CRSS HOSTS 4-H STUDENTS

June 2017 – Senior 4-H’ers 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 Gas-kin and graduate students Caitlin Hodges and Diego Barcellos hosted 50 Senior 4-H students for two 1 hr. crash courses in all the wonderful things about soil and keeping it healthy and productive. There also was time to talk about all that a potential student could study in our department! These Senior 4-H'ers were at UGA to learn about potential majors and explore the different topics and opportunities offered by attending UGA. Julia, Aaron, Caitlin, and Diego were all great examples of what’s amazing about soil scientists.

In the “No Soils, No Life. Dig it?” soils class, 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 Winogradsky Columns
- Land Use, Soils and Water – The 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.

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RETIRED? ALUMNI? To continue receiving this newsletter, as well as notices of future department events, please be sure to provide us your updated contact information!
PROFESSORS WIN AWARD FOR DUAL-DEGREE PROGRAM

On April 4, 2017, the Office of International Education awarded the Richard F. Reiff Internationalization Award to Drs. Miguel Cabrera and George Vellidis. Along with Vicki Mc-Maken, Associate Director of Global Programs at CAES and the third award recipient, Drs. Cabrera and Vellidis have worked to establish a dual-degree graduate program in sustainable agriculture with the University of Padova in northern Italy. This is the first program of its kind in the College, and students who enroll in this program will take courses and do research at both universities, ultimately earning degrees from both institutions.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE DEPARTMENT

Dr. Glen Harris participates in CAES’s Ag & Environmental Awareness Day in south Georgia

Dr. Brian Schwartz teaches a portion of the 2017 Tifton Turf Conference

Spring 2017 graduates of Crop & Soil Sciences

Fall 2016 graduates of Crop & Soil Sciences
IN MEMORY: DR. WILLIAM SEGARS

Dr. Bill Segars, faculty member in the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences for many years until his retirement in 2002, died unexpectedly July 7 due to complications from a fall.

Dr. Segars received both BS (with honors) and MS in Agronomy degrees in 1964 and 1967, respectively, from the University of Georgia. He received a PhD degree in Agronomy/Plant Physiology from Clemson University in 1972. Dr. Segars served in numerous roles in the Department, first as a Extension Soybean Specialist, then as Cotton Specialist during the period 1973 to 1975. From 1975 through 1979, he was employed by the Farm Cooperative GoldKist, Inc, first as Manager of Research and Development and then as Director of Technical Services. In 1980, he was hired back to the then Department of Agronomy as Soils and Fertilizer Specialist (1980 to 1989). In 1989, he was named Water Quality Coordinator for the College, a role he held until his retirement in 2002. During the period 1998 until his retirement, he also served as Extension Coordinator for the department.

Dr. Segars was very effective in applying basic knowledge of crops and soils for environmental protection and water quality. A couple of examples of his work in this subject area included the promotion of voluntary nutrient management plans by poultry industry farmers and work with the Georgia Department of Agriculture for a program to evaluate and register non-traditional soil amendments. He was also highly active and influential in launching the Certified Crop Advisors (CCA) Program in Georgia and the Southeast US in 1992 for individuals who advise growers on the proper use of fertilizers and ag chemicals in crop production. This program was launched by the American Society of Agronomy and it is noteworthy that Dr. Segars was a leader in providing training to County Agents as a part of the CCA Program. Training materials were developed for CCA training and distributed to colleagues in over 20 states in the Southern US.

Dr. Segars received many honors and awards over his career, but he would perhaps be most proud of the Blair W. Davis Outstanding Service Award presented by the Georgia Plant Food Educational Society (this Society’s highest honor) and being named Fellow of the American Society of Agronomy in 2002.

BILL MILLER RETIREMENT LUNCHEON
Graduate Degrees

Maria Fernanda Terraza Pira - Ph.D. in Crop and Soil Sciences

Undergraduate Degrees

The following students received their B.S.A. in Turfgrass Management:
- Kaulin John Andric
- Chad Alan Austin
- William Jackson Bowling
- William Tilton Jacobs

The following students received their B.S.E.S. in Water and Soil Resources:
- Hayden Christopher Casey
- Anna Murry Johnson
- Shelby Jane Jolly

The following students received their B.S.A. in Agriscience and Environmental Systems:
- Johnathan Blaine Barrett
- Carson Elizabeth Dann (Certificate: Organic Agriculture), Summa Cum Laude
- Haley Anne Goodman
- Jessica Lynn Harr
- Willis Turner Spratling, Cum Laude
- Randall Kyle Stratton

The following students received their B.S.E.S. in Environmental Resource Science:
- Katherine Cassell (Certificate: Integrated Pest Management)

Faculty Awards/Recognitions

George Vellidis – received Pierre C. Robert Precision Agriculture Award

Pam Knox - appointed to the American Meteorological Society’s Board of Certified Consulting Meteorologists, a 4-year term starting January 2017

Stanley Culpepper - received 2016 Southern Region Excellence in Extension Award, Association of Public and Landgrant Universities.

Katrien Devos - selected as Fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science; seared 2017 UGA Creative Research Medal.

Pang-Wah Chee - awarded 2016 Cotton Genetics Research Award, Joint Breeding Committee.

Dennis Hancock - 2017 Walter B. Hill Award for Distinguished Achievement in Public Service and Outreach.

David Jespersen - Musser Award of Excellence

Clint Waltz - TPI Turfgrass Educator Award of Excellence

New Hires

Mark Freeman - East Georgia Extension Agronomist, Statesboro, GA.

Daniel Mailhot - Director of Statewide Variety Testing, Griffin, GA

John Gassett - Research Station Superintendent, Iron Horse Farm

Cristiana Pilon - Assistant Professor in Row Crop Physiology, Tifton, GA

Lisa Baxter - Postdoctoral Research Associate, Tifton, GA

Retirees

Mike Mathis retired from his position as a Research Professional in Dr. Vencill’s lab effective May 2017.

Bill Miller retired from his position as a Professor in soil science effective July 2017.

We wish our retirees the best in their future!!

Student Awards/Recognitions

June Brawner – 2nd place, UGA Graduate School Three-Minute Thesis competition; received Fulbright Study Award, and will spend 9 months studying in Hungary.

Diego Barcellos - received UGA Global Programs graduate student travel award; named a UGA Amazing Student; 2017-2018 Dissertation Completion Award; cover feature in Winter 2017 UGA Graduate School magazine

Kayla Eason - 1st place, Sigma Xi Student Research Conference competition, Agricultural, Soil and Natural Resources division.

Maria Terraza - 1st place, Dixon Soil Mineralogy student paper award; Dixon Soil Mineralogy travel award; 2nd place Soil Fertility Student Paper Contest, SSSA Annual Meeting, Phoenix, AZ; CAES Global Programs Graduate International Travel Award.

Chase Straw - 1st place, Department of Kinesiology 11th Annual Global Education Forum poster competition; awarded complimentary student registration to International Turfgrass Research Conference

Will Bowling - 1st place, CAES Undergraduate Research Symposium poster competition

Kristen Pegues - 3rd place, Southern Branch, ASA, Mobile, AL

Stephanie Fulton - 2017 American Society of Mining & Reclamation Scholarship and Annual Meeting registration winner

Carson Dann - 2017 Nesbitt-Flatt Outstanding Senior Award

Sara Pelham - selected to participate in Graduate School GS LEAD program
Please send newsletter comments and suggestions to Laura Burris at ldburris@uga.edu or 706-542-2461.
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