On the evening of April 13, 2010, the Turf and Agronomy Clubs sponsored a Spring Appreciation Banquet. Using proceeds from the fall Peanut Sale, the clubs rented a local banquet room and arranged a catered dinner. In attendance at the event were current faculty, staff, and students from the department, several retired faculty and staff, members of the CAES administration, and various industry professionals. As the evening meal was wrapping up, guests were treated to remarks by Mark Fox, head coach of the UGA Men’s Basketball program. After his remarks, Coach Fox fielded questions from the audience. A lively discussion ensued as topics ranged from team goals for next year to the current budget crisis to NCAA eligibility rules. At the end of the evening, Coach Fox generously took time to pose for pictures and speak with all who approached him. Thanks to the hard work of the club members and their advisors, the banquet was a huge success.
The 3rd annual Hay Production School, presented by the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension, was held April 8-9, 2010 in Moultrie, Georgia. In attendance were approximately 150 people, from as far away as Puerto Rico and Canada. The school provided valuable lessons for serious hay producers wanting to learn more about modern hay-making techniques. The special guest speaker at this year’s event was Mr. Tom Keene, who presented “A Hay Broker’s Secrets: An Inside Look at Large-Scale Hay Markets.”

Dr. Dennis Hancock addresses attendees of the 2010 Hay Production School

The 5th Annual CE Bioenergy Conference will be held on August 3-5, 2010, at the University of Georgia Tifton campus. The theme for this year is “Building a Vibrant Renewable Energy Market for the Southeast.” The speaker spotlight will be Christopher Steiner, a staff writer at Forbes and author of “$20 Per Gallon.” Registration for this event is $175; currently enrolled college students may attend at no charge with a valid student ID. Registration information, directions and lodging can be found at www.sebioenergy.org. Sponsorship and exhibitor information and registration can also be found on this site. Questions? Please contact Evelyn Folds at efolds@uga.edu or 229-386-7274
Jeremy Connell, an M.S. student under Dr. Dennis Hancock, won the CSSA-C06 Divisions’s Robert F. Barnes Graduate Student Competition. Jeremy’s research is on the use of enhanced efficiency N fertilizer products on hybrid bermudagrass yield, quality, and nitrate concentration.

Dr. Sayed Hassan, director of the Lab for Environmental Analysis, was promoted to Senior Research scientist. Dr. Hassan has also been appointed as a faculty member of the Interdisciplinary Toxicology Program (ITP).

Liwen Zhang won 2nd place for Best Student Presentation at the 2010 Joint Meeting of the Southeast and Carolinas Chapters of SETAC in Athens, GA, in March 2010.

Qi (Lisa) Luo, an M.S. student under the direction of Dr. Qingguo (Jack) Huang, has been awarded a Toxicology graduate assistantship.

Michael Pisciotta, an Agriscience and Environmental Systems major, won the Nesbit-Flat Outstanding Senior award.

Dylan Wann, M.S. student under Dr. Scott Tubbs, won first place in the Graduate Student Oral Competition at the Southern Region Branch ASA meeting in February. In January 2010, Dylan Wann was featured on the front page of the UGA Graduate School website as the Graduate School Spotlight. To read the accompanying article, please visit http://www.grad.uga.edu/archive_spotlight/012110.html

Kent Dickerson, a member of the Turf Club, won a scholarship from the Sports Turf Managers Association. The scholarship allowed Kent to travel to the STMA Annual Conference and Trade Show in January 2010, where he was officially awarded the scholarship and a plaque honoring his achievements.

The Crop & Soil Sciences Graduate Student Poster Competition was held on March 26, 2010. Congratulations to the Top Three finishers: Jon Flaishans (third place), Liwen Zhang (second place), and Doug Heckart (first place). Poster and abstracts from the three winners can be viewed at www.agsa.uga.edu.

•Sarah Doydora successfully completed the requirements for her M.S. in Crop and Soil Sciences. She will now pursue a Ph.D. at UGA.

•George (Trey) Cutts, III, successfully completed the requirements for an M.S. in Crop and Soil Sciences (Weed Science). Trey will be moving to Texas A&M to pursue a Ph.D.

•Monalisa Bera successfully completed the requirements for an M.S. in Crop and Soil Sciences. She will be joining her husband in California, where she will continue her career.

•Jeremy Connell successfully completed the requirements for an M.S. in Crop and Soil Sciences (Forages). Jeremy will be returning to the classroom as a teacher for the Oconee County school system.

•Nathan Eason successfully completed the requirements for an M.S. in Crop and Soil Sciences. Nathan will be moving to New Zealand in June 2010 to manage a dairy farm.

•Shadi Ashjaei Asalami successfully completed the requirements for an M.S. in Crop and Soil Sciences. Shadi has accepted a position with the EPA in Athens, GA.

•Rebecca Wallace successfully completed the requirements for an M.S. in Crop and Soil Sciences (Weed Science). Rebecca now works for AmeriCorps in FL.

•Damianos Daminidis successfully completed the requirements for an M.S. in Crop and Soil Sciences. Damos has returned to his home country of Greece to continue his career.

•Frantisek Majs successfully completed the requirements for a Ph.D. in Crop and Soil Sciences. Franta joined his wife in Rhode Island to continue his career.

•Catie Young successfully completed the requirements for a Master of Crop and Soil Sciences (MCSS).

Congratulations to all of our Spring 2010 graduates!
Agronomy Graduate Student Association

AGSA has continued the delicious monthly tradition of a student-sponsored coffee hour, complete with Jittery Joe’s coffee and a wide assortment of breakfast foods. On April 21-22, AGSA partnered with the Plant Biology Graduate Student Association for the Annual Vegetable and Herb Plant Sale. Proceeds from the sale will help fund graduate student events over the coming year.

Early in 2010, AGSA unveiled their new website, designed by the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences’ Office of Communications. This new site matches the layout of both the Department of Crop & Soil Sciences, and CAES. If you would like to visit AGSA’s website, please go to www.agsa.uga.edu.

Soil and Water Conservation Society

The Soil and Water Conservation Club is composed largely of students from Crop & Soil Sciences and the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources. This spring semester the club had several fund-raising events involving planting trees on capped landfills and land application sites, organized by Dr. Larry Morris of the Warnell School. Over three Saturdays of work the students raised several thousand dollars to fund club activities. Some of the funds were used to support the Soil Judging team travel to the National competition in Lubbock TX in March (accompanied by Dr. Bill Miller). Dr. Morris took a group of students for a weekend at Black Rock Mountain State Park in Rabun Co. in April to celebrate the end of the semester. We said goodbye to an outstanding group of seniors this year, and hope to see some new faces in the Fall.

Agronomy Club

The UGA Agronomy Club recently elected new officers for the academic year. Congratulations to the following:

Ben Salter-president
Bo Mathis-vice-president
Neal McGahee-secretary
Jason Arnold-treasurer
Kevin Hedrick-Ag Hill rep

In March, the Club hosted a cookout on the front lawn of the Miller Plant Sciences Building. Club members wish to thank all those who turned out to support the event.

The Turf and Agronomy Clubs joined forces for the 2009 Annual Peanut Sale. Thanks to marketing ideas from students and advisors, the sale exceeded expectations.

Turf Club

Members of the Turf Club celebrated the end of the semester on April 30 by visiting Turner Field and watching the Atlanta Braves take on the Houston Astros. Proceeds from the annual peanut sale contributed to this outing.

The Turf Club recently elected the officers for the 2010-2011 academic year. Congratulations to the following:

Kyle Lebanc-president
Jared Koenig-vice-president
Trevor Moren-secretary
Nick Pascheria-activity director
Blake Austin-Ag Hill rep
Mike Bauer-Ag Hill rep
Humberto Orozco-Ag Hill rep
Thomas Aiken-photographer

The club treasurer will be elected and announced at a later date.

The Turf Club has been selected by the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences as the 2009-2010 Club of the Year. They will be given $500 by CAES to use during the 2010-2011 academic year.

Soil Judging Team

On March 20, 2010, the UGA Soil Judging Team travelled to Lubbock, TX, to take place in the National Collegiate Soil Judging competition, hosted by Texas Tech University. The team was composed of four undergraduate students, Christian Hoadley and Louise Jacques of the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, and Chris Oliver and Audrey Morgan of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Resources, and one coach, Dr. Bill Miller of CAES. Twenty-one teams competed in evaluation soil profiles and making land-use interpretations during the two-day competition, which was preceded by four days of practicing soil descriptions on the wide expanses of the Texas high plains. Of the eighty-four individual contestants, Christian Hoadley placed fifth; the UGA team score placed eighth in the overall field, and eighth in a combined team competition. Despite cold and windy morning, the weather was beautiful, and both the students and coach learned a lot about some unusual soils not found back here in Georgia.
Dr. Keith Karnok will retire effective June 30, 2010. However, he will return in August as a rehire to continue his teaching activities.

Robert McKinley, an M.S. student under Dr. Radcliffe, and his wife welcomed their first baby on February 13. William Allen McKinley came a few weeks earlier than expected, but after a brief hospital stay, the new mom and dad were able to take him home. Will and his parents are now settled in at home, and all are doing well.

Joseph Krum, a research professional at the Griffin campus and former UGA graduate student who received his M.S. in 2009, left the University in April to pursue career goals. We wish Joe the best in his future!

Dr. Charles Brummer will be leaving us on August 1, 2010, to take a position with the Noble Foundation. Congratulations and best wishes on his new adventure.

Junhe Lu, a Post-Doctoral Research Associate under Dr. Qinggou “Jack” Huang, and his wife Yi welcomed their second son into the world on May 27, 2010, Tiger Lu weighed 7lbs, 14oz., and was 19in long at birth.

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The Green & Brown newsletter of the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences

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