

# THE GREEN AND BROWN



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CROP AND SOIL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT, UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Summer 2004

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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)



## EDITORIAL STAFF

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## MESSAGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD

I hope you and your family have been enjoying the warm weather and vacation time with your family. If you've been on vacation welcome back and if you are going on a vacation have a great time. How about those Diamond Dawgs. All the way to the NCAA College World Series. What a great season. Congratulations!!!!!!



Donn Shilling

Although the absence of students may create the sense of solitude on campus, between the budget, the college restructuring, salary recommendations, trying to better understand our system, and last but not most importantly, getting to know each of you better, the last several months have been busy. Although I would like to think I'm at the end of the learning process, as Winston Churchill once said, "this is not the end, this is not even the beginning of the end, but it is perhaps the end of the beginning"—at least I hope so.

Overall, I believe that the department is in pretty good shape due largely to your efforts. Everyone is pitching in to enhance our department. We are trying to keep our newsletter published on a regular basis. We have a group of faculty and staff re-creating the department web page. We are working to increase both undergraduate and graduate student numbers. The department will be hosting a teaching workshop this summer which we hope will get us all working toward a common goal. We are also moving to fill at least one faculty position in the near future. All these efforts are geared toward our desire to ensure that the department is strategically positioned for a successful future.

The college is still dealing with reorganization and a significant reduction in our budget, but we are working through these challenges. The most important news is the retirement of Dean Buchanan on December 31, 2004. He has served the college and University with passion. The process of selecting a new Dean has begun and we are hopeful that our next Dean will help to reinvigorate us all. Lamar Martin has also announced his retirement so we will be filling an Assistant Dean of Extension position as well.

We are all hopeful that these changes will better position our college and department for a bright future. The good news is that the economy is apparently turning around. This should result in some additional funding. We shall hope for the best. So, enjoy your summer. I look forward to a new fiscal and academic year with each of you.  
Go DAWGS!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



Dr. Kang Xia and Dr. Mark Williams tied the knot on April 12<sup>th</sup>! A picnic was held at Dr. Miguel Cabrera's house on May 15<sup>th</sup> to celebrate their union.

Shelby Cox (an ESS Graduate Student) and Charles Finch were married on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.



Gene Weeks, a Research Coordinator in the Lab for Environmental Analysis, married Ann Hurst on January 4<sup>th</sup>.

William Vencill was the recipient of the 2004 Southern Weed Science Society Outstanding Educator Award.

The 56<sup>th</sup> Georgia Science and Engineering Fair was held April 15-17<sup>th</sup> and Agronomic Awards were given out by the UGA Crop & Soil Sciences Dept. Thanks to the Georgia Plant Food Educational Society for partnering with us to make this endeavor a success.

## NATIONAL SOIL JUDGING CONTEST

The University of Georgia Soils team competed in the National Soils Contest hosted by the Illinois State University, Normal on April 22 and 23, 2004. The UGA team placed 5<sup>th</sup> in team judging and 3<sup>rd</sup> overall of 20 teams from across the U.S. competing.



Team members included Alan Martin, an Environmental Soil Science major; Jake Collins, an Environmental Soil Science major (6<sup>th</sup> place individual); Max McGill an Environmental Soil Science major; Brandon Stuart an Environmental Soil Science major; Troy Smith (12<sup>th</sup> place individual) an Environmental Soil Science major; and Nathan Johnson an Environmental Soil Science major. Go to <http://www.cropsoil.uga.edu/SoilJud.html> for pictures of the events.

## GAPSS

### Georgia Plant Science Scholars



The Georgia Plant Science Scholars (GAPSS) Summer 2004 program was hosted by Plant Pathology, Horticulture, Crop and Soil Sciences and Entomology. Thirty one students took part and it was a huge success. Students spent two and a half days with us on campus. Housing was provided in one of the dormitories and meals were provided for the students. Evening activities were designed to entertain. This program provided the students a chance to explore their options for the future. Students got the opportunity to discuss many aspects of the plant sciences, soil sciences and entomology field and they had some hands-on activities. Kisha Shelton, Plant Pathology's Educational Program Specialist, was the overall organizer of the program and each of the departments involved gave her assistance by offering individual departmental tours and providing meals for the students for the two and a half days on campus. The students were able to tour a few labs here in the Plant Sciences Building and a couple at the Center for Applied Genetic Technologies. Henrietta Tucker and Vivienne Sturgill set up a delicious meal for the students Thursday evening. Thanks to everyone who helped with the program.

## HAPPENINGS

Dr. Peter Hartel is currently working with Georgia Officials and the Marine Extension Service to determine the sources of fecal contamination on Sea Island. A beach advisory for fecal contamination was recently issued for Sea Island.

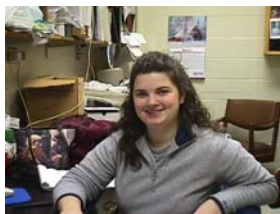
Steve Knapp, Eminent Scholar, has joined the department as of July 1<sup>st</sup>. Dr. Knapp is located at the Center for Applied Genetic Technologies on Riverbend Road in Athens.



## MEET THE PEOPLE

### Shelby D. Finch

I received my Bachelor's degree in Environmental Soil Science at UGA (2002). Currently, I am studying the effect of biomat formation on the infiltration rates of drainage fields with Dr. Larry T.



West for my Master's degree in Agronomy. Club memberships include the SSSA, Agronomy Graduate Student Association, and the National Wildlife Federation. My favorite things to do would be spending time with my family and friends, gardening, watching movies, and eating chocolate. I recently married Charles Finch and after graduating I hope to be employed by the government.

### Chelly Richards

I was raised in Atlanta, Georgia, and graduated from The University of Georgia in 1997 with a B.S. double major in Biology and Cellular Biology.



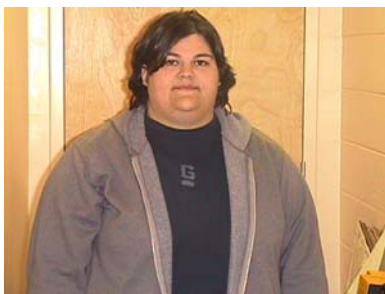
After graduation, I completed two years of volunteer service in the United States Peace Corps for which I lived and worked in a rural agricultural community in eastern Honduras. Upon return, I moved to San Francisco, where I worked as a research assistant for various pharmaceutical companies.

I am currently researching a master's thesis under the supervision of Drs. Miguel Cabrera and Dory Franklin. I will be identifying limiting nutrients for periphyton growth in two Georgia Piedmont watersheds.

In my free time, I enjoy reading, walking my dog, and cycling, both on the road and on the trails.

### Kelli Coleman

I was fortunate enough to find a job here at Crop & Soil Sciences that involves one of my favorite side ventures, desktop publishing. I also enjoy scrapbooking, spending time with friends & family, attending football games,



fishing, camping and traveling. I live here in Athens with my pet fish, Fish, who shares a duplex with my best friend's

fish, Chips. I am a native of Hawkinsville, GA, where I graduated salutatorian of the Class of 1999 from Hawkinsville High School. After high school, I attended Middle Georgia College and worked at a local appraisal company. In 2003, I received an A.S. in Chemistry from Middle Georgia College. This fall I will begin my senior year here at the University pursuing a B.S. in Environmental Soil Science. When discussing my educational goals with others, I've found that most people have very little understanding of the complexity of soil and end up saying that I'm getting my "Dirt Degree". Needless to say, I do not find this term amusing. Upon graduation, I plan to work towards one day owning a consulting business, which offers both environmental and residential assessments.

### Katrien Devos

I joined the Crop and Soil Sciences Faculty in August 2003. I came to UGA following 13 years of research, six of which as a Project Leader, at the John Innes Centre in Norwich, United



Kingdom, and a 1 year stint as Visiting Professor at Purdue University. My husband, Jeff Bennetzen, and I opted for the University of Georgia because of the high quality of the students and the great recruiting efforts of some of our colleagues. My research interest is 'Comparative Genomics in Cereals' with a focus on wheat, pearl millet and finger millet. The overall aim is to enhance our understanding of the organization, function and evolution of the genomes of these species. The millet research is mainly in collaboration with developing countries, where these crops are important staples. Of course, since my move to UGA, aiding the development of pearl millet for Georgia has also become a priority. If you'd like to find out more about my research, please feel free to come and talk to me!

### Maria Monteros

I am currently pursuing a Ph. D. in Crop and Soil Sciences. I work with Dr. Roger Boerma in the soybean breeding and improvement program. My research focuses on mapping quantitative trait loci (QTL) conditioning fatty acids, particularly oleic acid content, using simple sequence repeat (SSR) markers. I



am also interested in confirming stress QTL and their effects and contributions to soybean yield. The type of research that I do involves lab work and allows me to do field work as well, especially during the summer.

I was born and grew up in Guatemala City, Guatemala. I received a B.S. and a Licenciante in Biochemistry from Universidad del Valle de Guatemala. I worked with citrus Exocortis viroids as part of my undergraduate degree. I enjoy traveling and learning about other cultures, as well as gardening and painting. I am a gym dog fan, as I was once a gymnast myself. I have many diverse interests, and am an avid reader. I try to keep active by playing soccer and softball and being involved with local activities.

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

### Jay Ferrell-Extension Weed Specialist-UF

After graduating with a Ph.D. in agronomy in August 2003, Jay spent approximately 6 months as a Research Scientist in the Department of Agronomy under the direction of Dr. Tim Murphy. As a Research Scientist he led research for weed management in pastures and fine turf and published experimental findings. He resigned as Research Scientist in February of 2004 and accepted employment with the University of Florida in the Department of Agronomy. At Florida, Jay will have extension (65%) and research (35%) responsibilities in the areas of general weed management and prevention in commodity crops, forages, and highway rights-of-ways. Extension responsibilities will include Central Florida and the Pan-handle regions.



### Carolee Osbourne-Soil Conservationist

After graduating with a M.S. in agronomy in December 2002, Carolee spent approximately 6 months as an Agricultural Research Coordinator in the Crop and Soil Sciences Department under the direction of Dr. David Radcliffe. As a Research Coordinator, Carolee



worked with several professors in the implementation of a new water quality study focusing on streams located in urban, rural, and agricultural areas. She resigned as a Research Coordinator in July of 2003 to accept a Soil Conservationist position with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). She started in the LaGrange Field Office and has since been promoted and now works in the Carrollton NRCS Field Office. She works with local producers in Carroll, Haralson, and Heard counties implementing Farm Bill programs such as EQIP and GRP that focus on soil and water quality issues. Additionally, she works in the Lower Little Tallapoosa River Watershed to provide cost-share assistance to landowners to install conservation practices on their farms. Carolee recently married Richard Osborne on August 16, 2003 and they are expecting their first child in February 2005.

## 58<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SOUTHEASTERN TURFGRASS CONFERENCE



The 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Southeastern Turfgrass Conference was held on May 3 and 4, 2004 at Tifton, Georgia. Over 225 participants from a number of southeastern states took the opportunity to view current turf research on bermudagrass and centipedegrass research at Tifton. They also participated in educational sessions on issues such as: identifying and controlling pest problems, soil testing, managing the ultradwarf bermudagrasses, ornamentals, athletic fields, using the web to get answers, etc.

## STUDENTS RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS

Two of our undergraduate students were chosen to receive scholarships from the Georgia Seedsmen's Association. Benjamin Brooks will receive the Seedsmen's Roy C. Jones Scholarship and Jonathan Willis will receive the Seedsmen's Scholarship. The criteria for selection is by GPA and major.



## AGSA NEWS

### News from the Officers



The Agronomy Graduate Student Association t-shirt sale was a great success. We hired New World Graphics to create the design and do the printing. They were very patient and willing to formulate as many designs as it took to make us happy. The “Crop Circles” design is sure to turn some heads! We sold 84 t-shirts to faculty, staff, and students in Athens and Tifton. Orders even came from several people in the Geography and Forestry departments. In fact, we are still getting requests for more shirts. If you are interested in submitting an order for the next printing, please contact Greg Pillar, [gdpillar@uga.edu](mailto:gdpillar@uga.edu).

The AGSA Cookbook, “From the Field to the Table: A Collection of 250 recipes from members and friends of the Crop and Soil Sciences Dept” is now available for sale. These cookbooks make great gifts for any occasion. The cookbooks are \$10 each and can be purchased by contacting Shelby Finch (Rm 3202 or [sdee@uga.edu](mailto:sdee@uga.edu)) or Greg Pillar (Rm 3204 or [gdpillar@uga.edu](mailto:gdpillar@uga.edu)).

One example of a delicious recipe is John Rema’s Spice Up Eggs. It calls for 6-8 hard-boiled eggs, 1/4 tsp. turmeric powder, 1 green chile....and more ingredients I cannot give away. But...if you would like to get the rest of this recipe and more just come by and pick up your cookbook or call and we can make arrangements to get them to you.

Thanks to all that have made this cookbook possible.

Questions Call 706-542-1174

<http://www.uga.edu/agsa/>

## AGRONOMY CLUB NEWS

### News from President, Nick Chammoun



The '03 - '04 school year has been a very exciting time for our club, with a great Peanut Sale in the Fall, and a well deserved trip at the end of this spring. Ten of our members took a trip to California to tour the state’s agriculture. Our main focus was crops, so that took us to the Central valley where we toured crops around the town of Firebaugh. Mr. Steve Malanca, a Sales Manager with Thomaston Tractor Company, a John Deere dealer, was our tour guide. He showed us how most of the processed vegetable food we eat is grown and how important water resources are in the Central Valley since they only get eight inches of annual rainfall! Next we drove up to Yosemite National Park and looked at the large Sequoia trees for a day. We then drove to the Napa Valley and toured a vineyard learning a little about how to grow grapes and produce quality wine. We finished out the trip with a visit to San Francisco where we caught a plane back to Georgia. This Fall semester, the Agronomy Club will be having its annual peanut sale. We will begin taking orders in September and expect the peanuts to arrive around the middle of November. We don’t have exact dates yet, but keep an eye out for our flyers in the fall.



Agronomy Club at Bubba-Gump Restaurant at Fisherman’s Wharf in San Francisco, CA