DEPARTMENT EVENTS

The department hosted four social events over the last year. In April, with help from the Turf Club, faculty, staff and students were treated to a cookout on the lawn in front of the Miller Plant Sciences Building. In July, the Plant Sciences Farm hosted a cookout by the pond. And in October, we had over 60 people in attendance at a low-country boil on the farm. And in December, we had the annual Holiday potluck. These events provided those in attendance with a chance to meet and talk with both new and retired members of Crop & Soil Sciences.

RETIERD? ALUMNI? To continue receiving this newsletter, as well as notices of future department events, please be sure to provide us your updated contact information!
**Awards/Scholarships**

*Peter Eure* won 1st place in the Southern Weed Science Society PhD Student Paper Contest.

*Rand Merchant* won 1st place in the Southern Weed Science Society M.S Student Paper Contest.

*Rand Merchant* won 2nd place in the Southern Weed Science Society Graduate Student Paper Contest.

*Peter Eure* won 1st place in the Southern Weed Science Society PhD Student Paper Contest.

*Rand Merchant* won 1st place in the Southern Weed Science Society M.S Student Paper Contest.

*Rand Merchant* won 1st place in the Southern Weed Science Society M.S Student Paper Contest.

*Jason Sarver* was selected as a recipient of the 2013 Future Leaders in Science Award by ASA-CSSA-SSSA, and received an all-expense paid trip to Washington, DC, for the Congressional Visits Day in March.

*Lisa Baxter* placed 4th in the Robert F Barnes Graduate Student Oral Competition at the ASA-CSSA-SSSA annual meeting in November.

*Katie Payne* placed 5th in the Robert F Barnes Graduate Student Oral Competition at the ASA-CSSA-SSSA annual meeting in November.

*Lisa Woodruff* received 5th place in the Poster Competition of the Soil Fertility & Plant Nutrition/Nutrient Management Divisions at the ASA-CSSA-SSSA annual meeting in November.

*Sara Doydora* received 2nd place in the Oral Competition of the Soil Chemistry Division at the ASA-CSSA-SSSA annual meeting in November.

*Scott Tubbs* received the 2013 Early Career Award in Research at the Southern Branch of the American Society of Agronomy annual meeting in February.

*Jasmine VanExel* was selected to speak at the Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund annual meeting, where she spoke about her educational background and current research.

*Jason Sarver* won 1st place in the Graduate Student Oral Presentations competition at the Southern Branch of the American Society of Agronomy annual meeting in February.

*William Vencill* received the NACTA Teacher of Merit Award from the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture and UGA CAES in March.

*John Rema* received the D.W. Brooks Award for Excellence in the Technical Staff category.

**New Hires/Retires**

*Mark Risse* has been appointed Director of Marine Sciences at UGA effective July 1, 2013.

*Wes Porter* will join the department as an Assistant Professor on January 1, 2013.

*David Hoisington* has been hired as Director of the Peanut & Mycotoxin Innovation Lab (PMIL).

*John Gassett* has been appointed Director of Statewide Variety Testing (SWVT) effective Oct 15, 2013.

*Carrie Furman* joined the department as an Assistant Research Scientist effective August 9, 2013.

*Sarah Doydora* received 2nd place in the Oral Competition of the Soil Chemistry Division at the ASA-CSSA-SSSA annual meeting in November.

*Bob Carrow* retired from the UGA effective June 30, 2013.

*John Beasley* has been appointed head of the Agronomy and Soil Department at Auburn University, effective January 1, 2014.

*James “Jake” Cartey* was hired as a Farm Supervisor III at the Plant Sciences Farm effective November 1, 2013.

*Taylor Clark* was hired as a Farm Supervisor III at the Plant Sciences Farm effective May 6, 2013.

**Little Additions**

*Clay Bennett* and his wife Katie welcomed their daughter, Lola Claire Bennett, in June. Lola weighed in at 7lbs 4oz and was 21 ¼” long.
**SOIL JUDGING TEAM PLACES 3rd**

The UGA Soil Judging Team travelled to Tennessee Tech's Cookeville TN campus to compete in the Southeast Regional contest in October. Eleven teams from across the Southeast spent three days practicing on the silty soils of the Highland Rim and Cumberland Plateau before the annual contest began. When all was said and done, the UGA top scorer on 4 contest pits was Patty Lawson, a junior Water & Soil major, who placed 4th overall out of 70 competing students. The UGA team score was good enough for a 3rd place finish, the highest in the past 5 years. The team will travel to Delaware Valley College in Pennsylvania to attend the National Collegiate Soils contest in April 2014.

**DEGREES CONFERRED**

**Graduate Degrees**

*Erico Mattos* successfully completed the requirements for a Ph.D. in Crop and Soil Sciences.

*Liwen Zhang* successfully completed the requirements for a Ph.D. in Crop and Soil Sciences.

*Rashmi Singh* successfully completed the requirements for a Ph.D. in Agriscience and Environmental Systems.

*Calvin Meeks* successfully completed the requirements for an M.S. in Crop and Soil Sciences.

*Hao Zhang* successfully completed the requirements for an M.S. in Crop and Soil Sciences.

*William Starr, Jr.* successfully completed the requirements for a Master of Plant Protection and Pest Management.

*Mark Freeman* successfully completed the requirements for an M.S. in Agriscience & Environmental Systems.

*Rand Merchant* successfully completed the requirements for an M.S. in Agriscience & Environmental Systems.

*Kathryn Shepard* successfully completed the requirements for an M.S. in Agriscience & Environmental Systems.

*Wenqian Kong* successfully completed the requirements for an M.S. in Agriscience & Environmental Systems.

**Undergraduate Degrees**

The following students received their B.S.A. in Turfgrass Management:

- Robert Pearson Clark II
- Jeremy Tyler Griffin
- Joseph Saxton Hendricks V
- Trevor L Moren
- Colby Garrett Spivey

The following students received their B.S.A. in Agriscience & Environmental Systems:

- Perri Anne Campis
- Jessica Danielle Spaid

The following students received their B.S.E.S. in Water & Soil Resources:

- Nancy Jane Berryman
- Heidi Elizabeth Gilkenson
- Rebecca Kristin Heard
- Rachel Carolan Ryalnd
- Caleb Leighton Snyder
- William Gregory Harper

**UGA Soil Judging Team: Erin Maldonado, Rixa Sabsevari, Cole Perry, James Nix, Patty Lawson, Caitlin Hodges, Katie Chatham, and Jay White**
INVEST IN OUR FUTURE

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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