

# On the Trail of Rachel Carson



LJG'12

your health than just what is inherited from mom and dad. Your daily actions actually have a much greater impact, not only on your health but the health of your children and even your grandchildren. This potentially has a multi-generational effect.”

The reason Guillette is so passionate and gives dozens of public health talks every year is that he sees the impact of how chemicals and environmental contaminants can mimic hormones and act as endocrine disrupters.

Endocrine disruptors can create issues from infertility to obesity by mimicking the actions of naturally occurring hormones in the body or preventing the hormones produced. An example is how the liver handles excretion. Researchers are studying compounds that act as obesogens that encourage the body to store fat and re-program cells to become fat cells or the liver to become insulin resistant.

In his wildlife biology research for the past 20 years, Guillette has found infertility and reproductive issues in alligator popu-

