On the evening of May 19, 2011, 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 guest speaker Vince Dooley, former UGA Athletic Director and head football coach. At the end of the evening, Coach Dooley generously took time to pose for pictures and speak with those in attendance. Thanks to the hard work of the club members and their advisors, the banquet was a huge success.
THANKS SENT FROM U.S. SOLDIER

Every year, Dr. Nicholas Hill teaches the course *Terror and the Food Supply* as part of the Agro-Security Certificate Program (www.agrosecurity.uga.edu/certificate). The class focuses on agriculture vulnerability to terrorism, what agricultural infrastructure is necessary to provide security in the food production sector, what natural pests could be used as agents of terror, and interactive scenarios of terrorism. In October 2010, a unique “thank you” was given to Dr. Hill. James Budenski, a former student in the program, is now a soldier participating in Operation New Dawn with the GA National Guard. On the night of October 29, an American flag was flown on a US Army C-23 Sherpa, call sign “Boxcar 66”. In support of current military mission, the Sherpa carried priority aircraft parts, medical supplies and soldiers from Joint Base Balad in Iraq to landings in AlAsad, Baghdad, Q-West, Erbil and Tikrit, before returning to Balad. At the mission’s end, the framed flag and a certificate of appreciation were sent to Dr. Nill. Said Dr. Hill, after learning that the flag was being sent to him, “While it is not like a major grant, it is an indication that I had an impact on someone’s life.”

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

**Agronomy Club**

The Agronomy Club finished off the school with one final push to sell the remaining peanuts. Thanks to their hard work, all peanuts from the sale have been sold. The Agronomy Club, along with the Turf Club, used some of the proceeds from the annual peanut sale to provide a cookout for the department. On May 15, faculty, staff and student gathered on the front lawn of Miller Plant Sciences after work to enjoy hamburgers and hot dogs fresh off the grill.

**Turf Club**

The Turf Club partnered with the Agronomy Club in the annual peanut sale. In February, several members of the Turf Club attended the annual GCSAA conference in Orlando, FL. The Turf Club also continued their regular series of Club meetings, complete with guest speakers and pizza. At the end of April, they celebrated a year of hard work with an outing to Turner Field to watch the hometown Atlanta Braves in action.

**Agronomy Graduate Student Association**

The Agronomy Graduate Student Association continued the ever-popular AGSA Coffee Hour, alternating each month between CAGT and Miller Plant Sciences. In February, AGSA took part in the CAES Graduate Student Association Chili Cook-off at Four Towers. In April, AGSA and the Plant Biology Graduate Student Association held their annual Plant and Veggie sale. They then wrapped up the academic year with a graduate student cookout on the CAGT deck.
**FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENT UPDATES**

*Dr. Roger Boerma* received the Inventor’s Award for his soybean cultivars at the university’s 32nd Annual Research Awards Banquet. The Inventor’s Award “recognizes an inventor for a unique and innovative discovery that has made an impact on the community.”

Dr. Roger Boerma will retire from UGA on June 30. He will continue to work at UGA part-time while also working as part-time Executive Director of the Georgia Seed Develop Commission. Effective July 2012, he will assume the role of full-time Executive Director of the GSDC.

*Vaughn Berkheiser* resigned his position as Public Service Assistant effective May 2011.

*Dr. Peter Hartel* retired from the University of Georgia effective June 2011. He will return to the University in a part-time capacity to teach classes in the Organic Farming certificate program and the Environmental Ethics certificate program.

*Matthew Wolf*, an Environmental Chemistry major, was awarded the Nesbitt-Flatt Award of Excellence for his “outstanding achievements in leadership and scholarship.” He was formally recognized at the CAES Student Awards and Leadership Recognition Banquet, held at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education on May 2.

*Dr. Eric Prostko* was recognized by the Weed Science Society of America with their Outstanding Extension Award.

*Steve Sutton*, a research technician in Griffin, was awarded the Outstanding Employee of the Year at the Griffin campus. He was recognized at an annual conference held on March 3rd at the Griffin Country Club.

*Dr. Monique Leclerc* reviewed the Climate Change program of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in Berkeley, CA, in September 2010.

*Dr. Monique Leclerc* served on the National Science Foundation panel in Washington, D.C., in October 2010.

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*Dr. Myron B. Parker (1924-2011)*

Dr. Myron B. Parker, age 86, of Tifton, passed away on May 2, 2011. Dr. Parker was born in Gwinnett County on December 18, 1924. After serving in the Navy from 1942-1946, Dr. Parker enrolled at the University of Georgia, graduating in 1956 with a Master of Science degree in Soil Chemistry. He took a job as an agronomist for the Mountain Experiment Station in Blairsville, GA. In 1969, he moved to the Coastal Plain Experiment Station in Tifton, where he worked until his retirement in 1987. Dr. Parker continued as an Emeritus faculty member until shortly before his death.

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*Congratulations to all of our Spring 2011 graduates!*
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