

Tyler Coleman and Andrew Carlson at Graduation.
BETSY RILEY



In Dedication to Tyler Steven Coleman

Students are the lifeblood of the Florida Unit. From the field to the lab, conference room, and lecture hall, students make the Unit mission possible and enrich the lives of everyone in the Unit family. We thank all past, present, and future Unit students for their countless contributions and cherished friendship.

Every now and then, we encounter a student whose achievements are so noteworthy, and whose resilience amid adversity is so remarkable, that they deserve special recognition. We dedicate the 2023 Annual Report to one such student, **Tyler Steven Coleman**.

Tyler arrived at the University of Florida in 2019 with an M.S. degree and a competitive Ph.D. fellowship in hand. He made an immediate impact on campus, catalyzing collaborations with faculty and leveraging his knowledge and experiences to support students and colleagues. Throughout his life, Tyler has risen above challenges. When adversity arose in his initial Ph.D. program, Tyler responded with courage and fortitude. Joining the Unit in 2021, Tyler launched a second Ph.D. project and completed it in two years, a remarkable feat.

Throughout his time as a Unit Ph.D. student, Tyler befriended and supported faculty, staff, and students and won numerous awards, including the Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award in WEC and the Roger Rottman Memorial Scholarship from the Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. Then and now, Tyler's commitment to high-quality science and teaching is matched only by his dedication to improving the lives of those around him. Despite adversity—and indeed because of it—Tyler is a driven, magnanimous person with a clarity of purpose for life and career that is truly inspiring. Tyler's resilience, passion for natural resources, and compassion for people leave a legacy at the Florida Unit and embody the invaluable contributions of all Unit students.

Tyler earned his Ph.D. in December 2023 and is now a postdoctoral scientist studying aquatic ecosystems in Louisiana. We miss Tyler's energy, enthusiasm, and cordiality around the Unit building, but we celebrate his achievements and look forward to his continued contributions to natural resource science, management, and education.