

CAFLS Academic Affairs

# Impulse

***/ˈɪm.pəls/***

*the change in momentum of an object acted upon by a force*



Fall 2025



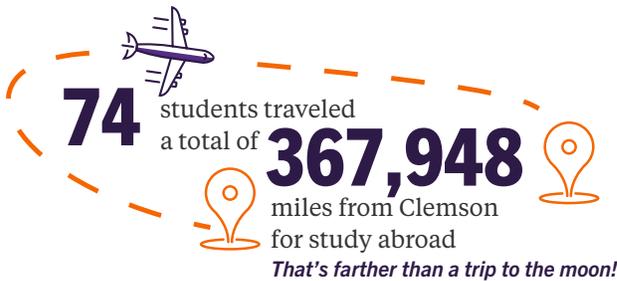
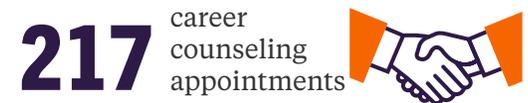
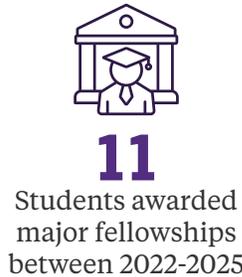
◀ On the cover: CAFLS Ambassadors, staff and faculty welcome prospective students and their families at a CAFLS Open House event. These events showcase the academic excellence and No. 1 student experience in CAFLS.

fast stats

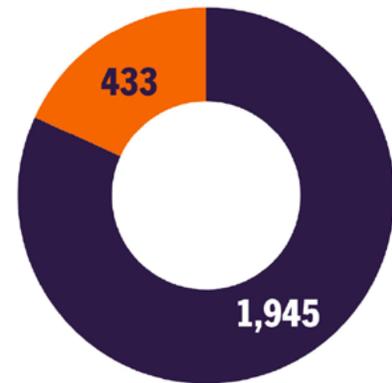
# Facts are Facts

Academic Year 2024-2025

## Our Students

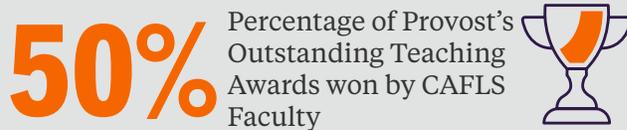


## CAFLS Enrollment Fall 2025

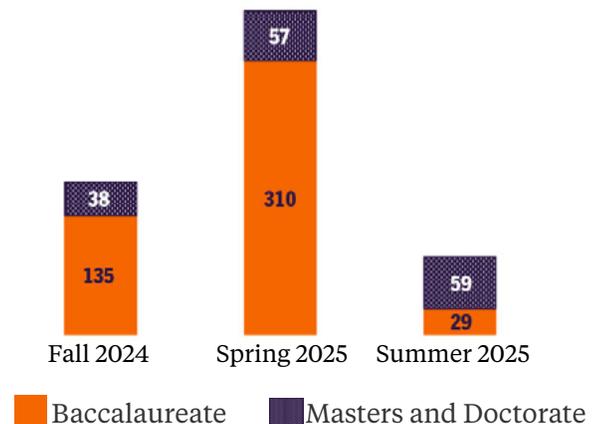


- Undergraduate Students (1945)
- Graduate Students (433)

## Our Faculty



## Degrees Awarded



*the student experience*

# Become Who You Are



**Lanie Deyo**

*Horticulture*

Lanie is a CAFLS Ambassador, works in faculty labs and serves as a teaching assistant in addition to many other

involvements on campus. One of Lanie's most meaningful experiences during her time in CAFLS has been trips with the Soils Team, advised by Dara Park, Ph.D., Professor in the Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences. Some of her closest friends are on the team, which travels to other universities to learn about soils and practice soil judging. Lanie says, "Even though everyone is covered in soil and tired, we all have smiles on our faces".



**Helen Bailey**

*Environmental and Natural Resources*

Considering an internship outside of the private sector? Helen Bailey interned at

the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation in Washington, D.C. "I learned so much about the federal policy process and enjoyed working in a space advocating for hunting, angling, trapping and shooting," she says. Helen researched policy topics, wrote and edited briefs, attended committee hearings and worked several special events. She says, "this experience solidified my future aspirations to work in the field of conservation." Helen is an Udall Scholar and leader in multiple student organizations.



## Agribusiness Association

The Agribusiness Association is advised by Michael Vassalos, Ph.D., in the Department of Agricultural Sciences. The club organizes social activities for its members and travels to professional conferences, competes in national and regional events and networks with alumni and industry experts who are shaping the future of agriculture and business.



**Brianna Burrafato**

*Food Science and Human Nutrition*

"Effective leadership isn't about having all the answers. It's about listening, connecting people with resources, and

creating an environment where everyone feels supported and heard," says Brianna Burrafato when reflecting on what she has learned about leadership from her experiences in CAFLS. Brianna has served as chair of the CAFLS Student Advisory Board, and as Director of the Nutrition Mentorship Program. She is a member of multiple professional nutrition and dietetics associations and a Nutrition Intern for Aramark at Clemson University.



**Sebastian Sanchez**

*Horticulture*

Sebastian Sanchez runs the MANRRS garden, has won multiple CAFLS Outstanding Student awards, conducts under-

graduate research and participated in the FLORECE program in which students are involved in Extension, professional development and an 8-week research internship in Spain. He says, "No matter where you are or how different people may seem on the surface, there's a shared curiosity and drive to collaborate and solve meaningful problems. [These experiences have] really showed me how connected we all are."

donor dollars at work

# Your Impact

## ***When there's an opportunity to support our students, our donors come through.***

Donor gifts play a key role in augmenting the student experience and supporting the faculty and staff who lead those experiences. We continually review college-level programming to ensure we steward these funds to have the greatest impact on our students' education and development. Below are just a few of our programs supported by our donors. We hope you'll agree they enrich the experience of our students, providing them opportunities to develop as leaders, apply their learning in different contexts and begin their professional presence. To all our donors and supporters: thank you!

## CAFLS Ambassadors

Since 1990, CAFLS Ambassadors has been our most longstanding and well-known student leadership program offered out of the College. Ambassadors assist with department, college and University events focused on recruiting prospective students and championing our academic programs and extracurricular opportunities, engaging with alumni and stakeholders and telling our stories to administration, donors and the public. Ambassadors are advised by Paula Beecher and Maddy Powell in our Bookhart Student Services Center.

## Montana Summer Program

Our Montana Summer Program, supported by the Segars Family, offers field-based education at the intersection of agricultural production and natural resources management while students work on a cattle ranch in the Bull Mountains. Students earn credit in rangeland management, forestry and fire and wildlife ecology courses led by David Jachowski, Ph.D. and Don Hagan, Ph.D. in the Department of Forestry & Environmental Conservation and Matias Aguerre, Ph.D. in the Department of Animal & Veterinary Sciences.



▲ Above: CAFLS Ambassadors for the 2025-2026 academic year represent their majors at a CAFLS Open House event.

▼ Below: Environmental and Natural Resources major Kacey Nicosia conducts forest stand measurements while learning how to assess the response of forage and forests to wildfire in Montana.



## What's New?

### ***Undergraduate Student Conference Travel Assistance***

The 2024-2025 academic year saw the launch of the CAFLS Undergraduate Student Conference Travel Assistance Program, which supports CAFLS undergraduate students wishing to share their academic work, engage in professional development or represent their department, college and University at a professional meeting or conference as a presenter or competitor. In its first year, the program awarded \$14,000 in support of 41 students, who presented research, participated in regional and national competitions with students from other colleges and universities and networked with scholars and employers.

◀ Shelby Strickland, an Agricultural Education major, used program funding to travel to the Agriculture Future of America Precision Agriculture Institute in Denver, Colorado.



## Advancing Teaching Excellence

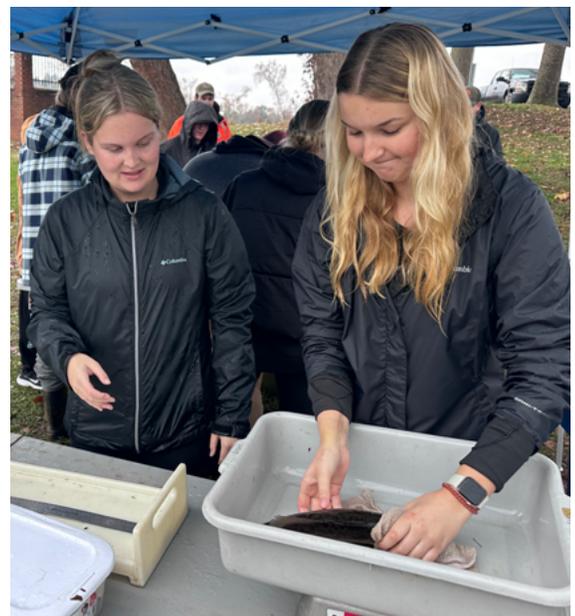
***We believe that to deliver the No. 1 Student Experience we must ensure our students continue to receive the highest quality education, producing the next generation of leaders in agriculture, food systems and environmental and life sciences.***

With donor backing, we are better able to support curriculum and course innovation, faculty pedagogical development, scholarship on teaching and learning and teaching assistant support and training. Visit [Giving to Clemson](#) or scan the QR code below and search “CAFLS Teaching Enhancement Fund” to give today.

To learn more about supporting these or other programs through philanthropy, contact Laura Jordan '13, Senior Director of Development & Team Lead in Advancement at [lcleste@clemson.edu](mailto:lcleste@clemson.edu).

The programs featured are generously supported by the following:

- ★ Goz and Pat Segars Student Engagement Fund
- ★ William B. Bookhart, Jr. '64 Memorial Endowment
- ★ Buddy Lewis Student Enhancement Endowment
- ★ W.P. Law, Jr. '38 Student Enhancement Endowment



▲ Students in Troy Farmer's Fisheries Management and Conservation course measure and tag a largemouth bass as part of a hands-on learning activity.

faculty highlights

# World-Class Teachers

## Bridgit Corbett

Senior Lecturer in the Department of Food, Nutrition and Packaging Sciences, Bridgit Corbett, Ed.D., won the 2025 NDEP Southeast Region Outstanding Dietetic Educator Award in the Didactic Program in Dietetics category. Nutrition and Dietetic Educators and Preceptors (NDEP) supports educators in the field of nutrition and dietetics. Corbett has 36 years teaching and clinical experience as a Registered Dietitian. Beyond classroom instruction, she advises students in the Dietetics emphasis of the Nutrition concentration of Food Science and Human Nutrition major, which prepares students to become Registered Dietitians or Registered Dietitian Nutritionists.



▲ Brian Bolt explains a concept to students in Introduction to Animal Science in the newly renovated Tillman Hall Auditorium.

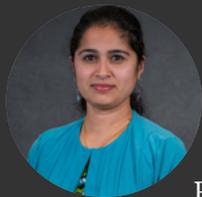
## Brian Bolt

*The instructor for our largest course still manages to connect with students.*

“I move around a lot to intentionally make it to all parts of the room. It takes a bit more effort to motivate at 8 a.m.,” says Brian Bolt, Ph.D., instructor for Introduction to Animal Science with 290 students.

Bolt says it is an honor to work with so many intelligent and driven students. “I push back on the idea that we cannot engage with students in large classes. I encourage an inquisitive approach to class, relying on a small army of teaching assistants—they and the students themselves are the real superstars of the class.”

Bolt is a Principal Lecturer in the Department of Animal and Veterinary Sciences, serves on the CAFLS Teaching & Learning committee and has hosted a forum for the college on effectively teaching large classes.



## Sruthi Narayanan

*NACTA Educator Award*

Sruthi Narayanan, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Crop Ecophysiology in the Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences, won the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) Educator Award, which recognizes “individuals whose efforts represent the very best in agricultural higher education.” She is our first winner since 2020.

*thank you and*

# Trajectory Ahead

Thank you for reading the first edition of the CAFLS Academic Affairs Impulse, highlighting some of the ways CAFLS Academic Affairs is influencing the momentum of the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences. Beyond the Dean's Annual Report ("Momentum"), we're using this platform to zoom in a bit on the academic activities in the college.



While we've focused on celebrating a few individuals and featuring initiatives of the CAFLS Academic Affairs office, it has to be recognized that our college's greatest academic impact originates in our five outstanding academic departments.

We take seriously our responsibility to deliver high-impact, hands-on learning to our students through a culture that supports and celebrates our staff and faculty in that mission. I'm excited about the past, current and future impacts from this foundational commitment, and hope you are too.

*Matthew G. Interis, Ph.D.*

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

## The Academic Affairs Team

A special mention for our awesome college-level academic affairs staff! Paula Beecher, Katie Black, Summer Chandler, Lillian Essaf, Julian Nixon, Ph.D., and Maddy Powell play a key role in our student experience from recruitment, through advising and enriching experiences beyond the classroom, to career placement and alumni connections.

They, along with Andrea Thornal and her finance team, steward our resources for maximum impact and always have a willingness to support students, staff, faculty and the college in its mission. Thank you!

Student organizations welcome new students at the annual Kickoff CAFLS event - one of the many opportunities provided by Academic Affairs staff.





# ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

*College of Agriculture, Forestry  
and Life Sciences*