

# The Green and Brown



The Official Newsletter of the Crop and Soil Sciences Department, University of Georgia

Spring 2006

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Don't forget to check out the department's website for current events and new people!  
[www.cropsoil.uga.edu](http://www.cropsoil.uga.edu)



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## MESSAGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD

A lot of great things happened at the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences and the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences last year. We were fortunate to hire our new Dean, Dr. Scott Angle, from the University of Maryland. I believe that Scott will guide our organization to new levels of success. Also, Dr. Joe Broder who served as interim dean last year was appointed as our Associate Dean of Academic Affairs.



Donn Shilling

Many challenges face the college and the department. One of the more critical issues is how we continue to revitalize our teaching program—both undergraduate and graduate. We are committed to more aggressive recruiting and marketing techniques which we hope will increase enrollment in our new undergraduate majors, Water & Soil Resources and Environmental Chemistry, as well as in our Turfgrass Management major and areas of emphasis in Applied Biotechnology and Biological Sciences. Various strategies are also being discussed to help us to continue attracting outstanding graduate students and allow us to grow our graduate student numbers state-wide.

Our faculty's research continues to increase in both productivity and impact. Dr. Steve Knapp was recruited from Oregon State and has been with us a little over a year. His program in Molecular Biology enhances departmental prestige enabling us to continue to be a scientific leader in the development of improved crop cultivars that keeps Georgia agriculture competitive.

Several faculty members decided to leave the University of Georgia last year. Dr. Kang Xia, soil chemist, Dr. Mark Williams, environmental microbiologist, Dr. John Andrae, forage extension specialist and Dr. John Baldwin, peanut extension specialist left the department to pursue other opportunities. We wish them the best of luck. We will be filling several positions in 2006: Forage Breeder, On-Site Waste Water Management Public Service Associate, Forage Extension Specialist, Soil Chemist, Water Chemist and Cropping System Agronomist. Interviews have been completed for the Forage Breeder position as well as the On-site Waste Water Management Public Service Associate position.

Our extension programs around the state continue to provide outstanding support to the various commodities through our county based programs. Our extension service expanded considerably last year with the hiring of several Ag agents. Our extension specialists continue to look for innovative ways to meet the ever increasing demand for information.

We were very fortunate last year to recruit several outstanding new staff people. Herb Yeomans, our new farm manager, and Jason Strickland, Ag Specialist, will support our plant science farm here in Athens. Diane Salum, our new accountant, is doing a great job of meeting the demands of the department's fiscal office. Kurk Lance, who is our new greenhouse manager, and Ingrid Barrios, our new administrative assistant are both providing outstanding support to our department.

Our new departmental web page is very impressive. Our aim is that this new webpage will serve both functional and promotional objectives. If you haven't seen it, please check it out. I extend my sincere appreciation to the webpage committee and their efforts to coordinate this extremely complicated endeavor. If you have any comments about the webpage please let us know. We will be undertaking a capital campaign that will be partially facilitated through the web. Contributions from Alumni and other private citizens will be greatly appreciated and as a token of our appreciation there will be gifts such as coffee mugs, T-shirts and other items related to our marketing efforts in improving departmental recognition.

I believe that if we continue to work towards improving the success of our department through support of faculty, staff, and students, the things we've done in the recent past and the things we do in the future will continue to provide an opportunity for individuals associated with our department to succeed. Thank you for your continued support. GO DAWGS!

## CSS FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

*Dr. Mathews Dida* from Maseno University, Kenya, has been awarded a Fellowship from the Generation Challenge Program. Dr. Dida is currently a visiting scholar in the laboratory of Dr. Katrien Devos for a period of one year with funding from the Kirkhouse Trust. The GCP Fellowship will allow him to extend his visit for an additional six months to apply molecular marker techniques to enhance our understanding of the biodiversity and evolution of finger millet and its wild relatives.



Dr. Mathews Dida

*Dr. Peter Hartel* and his team made headlines in the Brunswick News on August 9, 2005 with their study on contamination in Postell Creek. The study tracks down the source that is contaminating the waters in and around St. Simons Island. To see the article go to [www.thebrunswicknews.com](http://www.thebrunswicknews.com) and search for article titled "Hunt persists for source of island contamination".

*Dr. Sayed Hassan* was given Adjunct Associate Professorship from the Department of Forestry & Natural Resources at Clemson University. His appointment became effective January 2006.



Dr. Sayed Hassan

*Dr. Jim Hook* recently received the 2005 Phil Karr Water Wise Award from the Georgia Water and Pollution Control Association. Dr. Hook was noted for his efforts in establishing accurate measures of agriculture water use for irrigation. Through the recently completed Ag Water Pumping, Automated Irrigation Monitoring, and GIS-based Permit Management and mapping projects, Dr. Hook and his colleagues established monthly irrigation water application amounts and basin-by-basin withdrawal amounts throughout the recent drought and subsequent wet years in Georgia. The award was presented at the GW&PCA meeting in Savannah, GA on July 18, 2005.

*Dr. Keith Karnok* took office as the 52<sup>nd</sup> President of the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) at their annual conference in Wooster, Ohio, June 15-17, 2005. NACTA is a professional society focusing on promotion and recognition of excellence in teaching agriculture and related disciplines at the post secondary level. NACTA's mission is to provide a forum for discussion of issues related to improvement and promotion of excellence in college instruction. Those interested in joining NACTA can contact Dr. Karnok at [kkarnok@uga.edu](mailto:kkarnok@uga.edu) or at 706-542-0931.

*Dr. Dewey Lee* was elected as 2006 Chair for the A-4 Extension Division of the American Society of Agronomy. Division A-4 of the ASA focuses on advancing standards of agronomic education to serve the public. The division chair provides leadership during the year and coordinates communication among members and symposiums conducted at the ASA annual meetings. Dr. Glenn Harris preceded Dr. Lee as chair for the A-4 Extension Division in 2005.

## CSS STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Graduations

Patrick Davies, Maria Eugenia Abreu and John Kruse all successfully defended in Fall 2005.

### CSS Students going around the world

*Maria Monteros* traveled to Londrina, Brazil from January 25<sup>th</sup> to March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2005 to conduct research on a recently introduced and potentially devastating pathogen, the Asian soybean rust. Her trip was sponsored by the Tinker Foundation and travel funding from both CAES and the Graduate School.



Maria Monteros

*Jennifer Yates* went to Seoul, South Korea from June 17<sup>th</sup> to August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2005 to conduct research on peanut root-knot nematode resistance in soybean. Her trip was sponsored by a grant from the National Science Foundation and the Korean Science and Engineering Foundation.



Jennifer Yates

### Scholarships and Awards

*John Kruse* received the Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award from the Office of Instructional Support & Development of the University of Georgia.

*Cory Mills* placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 2005 ASA meetings in the C3 division student poster competition for his poster "Comparison of Yield and Quality in BG/RR and BGII/RR Flex Cotton".

*Maria Monteros* was awarded the 2005 Gerald O. Mott Meritorious Graduate Student Award in Crop Science from the Crop Science Society of America.

*Glen Ritchie* placed 1<sup>st</sup> at the Beltwide meetings for his oral presentation "Cries for Help, Remotely Sensing Water-Stressed Cotton". He also placed 1<sup>st</sup> in a Division A4 competition for an extension publication he authored "Growth and Development of Cotton".

*Jared Whitaker* placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Cotton Physiology Graduate Student Poster Competition at the Annual Beltwide Cotton meetings in New Orleans, LA on January 6, 2005.

The University of Georgia Soil Judging team competed in the National Soils Contest at Auburn University on April 2005. The team placed 4<sup>th</sup> overall and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the team competition of 22 teams. Team members: Kelli Coleman, Andrew Croy, Tony DeMarco, Gus McCormick, Charles Moore (7<sup>th</sup> place individual), Ronald Navarrete and Troy Smith.



The team also competed in the Southeastern Regional Soils Contest at North Carolina State University on October 28, 2005. The team placed 2<sup>nd</sup> of 13 teams and will participate in the National Contest to be held at California Polytechnic State University in March 2006. The team members include Kristin Abney, Andrew Croy (2<sup>nd</sup> place individual), Tony DeMarco, Gus McCormick (6<sup>th</sup> place individual), Anthony McEver, Charles Moore and Brandon Stuart. Good luck in the National Contest!



The '04-'05 winners of the Georgia Plant Food Education Society Scholarships are Troy Smith and Charles Moore. Congratulations!



## CSS STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### CSS Student Success stories

*Tasha Mashburn* recently accepted a position as an agriculture specialist with Customs and Border Protection at the Hartsfield International Airport in Atlanta, GA. She is responsible for intercepting any potential pest (disease, insect, agrobioterrorism) before it enters the country. If you are interested in applying to become an agriculture specialist, check out vacant positions at [www.cpb.gov](http://www.cpb.gov).

*Jay Haider* was recently elected as a Senator representing the Graduate School in the Student Government Association.

*Greg Pillar* got his teaching portfolio certified by a faculty committee of the Graduate School in November 2005. This certification recognizes Greg's contributions to the teaching mission of the University of Georgia, the development of scholarship of teaching, and the documentation of excellence through a teaching portfolio.

*Vinod Jakkula* was awarded a Pioneer Generation Challenge Program Fellowship starting August 2005 for four years. Vinod currently works in Dr. Katrien Devos' lab.



Vinod Jakkula

*Nick Chammoun*, Agronomy Club President, spent his 2005 summer working in Washington, DC. He worked in Senator Johnny Isakson's office assisting with agricultural issues.

### Presentations

On July 7, 2005, Dr. Craig Bednarz held a field tour at the University of Georgia Stripling Irrigation Research Park near Camilla, GA. About 50 county agents, growers, University and industry representatives attended. All four of Dr.



Bednarz's graduate students who conducted their research at this facility had the opportunity to present their findings to the attendees. (Photo-Jared Whitaker, an M.S. candidate in Dr. Bednarz's program, discusses the comparison of agronomic and economic aspects of overhead sprinkler versus sub surface drip irrigation.)

### Making Headlines

On June 27, 2005, the Stinky Creek Team (Holly Barlow, Kelli Coleman, Marco Galang and David Parks) made headlines in the Athens-Banner Herald when they presented their findings on studies done on Stinky Creek located in Athens, GA. Their results on water samples showed the creek was highly contaminated with MTBE (a cancer causing gasoline additive). The readings were so high Ms. Barlow contacted the Athens office of the State Environmental Protection Division with their findings. For more details on their study go to [www.uga.edu/water/stinky\\_creek\\_index.htm](http://www.uga.edu/water/stinky_creek_index.htm).



## CSS FACULTY, STAFF AND STUDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Births

Limei Liu had a beautiful baby boy on October 28, 2005 named Frank Peng.



Youngil An and Bokeun Ha are the proud parents of a baby boy named Aaron born on December 5, 2005.



### Weddings

Yebin Zhao wed Lianmei Feng on August 3, 2005.  
Zack Shearin wed Katie Selvey on June 11, 2005.  
Tasha Masburn wed Jason Lewis on June 25, 2005.  
Congratulations to all the newlyweds!

## STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS UPDATE

### AGSA News

The Agronomy Graduate Student Association Fall 2005 "Crop Circles" T-shirt sale was a resounding success. The proceeds will be used to fund AGSA meetings and social functions. They are still available for purchase but we have a limited supply. Short-sleeve T-shirts may be purchased for \$10 each. Long sleeve T-shirts may be purchased for \$15 each. .

The AGSA cookbook, "From the Field to the Table: A Collection of 250 recipes from members and friends of the Crop and Soil Sciences Department", is still available for purchase for \$10 each. If you are interested in ordering any of these items please contact Greg Pillar at [gdpillar@uga.edu](mailto:gdpillar@uga.edu).

Our 2005 Herbs and Vegetable sale was a great success!! We sold out of several items before noon on the first day. We are looking forward to our Herbs and Vegetable sale in the Spring of 2006. The date is still to be announced. We will be sending out reminders as soon as a date is set.

The officers for the 2005-2006 term are:

President-Jennifer Yates  
Vice President-David Butler  
Secretary-Jay Haider  
Treasurer-Zack Shearin  
Webmaster-Greg Pillar  
Student Liasons-Franta Majas, Nicholas Vaio, Maria Monteros

## STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS UPDATE

### Agronomy Club News

The Agronomy Club's Fall 2005 peanut sale was a success. More than 2,000 cans of peanuts were sold. It seems the peanuts have become so famous they have made it all the way to Iraq! Captain Scott J. Mabee, who earned a History degree at UGA, is currently serving in Iraq in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Force Service Group Camp Taqaddum and is fond of the Agronomy Club peanuts. His camp liked the peanuts so much



he asked if he could purchase all the cans of honey-roasted peanuts still available. Unfortunately, we didn't have many to sell at that time so the President of the Agronomy Club decided to donate all of the cans of skinless peanuts we still had! Just a small gesture in comparison to what Captain Mabee and his camp are doing for our country.

The club now has plenty of honey roasted, redskins and skinless peanuts available for \$10 a can. You can come by 3111 Miller Plant Sciences Building Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm to pick them up.

Plans are being made for the Spring Banquet. The date is April 13<sup>th</sup>, 6 p.m. at Flinchums Phoenix.

### Turf Club News

The Turf Club visited Augusta National in January 2005 touring the course and maintenance facility. In February 2005, the club went to Orlando to the GCSAA Golf Industry show. The club's annual cookout at Dr. Karnok's house was held during Fall Semester 2005 which included flag football and a meal of hotdogs and hamburgers. Members participated in raising money for the Katrina relief fund by selling water and hurricane relief t-shirts.

The officers for the 2006 term are:

President-Ben Brooks

Vice President-Trey Cutts

Treasurer-Ben Woodall

Secretary-Chris Young

## DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### New Department of Crop and Soil Sciences Website

We have officially launched the department's new website! It has been many months in the making and has taken a great deal of time from many people. This site was conceptualized, programmed and designed in a joint effort from EITS and the Webpage committee. The committee members included Dr. Wayne Parrott (Chairman), Dr. Miguel Cabrera, Dr. David Radcliffe, Dr. Clint Waltz, Dr. Eric Prostko, Dr. Philip Jost and Pam Brown. We hope the new look of our website encourages you to browse through its pages and links. Special thanks are in order for Dr. Wayne Parrott who took this massive project under his wing and brought it to fruition as well as Ingrid Barrios and Andrew Carbo who contributed numerous hours to the input and formatting of data. You can find it at [www.cropsoil.uga.edu](http://www.cropsoil.uga.edu).

## DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### GAPPS

The Georgia Plant Science Scholars (GAPSS) Summer 2005 program was hosted by the University of Georgia departments of Plant Pathology, Horticulture and Crop and Soil Sciences. It was held on June 20-24, 2005. This program provided young students with an opportunity to discover and explore their options for the future. Kisha Shelton (Plant Pathology's Educational Program Specialist) and Vivienne Sturgill (Crop and Soil Sciences' Degree Program Assistant) coordinated the event. Our department hosted dinner for the students in the Miller Plant Sciences Building Amphitheater. Dr. Miguel Cabrera took the students on a field tour. Dr. Wayne Parrott indulged the students with a hands-on experiment in his lab. Thanks to everyone who helped with the program.



### Departmental Recruitment Activities

Maria Abreu traveled to Puerto Rico and represented UGA at University of Puerto Rico, Pontifical Catholic University



of Puerto Rico and Universidad Metropolitana. All universities were in Puerto Rico. These recruiting activities were held from September 30-October 2, 2004.

The Department of Crop and Soil Sciences was present at an event organized by Dr. John Ricketts of Ag Leadership Education at Four Towers on January 2005. Approximately 90 students attended. Dr. Nick Hill gave three ten minute talks to the three groups of students on majors in our department.

Maria Eugenia Abreu represented our department at an event organized by Curtis Byrd of the Graduate School and Retention Office at the Tate Center. This event gave us a chance to promote our graduate degrees.

The FFA Convention was held on April 2005 where 1500 high school students attended. It was held in the Classic Center, Athens.



Vivienne Sturgill and Greg Pillar in our departmental booth during the FFA Convention.

## DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Summer Resources Fair was held June 10-August 2, 2005. Dr. Shilling, Pam Brown, Dr. Karnok, Dr. Miller, Dr. Vencill, Vivienne Sturgill, Jennifer Yates, Maria Monteros, Chelly Richards and Holly Barlow represented our department at this undergraduate orientation fair.

The department participated at the Graduate Orientation at Herty field which took place on August 15, 2005.

Fall 2005 Kick-Off took place September 1. It was organized by the Alumni Association. A meal was provided and Dean Angle gave a speech to the students, faculty and staff who attended. South Campus Tailgate 2005 was held at Legion Field and Dr. Vencill represented our department.



From right to left: Maria Abreu, Jay Haider, Jennifer Yates and Greg Pillar enjoy the Fall 2005 Kick-Off festivities



Kelli Coleman standing in front of the departmental display.



Students, staff and guests enjoy the refreshments and food provided at the Fall Kick-Off 2005.



From right to left: Andrew Croy, Christopher Young and Ben Woodall at Fall Kick-Off 2005.

## WELCOME TO THE DEPARTMENT

### *Sara Cates(Tifton Campus)*

Sara Cates joined the CRSS clerical staff as Administrative Associate I in Tifton on November 1, 2005. She brings a wealth of experience, having previously worked in Horticulture at the UGA Tifton Campus for 5 years and several years in local private industry. She is a Tifton native and has spent most of her life here. She serves in the role vacated by the retirement of Ann Goodwin and works directly with Dr. Steve Brown, Dr. Glen Harris, Dr. Dewey Lee and Dr. J. Michael Moore.

### *Dr. Andrew MacRae (Tifton Campus)*

Dr. MacRae joined UGA in September 2005 as a Post Doctoral Associate. He was born in Truro, Nova Scotia, Canada where he was raised in a rural community consisting of beef and dairy cattle farming. In 1993, he enrolled at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College where he graduated in 1997 with a B.S. in Agriculture (Pest Management). While in college, he accepted a position with the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Marketing (NSDAM) as the interim weed science technician and was also awarded a research contract from the Canadian Department of Agriculture.

In 1998, he began his graduate work at North Carolina State University. In addition to his graduate research he completed tree fruit, small fruit, and vegetable weed management trials as well as IR-4 'GLP' residue studies. In December 2001 he obtained his M.S. in Horticultural Science (Weed Science) with an emphasis on tree fruit weed management. In August 2005 he completed his Ph.D. in Horticultural Science (Weed Science) with an emphasis on sweet potato weed management. He is currently working under the direction of Dr. Stanley Culpepper in cotton and vegetable weed control. His emphasis is in the biology of glyphosate-resistant Palmer amaranth and methyl bromide alternatives in vegetables.

### *Diane Salum(Athens Campus)*

Diane joined the Crop and Soil Sciences administrative staff on October 3, 2005 as Senior Accountant. Before coming to the Department of Crop and Soil, she worked as the Senior Accountant in the business office of the Graduate School. She has worked in the accounting field for the University of Georgia as well as for the private sector for companies such as Savannah Laboratories and Environmental Services and Athens Regional Medical Center. Her experience and knowledge is an asset to our department. She serves in the role vacated by the resignation of Elizabeth Prince and works directly with faculty and staff in Athens.



## FAREWELL

### *Dr. John Andrae (Athens Campus)*

While at UGA, Dr. Andrae held the position of Assistant Professor and had a 100% extension appointment in forage management. The Extension program areas he worked with included (1) eliminating or alleviating tall fescue toxicosis using novel nontoxic endophytes or legumes (2) improving grazing systems using complimentary forages and rotational stocking and (3) improving forage quality in both grazing and hay systems. He resigned from UGA to accept the position of State Extension Forage Specialist for South Carolina at Clemson University.

### *Dr. Glenn W. Burton*

Dr. Glenn W. Burton, 95, a world-famous agronomist credited with developing Coastal Bermuda grass and popular grasses for athletic fields and golf courses, passed away November 22, 2005. He was an invaluable member of the USDA-ARS Forage and Turf Unit at the University of Georgia Crop and Soil Sciences Department. His initial responsibility was improving the breeds of grasses used by farmers in the South. It was in 1943, after seven years of experimenting with more than 5,000 varieties, that he developed Coastal bermuda grass which enabled farmers to increase cattle production far better than regular bermuda grasses.

He is also credited with developing excellent turf grasses for golf courses and athletic fields. At one time the grass on the University of Georgia football field in Athens, GA and the Gator Bowl in Jacksonville, FL were products of his research. Eventually, Dr. Burton developed more than 20 varieties of forage grasses, and today more than 10 million acres of pasture land from the Carolinas to central Texas have been planted with his grasses, primarily the Coastal Bermuda variety.

He was one of the world's foremost agricultural scientists whose efforts in plant genetics from 1936 to the 1990s with colleagues at the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the University of Georgia at Tifton have helped "feed the hungry, protect and beautify the environment, and provide recreation for millions."



Dr. Glenn W. Burton  
(1910-2005)

### *Elizabeth Prince (Athens Campus)*

Ms. Elizabeth Prince worked for the department in the capacity of Senior Accountant. She handled all accounting responsibilities for the CSS Athens campus including budgeting, payroll, grant management, purchasing and coordinated all faculty spending. She resigned her position as Senior Accountant to accept an accounting position at the External Affairs Financial Services Department at the UGA and Arch Foundations.

## FAREWELL

### *Ann Goodwin (Tifton Campus)*

Mrs. Ann Goodwin started working at UGA when she was 17 years old. Her career began in September 1961 in the Animal Science Department at the Coastal Plains Experiment Station under the supervision of Dr. Joe Johnson and Dr. Otho Hale. From 1971 to 1978, she worked at ABAC in the Admissions Office and later in the Humanities Department. In September 1978, she returned to UGA to join the Extension Agronomy Department in the Rural Development Center. Mr. J. Frank McGill, Dr. Ron Henning, and Dr. Charles Swann were among her earliest Specialists. At her retirement on October 1, 2005, she worked with Dr. Moore, Dr. Brown, Dr. Harris and Dr. Lee. Over the years, she provided support for commodities such as peanuts, tobacco, soybeans, cotton, feed grains, forages, Weed Science and Soil Science. In addition to the countless changes in work and technology, Ann has seen many people come and go during the 35-plus years of her tenure. The numbers of well-wishers and admirers at her retirement parties were an indication of all who appreciated her professionalism and contributions. She will be greatly missed, but quoting Ann, "I would recommend retirement to everyone".

### *Dr. Mark Williams (Athens Campus)*

As an Assistant Research Scientist at UGA, Dr. Williams studied the interrelationship between soil microorganisms and their environment. He utilized standard soil microbiology techniques to study microbial life and soil organic matter, as well as the more advanced techniques of compound specific isotope analysis, nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy and DNA-based methods. He resigned his Assistant Research Scientist position at UGA in December 2005 and accepted a faculty position with Mississippi State University. At Mississippi State, Dr. Williams will have teaching and research responsibilities as an Assistant Professor in the area of Soil Microbiology in the Department of Agronomy. He is doing work related to carbon and nitrogen dynamics in soil.

### *Dr. Kang Xia (Athens Campus)*

As an Assistant Professor for the department, Dr. Xia focused her research on the environmental fate of organic chemicals, the application of spectroscopic techniques and chromatography instrumentations on environmental samples. Dr. Xia did research on the environmental fate of pharmaceutical and personal care products that end up in biosolids that potentially impact water quality and animal/human health. If left untreated, compounds from sludge can re-enter the water supply after land application. She resigned her Assistant Professor position at UGA in December 2005 to accept a faculty position with Mississippi State University. At Mississippi State, Dr. Xia will have teaching, research and administrative responsibilities as Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemistry and as Director of the State Chemistry Lab.