

# Nicole Norvell Profile

JOUR 3190 | Jeffrey Duncan

## Slug

Norvell\_Profile

## Byline

Nicole Norvell

## Topics

UGA, Ranger Nick, agricultural leadership, education, science, environmental sustainability, TEDxUGA, animals

## Headline

UGA's Ranger Nick turns his passion for animals and environmental sustainability into a career

## Why it's newsworthy

Reporting this story is valuable to everyone as this story shares how Nick Fuhrman was able to find his passion and what he loves the most and turn it into a career. The context for why this is important is impact. This profile on Nick Fuhrman can impact the reader as it may inspire them to find their passion and transform it into a job that doesn't seem like work.

## Body copy

Nick Fuhrman, a professor at UGA in the [College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences](#) for almost 13 years, incorporates animals as teaching tools to promote non-formal teaching methods and environmental sustainability.

"What I'm most interested in is animals and education," said Fuhrman enthusiastically over a Zoom call from his office.

Growing up in rural Perry Hall, Maryland, Fuhrman spent his childhood outdoors and always had a love for animals. His desire to turn this love into a career came when an

environmental educator from the [Department of Natural Resources](#), Ranger Bill, brought animals to his elementary school to educate his class.

Fuhrman credits Ranger Bill as an influence in considering environmental education as he started shadowing him at 8-years-old and was hired to work for him by the age of 16. Following in Ranger Bill's footsteps, Fuhrman worked for seven years using animals with his teaching.

However, it wasn't until he became a teaching assistant at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University when he discovered his passion for teaching students.

"When I was Ranger Nick and I went out and talked to a school, I was there just like Ranger Bill for an hour and then I left so I didn't get to see a difference [in the students], but as a teaching assistant I did," said Fuhrman.

At UGA, Fuhrman works as a program evaluation specialist and teaches courses in program development and evaluation.

With over 10 awards received over the course of his career, Fuhrman considers the [Josiah Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professorships award](#) one of his proudest achievements. Being the first member of his family to go to college, he is honored to receive an award that recognizes his excellence in instruction and teaching.

"He has a lot of passion for his job. You could tell he enjoyed what he was doing," said Erin Smith, a first-year student at UGA who took her [First-Year Odyssey Seminar program](#) with Fuhrman this past semester. "He is very enthusiastic. You can tell he loves his students."

When it comes to his favorite course to teach, he admits that it is Agricultural Education 2001, "Teaching with Animals" offered every fall semester.

Described as a public speaking class but with animals, "Teaching with Animals" allows students to learn how to handle animals and utilize them to promote sustainable environmental behaviors by engaging and teaching in front of an audience. The students display their teaching skills as Fuhrman takes them to Extra Special people, an organization that provides transformative experiences for people with disabilities and have them deliver a presentation on the animals to the children at [ESP](#).

"That's one of the best two things I've ever done in my career at UGA. That class, and working with those kids with special needs," said Fuhrman.

Even outside of his professional career, Fuhrman continues to inspire and educate others in a multitude of ways.

He has his own television segment on the [Georgia Farm Bureau's Farm Monitor](#) called "[Ranger Nick](#)" that airs monthly and covers a wide range of environmental and agricultural topics in Georgia. After filming for almost eight years, Fuhrman admits that he still can't believe people enjoy watching him just be himself.

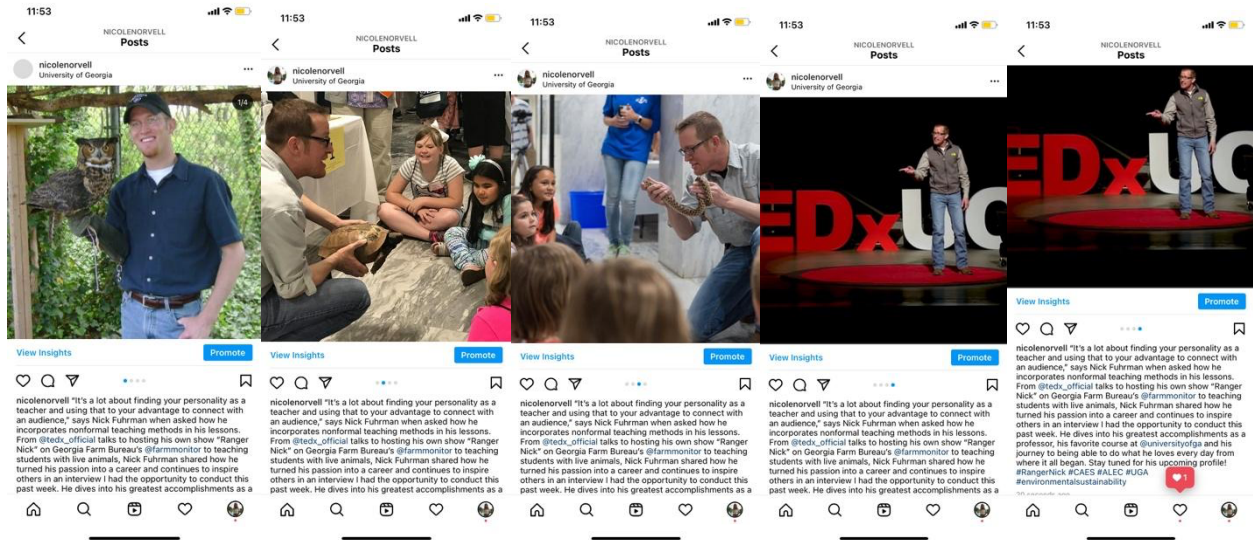
That isn't the only time he is seen on camera as Fuhrman describes his passion for teaching and the personal impact one can have on others through that in a 2018 [TEDxUGA](#) talk titled, "[The One Thing All Great teachers Do.](#)" With over 700,000 views on YouTube, he feels honored and humbled to be asked to speak about what he loves and hopes to inspire others with his work.

## Multimedia element



Nick Fuhrman, also known as Ranger Nick, is pictured showing a western hognose snake to the children of the employees at the United States Department of Agriculture in Athens, Georgia, while he is speaking for a career day event in April 2017.  
(Photo/Jessica Fuhrman)

# Social media post(s)



## Source info

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