



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES
SCHOOL OF PLANT AND
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
VIRGINIA TECH.

E-NEWS



Important Upcoming Dates:

Staff Meeting—March 9, 12:00 -1:00pm at 311 Latham

Donut Tuesday—“Boris Vinatzer”, March 3, 8:30am at 311 Latham

Faculty Meeting—March 13, 3:00-4:15pm at Fralin Auditorium

Graduate Student Lunch with Director-March 13, 12:00-1:00pm at TBD

SPES Social—March 27, 4:00 - 6:30pm at Rivermill

Announcements and News:

Meredith Steele is featured in the Soil Science Society of America for her research of salt in soil if salt changes the chemistry or biology of soils. Meredith and her research team experimented with soil watered without salt and soil with salt. The salts included sodium chloride (table salt), potassium chloride, and calcium chloride. Researchers measured soil respiration, the amount of carbon dioxide gas released from the soil. They discovered soils irrigated with saltwater released more carbon dioxide but calcium chloride had less effect. This research shows farmers may need to monitor for salt in floodwaters, irrigation water, and fertilizers. Read more about it: <https://www.soils.org/discover-soils/story/do-soils-need-low-salt-diet>





Graduate students in GOSPSES! went “Super Bowling” on February 3rd. Josh Mott holds the single game high score with a 127.

Graduates:

Graduate Students Graduating from SPES December 2019

Mike Badzmierowski, CSES, PhD, Greg Evanylo

Clara Ervin, CSES, PhD, Mark Reiter

Nicholas Meier, CSES, PhD, Carl Griffey

Oluwatosin “Tosin” Ogunmayowa, CSES, MS, Meredith Steele

Jesse Radolinski, CSES, PhD, Ryan Stewart

Michael Swoish, CSES, PhD, Wade Thomason

Bethany Wolters, CSES, PhD, Mark Reiter

Thomas Hasing, HORT, PhD, Aureliano Bombarely

Shawn Beam, PPWS, PhD, Michael Flessner

Marco Mechan-Llontop, PPWS, PhD, Boris Vinatzer

Unnati Sonawala, PPWS, PhD, John McDowell/Guillaume Pilot



Undergraduate Students Graduating from SPES December 2019

CSS:

Alastair Colquhoun
Thomas Davis
Madelyn Dynes
Brody Ellis
Susannah Gonia
Grayson Lambert
Andrew Morris

ENSC:

Michael Beall
Elyse Johnston
Rachel LeDonne
Margaret Lenz
Garrett McBee
Justin Naylor
Lauren Pollard

EHRT (Environmental Horticulture):

James Curran
Lauren Gregory
Bailey Pettit
Sarida Pisarnpong
Cheyenne Salmon
Stephanie Sane
Kelly Scaramozzi
Sarah Wright

Graduate Student Awards:

At the Northeastern Weed Society Annual Conference on January 7, 2020 in Philadelphia, PA Shawn Askew's graduate student, John Brewer won the Robert D. Sweet Outstanding Graduate Student Award at the PhD level. John also won first place oral PhD presentation competition. The Robert D. Sweet - Outstanding Graduate Student Awards were established to recognize outstanding NEWSS students at the M.S. and Ph.D. levels for their work and contributions to the field of weed science in research, teaching, extension, and to the society.



At the Northeastern Weed Society Annual Conference on January 7, 2020 in Philadelphia, PA, Michael Flessner's recent graduate, Lucas Rector won the Robert D. Sweet Outstanding Graduate Student Award at the Masters level.



Members the Virginia Tech Turf club participated in the 2020 STMA Student Challenge at the Annual Sports Turf Managers Association National Conference in West Palm, FL, and the 2020 Collegiate Turf Bowl at the Golf Course Superintendents Association Golf Industry Show, in Orlando, FL in January. Turfgrass science graduate students Emeline Daly, Caleb Handley, and Wendell Hutchens served as coaches for the teams during the fall semester when the students began studying for the competitions. Congrats to all the students for all their hard work in preparing and studying for the competitions and thank you for representing Virginia Tech at these national events!



GCSAA Collegiate Turfbowl teams with the 10th place award for \$300 (L-R: Keri Knott, graduate student coach Wendell Hutchens, Alex Kaval, Ethan Luther, Caleb Handley, Noah LaFleur, Jared Mason, Wil Lannon, and Connor Gillespie).

At the STMA Student Challenge the VT finished as the top team in the ACC and placed 11th overall (L-R: Tyler Morris, Wil Lannon, graduate student coach Emeline Daly, and Connor Gillespie).



Publications:

Chen, Chaoqi, Hilaire, Sheldon, Xia, Kang. 2020. Veterinary Pharmaceuticals, Pathogens and Antibiotic Resistance. Book: Animal Manure: Production, Characteristics, Environmental Concerns, and Management, Volume 67. Pages: 385-407

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February 16, 2020