Andrew (Drew) Ross is a fifth generation farmer on a row crop farm in Ocilla, Georgia. He also comes from a long line of family ties to UGA; his grandfather serves on the board of the Alumni Association. It is no surprise then, that one now finds Drew at UGA, majoring in Agriscience and Environmental Systems. When not in class, Drew works for the USDA-ARS in Watkinsville, GA.

When asked if he has ever visited our nation’s capital, Drew stated, “a few years ago and that trip really fueled the fire.”

It was at that point that he began to seriously consider the possibility of a future in politics. Upon returning home, Drew began looking into learning opportunities for undergraduates with an interest in political processes. He applied for a congressional fellowship in early 2009.

Summer fellowship opportunities are offered to students in UGA’s College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. To qualify, students must have completed 60 semester hours, be in good academic standing, be known for campus involvement, have good public relations skills and an interest in agriculture policy. Upon their return to campus, the student must give both oral and written presentations about their experience.

On May 11, 2009, Drew begins the 12-week Jim Marshall Ag Fellowship in Washington, DC. Throughout the summer term, Drew will work with the Congressional Offices of Saxby Chambliss, Jim Marshall, Johnny Isakson and others, on the formation of agriculture policy. He will be responsible for agriculture research and meetings with constituents. Drew will be required to attend press briefings and agriculture committee hearings; he will also write briefs for committee hearings.

Drew wishes to credit Dr. Duncan of the Ag Leadership Certificate Program for his instruction in leadership, and his teaching of communication skills.

In his free time, Drew is looking forward to visiting the various museums in the DC area, immersing himself in the history of the United States and learning more about the foundation of the country. He also anticipates an exciting July 4th celebration in Washington, and is keeping an eye on the future – his career goal is to be a Congressman.

Congratulations Drew!
Agronomy Club

The Agronomy Club capped off a productive year by hosting the Annual Spring Picnic at the Plant Sciences Farm. Faculty, staff and students were joined by friends and family for an afternoon of good food and fellowship. After dinner, some friendly fishing competitions were struck up by the lakeshore. A good time was had by all in attendance.

Agronomy Graduate Student Association

The Agronomy Graduate Student Association has continued their monthly Coffee Hour, providing good food and drink, as well as a nice morning break during the work week. As summer approaches, and many of the students complete their degree requirements, the Coffee Hour will take its usual summer break. We all look forward to the first fall Hour, and an opportunity to meet the new students joining the department.

The annual AGSA Plant Sale was held at the end of April, in conjunction with the Plant Biology Graduate Student Association’s Herb Sale. Students from both organizations manned tents and tables for two days on the front lawn of the Miller Plant Science building, selling their wares to members of the UGA community. On May 7, 2009, AGSA hosted an end-of-the-school-year picnic for all members of the department. Thank you to all the officers and members of AGSA, for all of your hard work!

Congratulations to all of the undergraduate and graduate students in CRSS who completed their degree requirements during the 2008-09 academic year. We wish you all the best in your future endeavors!!!

ALUMNI: If you would like to Invest in Our Future, please visit www.cropsoil.uga.edu, and follow the link to “Invest In Our Future.” Also, please visit our Alumni page, and be sure to update your information (http://www.cropsoil.uga.edu/alumni/form.html).
Dennis Hancock was selected to receive the 2009 Gamma Sigma Delta Junior Achievement in Extension Award by the University of Georgia chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta, The Honor Society of Agriculture. He will be recognized for his accomplishments and presented with an award certificate at a later date.

Dale Wood received the Georgia/Florida Soybean Association’s 2009 Research Award. He was honored at the noon luncheon at the Small Grains/Soybean Expo on January 27, 2009.

Dewey Lee has been elected to serve on the University Council. His 3-year term will begin on August 14, 2009.

Monique Leclerc has been named a Regents Professor by the University System of Georgia Board of Regents, in recognition for her internationally known studies on atmospheric biogeosciences and climate change. Dr. Leclerc has also been appointed to the Council of Agricultural Science and Technology Board of Directors, and was given an award for Outstanding Achievement in Biometeorology by the American Meteorological Society.

Andrew Paterson was named a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, in recognition of the contributions he makes to the science community.

William Vencill has been appointed editor of Weed Science, Journal of the Weed Science Society of America. He will begin effective 07-01-2009, and will serve in this capacity for three years.

Tim Murphy won the 2009 Distinguished Service Award at the Southern Weed Science Society annual meeting in Orlando, February 2009.

The 2009 Early Career Award – Southern Branch of the American Society of Agronomy was awarded to Timothy Grey of the UGA-Tifton campus. This award was presented at the ASA Southern Branch meeting in Atlanta during the first week of February 2009.

ARRIVING AND DEPARTING

Athens

After many years as a Research Professional in the soybean Breeding & Genetics program, Dale Wood will be retiring effective May 31, 2009.

Jason Strickland resigned his position at the Plant Sciences Farm, to pursue another career opportunity, in late 2008.

Tifton

Dr. Jim Hook is retiring from his position of Professor effective May 31, 2009. Dr. Hook has served as a soil, plant and water scientist in Tifton since 1978.

Guy Collins accepted the position of Assistant Professor and Cotton Agronomist. Guy received his PhD in Cotton Agronomics from North Carolina State University. He will join the Tifton faculty on November 1, 2009.

Jason Jackson, who graduated with his M.S. degree this Spring, placed 2nd in the Southern Branch - American Society of Agronomy Graduate Student Competition in the Crops section for oral presentation. Jason’s advisor on his M.S. degree program was John Beasley. Committee members were Timothy Grey, Dewey Lee, and Scott Tubbs.

Griffin

Vaughn Berkheiser joined the department in the position of Public Service Assistant for Onsite Wastewater Management in Griffin. Vaughn began his duties on March 23, 2009.

Bill Nutt, longtime Research Professional under Dr. Tim Murphy, retired from his position effective March 31, 2009.

Have a safe and wonderful summer!!!!