Senior 4-Hers are in the 9th – 12th grade and are open to the myriad of academic experiences that UGA has to offer, specifically in the Crop and Soil Department. This summer Aaron Thompson, Julia Gaskin and graduate student Caitlin Hodges hosted 10 Senior 4-H students for a 1 hour crash course in all the wonderful things that a potential student could study in our department! These Senior 4-Hers are at UGA to learn about potential majors and explore the different topics and opportunities offered by attending UGA. They also used their experience here to make posters that count towards their achievements as Senior 4-Hers.

In the mid-morning’s soil class titled “No Soils, No Life. Dig it?” they explored the world below their feet. Soil is the earth’s living skin and we could not grow food, fiber, or anything else without it. The students learned about how soil is also critical to maintain clean water and may be one of our biggest solutions to reducing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. They got down and dirty in this class with topics like:

- Soils of Georgia
- Soil Texture - Gittin’ Gritty and Slick
- Soil Organic Matter - Why do we care?
- Soil Biology and Dirty Underwear
- Land Use, Soils and Water - rainfall simulator

With dirty hands and happy faces they also ventured outside to see the rainfall simulator which is a useful “seeing is believing” tool. It demonstrated how practices such as no-till farming, cover crops, and prescribed grazing benefit soil health and improve water infiltration and can reduce runoff.
The UGA Soils Team travelled to Murray, KY for the 2015 Southeast Regional Soil Judging Contest in October. Ten other teams from around the Southeast were hosted by Murray State during the 4-day contest, which was held on the variety of beautiful farms managed by Murray State in far western Kentucky on the rolling loess hills near the confluence of the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers. Bill Miller (Crop & Soils) and Larry Morris (Warnell School of Forestry) took 8 students to the contest, and spent 3 days looking at practice sites before the day of the contest. The weather smiled on us, and it was warm and sunny all week.

The team was composed of (L to R in photo below) Patty Lawson, Cliff Knight, Maggie Satterfield, Chandler Lipham, Amanda Connor, Heather Stevanus, and (front) Ian Boulet.

Patty Lawson came in First Place out of the 75 student competitors in the Individual scoring, a first for UGA. Maggie Satterfield was also in the top 10 with a 6th place finish. As a team, UGA placed a close 4th place, only separated from the top 3 teams by a small margin.
HIGHLIGHTS FROM
THE DEPARTMENT (cont’d)

CAES Convocation

Fall 2015 graduates of Crop & Soil Sciences

Spring 2016 graduates of Crop & Soil Sciences

Vivienne Sturgill Retirement Lunch
Graduate Degrees

Taylor Hendricks - M.S. in Crop and Soil Sciences, now pursuing a Ph.D. in Animal and Dairy Science at UGA.

Roshani Pahari - M.S. in Crop and Soil Sciences.

Seth Byrd - Ph.D. in Crop and Soil Sciences, hired as an Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist at Texas A&M University.

Daryl Chastain - Ph.D. in Crop and Soil Sciences, hired as a Research Cotton Physiologist/Agronomist at Mississippi State University

Nicolas Wyngaard - Ph.D. in Crop and Soil Sciences.

Luo Qi - Ph.D. in Toxicology/Crop and Soil Sciences.

Abha Mundepi - Ph.D. in Crop and Soil Sciences.

Jared Wilmoth - Ph.D. in Crop and Soil Sciences.

Nahal Hoghooghi - Ph.D. in Crop and Soil Sciences.

Undergraduate Degrees

The following students received their B.S.A. in Turfgrass Management:
  • Austin Brooks
  • Christopher Conley
  • Clint Connard
  • Dustin Owenby
  • Sam Williamson

The following students received their B.S.E.S. in Water and Soil Resources:
  • Mitch Livingstone
  • Ian Boulet
  • Amanda Connor
  • Patricia Lawson

The following students received their B.S.A. in Agriscience and Environmental Systems:
  • Kevin Cotton
  • Philip Torrance
  • Erick Begitschke (cum laude)
  • Christopher Davis
  • Andrew Lovett
  • Jamie McBurney
  • Christine Smith
  • Bennett Weaver

The following students received their B.S.E.S. in Environmental Chemistry:
  • Devon Bullock
  • Bridget Burns

Faculty Awards/Recognitions

Donn Shilling – named Weed Science Society Fellow.


Stanley Culpepper - profiled in UGA’s Focus on the Faculty (http://www.uga.edu/faculty/profile/culpepper-stanley/)

Eric Prostko - named American Peanut Research and Education Society Fellow, APRES Annual Meeting, Clearwater, FL.

Timothy Grey - Dow AgroSciences Award for Excellence in Education, APRES Annual Meeting, Clearwater, FL.

Student Awards/Recognitions

Chris Conley, Kaulin Andric, Clint Connard, Chad Austin – 3rd place, Student Challenge Team, National Sports Turf Managers Association, San Diego, CA.

Hafsa bin Nahraw – 2nd place, National Science Foundation Long-Term Ecological Research event, Boulder, CO.

Nahal Hoghooghi - 1st place poster, Soil Science Society of Georgia annual meeting.

Laura Ney - 2nd place poster, Soil Science Society of Georgia annual meeting.

Diego Barcellos - 3rd place poster, Soil Science Society of Georgia annual meeting.

Christopher Conley - 6th place poster, 2016 CAES Undergraduate Research Symposium

Retirees

Vivienne Sturgill/retired from her position as the Academic Advisor on the Athens Campus, June 2016.

New Hires

David Jespersen - Assistant Professor, Turfgrass Physiology, Griffin campus.

Lindsay Davies - Beginning Farmer Rancher Development Program Assistant, Athens campus

Jeni Klute - Program Coordinator II, Athens campus.

Benjamin Lopez - Research Professional II, Griffin campus.

Chris Cromer - Research Professional I, Tifton campus.

David Conger - Research Professional I, Tifton campus.
Please send newsletter comments and suggestions to Laura Burris at ldburris@uga.edu or 706-542-2461.
Please consider investing in our future by contributing to one of several funds, listed below.

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