FROM THE DESK OF DR. SHILLING

In early spring, Crop and Soil Sciences began management of the Automated Environmental Monitoring Network (now the Georgia Weather Network). This system provides reliable weather information for agricultural and environmental applications. The program is housed at the Griffin campus with Dr. Ian Flitcroft as its new director. He and his staff currently monitor 80 weather stations around the state. More information can be found at www.georgiaweather.net.

The department has added new faculty members that have significantly increased our expertise in teaching, research and extension. Gerald Henry joined the department as an Associate Professor and holds The Athletic Association Professorship in Environmental Turfgrass. Zenglu Li was hired as the new Associate Professor in Soybean Breeding, and Ali Missaoui was hired as an Assistant Professor in Forage Breeding. Dory Franklin came on board as an Associate Professor in Soil Science and Sustainable Agriculture. All are located on the Athens Campus.

Our department added 6 faculty from the former Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department: Mark Risse, Pam Knox and Julia Gaskin, located in Athens; and George Vellidis, Gary Hawkins and Calvin Perry, located in Tifton. The department now has significant expertise in water quality and management (Mark Risse, George Vellidis, Gary Hawkins, and Calvin Perry), climatology (Pam Knox), and food systems (Julia Gaskin).

All of our new faculty have rapidly integrated into Crop and Soil Sciences, and have already significantly impacted our productivity.
FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENT UPDATES

Awards/Scholarships

Pamela Brown received the D. W. Brooks Award for Classified Staff in the Administrative/Professional category. Donna Tucker received the D.W. Brooks Award for Classified Staff in the Technical category. Dr. Monique Leclerc received the D.W. Brooks Award for Excellence in Global Programs. Stephanie Fulton was selected as one of the winners of the 2012 John Scarano Memorial Scholarship. She will receive a commemorative plaque, $1000, a 1-year GA AHMP membership and free attendance for 1 year to all Georgia Chapter meetings. Stephanie was presented with her award at the annual AHMP-GA Section Holiday Party on December 19.

Kate Cassity, a Ph.D. student under Dr. Miguel Cabrera, won 5th place in the Student Oral competition held by division S4/S8 of the Soil Science Society of America, 2012 Annual meeting.

New Hires/Retires

Michelle Pitts began working as an Administrative Associate at the Tifton campus in November. Marilyn Law, Research Technician at the Tifton Campus, has retired after more than 25 years in service to CAES.

Sara Cates, a longtime Administrative Associate at the Tifton campus, retired effective December 1, 2012. We wish Sara the best!!

Graduate Degrees

Sudeep Sidhu successfully completed the requirements for a Ph.D. in Crop and Soil Sciences. He is currently working at UGA’s Griffin campus, continuing research with Dr. Jack Huang.

Shea Buettner successfully completed the requirements for an M.S. in Crop and Soil Sciences. He will continue working as a researcher at the Savannah River Ecology Lab.

David Durden successfully completed the requirements for an M.S. in Crop and Soil Sciences. He now works as a Field Technician with the National Ecological Observatory Network in Boulder, Colorado.

Undergraduate Degrees

The following students received their B.S.A. in Turfgrass Management:
- Chase Newman
- Andrew Pace

Agronomy Graduate Student Association

The Agronomy Graduate Student Association has elected officers for the current term.
Co-Presidents: Xiao (Steve) Li
Lisa Baxter
Treasurer: Daniel Burt
Secretary: Sarah Doydora
Webmasters: Jared Wilmoth
Taylor Cyle
Kate Cassity
Fundraising: Lisa Woodruff

Little Additions

Daryl Chastain and his wife welcomed their first child, Lily Caralynn Chastain, on December 4, 2012. Daryl, an M.S. student under Dr. John Snider, says he couldn’t have asked for a better birthday present!

Dr. Gerald Henry and his wife welcomed their third child, a son named Jacob, in August. Jacob joins two older brothers, and the family is doing well.

Josh Griffin and his wife Christy welcomed their first child, Avery Maxwell Griffin, on August 23, 2012.

Jonathan Markham and his wife Lee Ann welcomed their first child, Esther Rebecca Markham, on October 24, 2012.

Dr. Jared Whitaker and his wife Shellie welcomed their first child, Brooks Ross Whitaker, on October 10, 2012.

Marilyn Law, Research Technician at the Tifton campus, has retired after more than 25 years in service to CAES.

Dr. Daniel Hillel (BS, Agronomy ’51), winner of 2012 World Food Prize, and his wife, Michal Artzy, with CRSS faculty and staff.
Soil Judging Team
The UGA Soil Judging Team travelled to Lexington KY during October 2012 to compete in the Southeastern Regional contest hosted by the University of Kentucky. Dr. Miller (instructor/coach) took 6 students by van for 5 days in the Bluegrass region of Kentucky, spending 3 days working on practice soil pits before the competition on the final day. Students were challenged looking at soils formed on limestone and shale, and practiced their silty textural classes under clear but cool skies on the rolling pastures. In the team competition we finished seventh out of 12 schools attending; one member of the team (Rachel Ryland) tied for 10th place in the individual scoring. While our placing was not high enough to go to the national competition in the spring, the team agreed a great deal had been learned.

Turf Club
The Turf Club participated in the South Campus Student Night Chili Cook Off for CAES in October. After the votes were tallied, the Club was awarded 2nd place. The Club also participated in the UGA Cattlemen’s Association Halloween Havoc hay bale decorating contest, in which they were awarded 2nd place. The Club sent a team to the GGCSA Collegiate Turf Bowl in November. The team took home 1st place in the Team competition, and the Overall Individual High Score went to Steven Jones.
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To donate at a secure site online, or to find more information on our various funds, please visit: www.cropsoil.uga.edu/alumni/invest.html

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.