORWARD TO A STRONGER, MORE DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE ECOLOGY

Over the past year, the Odum School has been actively engaged in enhancing our diversity and inclusion efforts. We hope with this session to gain ideas, learn from friends and colleagues, and inspire more commitment to similar efforts in the future. This session will feature a 10-minute overview of the state of diversity and inclusion at Odum followed by a 50-minute discussion by a panel of alumni, faculty, students and staff relating experiences, ideas, and programs to enhance human diversity and generate inclusive and supportive environments in our labs, academic units, and other places of work.

**JOHN DRAKE** | Distinguished Research Professor and Associate Dean of Odum; Director of the Population Biology of Infectious Diseases REU Site at UGA

**SONIA HERNANDEZ** | PhD '08, graduate of Odum and DVM from UGA; Associate Professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine and Director of the ICON graduate program at UGA

**JOHN KOMINOSKI** | PhD '08, Assistant Professor at Florida International University

**NARKE NORTON** | Program Coordinator, Office of Diversity Affairs, UGA College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences

**KELSEY SOLOMON** | Odum PhD student; Director of EcoReach

Moderator: **KRISTA CAPPS** | Assistant Professor, Odum

# SATURDAY

## **SESSION V** 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

**ALUMNI RAPID FIRE UPDATES** | Hear what your friends and colleagues have been up to lately!

## **SESSION VI** 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

**COURTYARD RECEPTION** | Enjoy light refreshments, tour the ecology building, and check out research posters by our students and post docs.

**COMMUNAL ART ACTIVITY** | Leave your mark on Odum by contributing to our group art project led by graduate student Rebecca Atkins.

## **SESSION VII** 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

**DROP-IN NETWORKING** | This session provides alumni an opportunity to present information about careers in their organization or general field of interest to current students in an informal setting.

---

**Beth Shapiro**, who received a MacArthur “genius” grant in 2009, studies molecular and genetic evolution and ancient DNA to understand how species change through time in response to environmental change. Her most recent book, *How to Clone a Mammoth: The Science of De-Extinction*, was published in 2015 by Princeton University Press.



# ALUMNI WEEKEND BANQUET AND CLOSING PLENARY

SAT  
6:30 p.m.  
Mahler Hall  
GA CENTER

WELCOME | John Gittleman, Dean, Odum School of Ecology

RECOGNITION OF EMERITUS FACULTY

ALUMNI & DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES | Allison Walters, Development & Alumni Relations Coordinator

## Why (paleo)ecology matters | Plenary Address

“As ecologists, we aim to understand how the living world works. We ask how organisms interact as populations and communities, how life is shaped by the physical world, and what we can do to preserve earth’s ecosystems while meeting our resource needs. It is, however, a painful time to be an ecologist: our political climate is one of disregard and sometimes derision for our work. It is crucial in this climate that we speak up in defense of science, especially if our work’s relevance may not be obvious to those with the power to be dismissive. Tonight, I will talk about my work to study ecosystems of the past, which I admit falls into the realm of not-so-obvious relevance. I will show how lessons from the past can inform decisions that we make in the present. And I will talk about the growing importance of effective communication of science, a skill in which I was first trained as a student at UGA and that now forms a core part of my own teaching.”



BETH  
SHAPIRO  
B.S. / M.S. '99

## **JOHN SPENCER MEMORIAL 5K** 9:00 a.m.

**SPENCER MEMORIAL 5K RUN-WALK** | Join the Odum School Graduate Student Association for this annual fun run-walk held in memory of John K. Spencer, MS '17. Proceeds support the Spencer Memorial small-grants fund.

## **GUIDED TOURS** 9:00-11:30 a.m.

**STATE BOTANICAL GARDEN OF GEORGIA** | Richard Hall will lead a walk to point out winter birds in the garden and to showcase ongoing restoration efforts along the river and in the powerline cut. Walk will involve a moderate descent and potentially uneven ground. Dress warm; rain will cancel. This trip will leave from the Ecology lobby at 9:00 a.m. sharp, or meet us at the garden at 9:15 a.m. in the Day Chapel parking lot if driving independently. Walk will return to Ecology by 11 a.m.

**THE GEORGIA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY** | If alumni (and families!) would like a quick visit to the Georgia Museum of Natural History, we will meet in the Ecology Building at 9:00 a.m. and walk over to the Museum for a brief guided tour. The tour-guides will be Dr. John Wares (current President, Friends of the GMNH) and Dr. Jim Porter (Curator of Marine Invertebrates, Emeritus).

## A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO GIVING

Gene Odum's philosophy "The whole is greater than the sum of its parts" applies not only to ecosystems and academia but also to giving.

As alumni and friends of Ecology, we are a connected network of dynamic, creative, clever, and compassionate people who are a force for good. Whether it's the gift of time, counsel or financial resources, your support ensures that the Odum School can continue providing a world-class education that connects academic foundations to the world beyond the classroom.

If you are interested in giving of your time, counsel, or financial support, or becoming involved in an Ecology Alumni Organization, please contact me. I look forward to partnering with you.

With Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allison Walters". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Allison Walters

Alumni Relations & Development Coordinator



[odum5010.ecology.uga.edu](http://odum5010.ecology.uga.edu)