



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

# E-NEWS



## Important Upcoming Dates:

**Staff Meeting**—TBA, 12:00 -1:00pm at 311 Latham

**Donut Tuesday**—TBA, 8:30am at 311 Latham

**Faculty Meeting**—TBA, 3:00-4:15pm at Fralin Auditorium

**Graduate Student Lunch with Director**-TBA, 12:00-1:00pm at 311 Latham

**SPES Social**—TBA, 4:00 - 6:30pm at Rivermill

## Announcements/News:

On May 21, 2020 the Virginia Virtual Small Grains Field Day was held and included several SPES faculty available on YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLN-8Ily\\_pGFez6XMNrOCBo\\_JqA\\_igWaiR](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLN-8Ily_pGFez6XMNrOCBo_JqA_igWaiR). Speakers were Carl Griffey, Wade Thomason, Joseph Oakes, Josh Fitzgerald, Limei Liu, and Wynse Brooks. Part of this included a tribute to Dr. Carl Griffey for his upcoming retirement by looking back at every Wheat and Barley variety released by VT from 1989-2020.



Dr. Carl A. Griffey  
W.G. Wysor Professor  
Small Grain Breeder

VT - School of Plant and Environmental Sciences



Extension Master Gardeners meet demand for home vegetable gardening information. Read more about it:

<https://vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2020/05/ext-extension-master-gardeners-meet-demand.html>

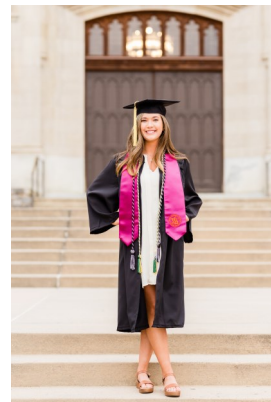
## Graduates:

### Graduate Student Graduates

Name	Degree	Advisor
Andie Gonzales Diaz	MS	David Haak
Andre Diatta	PhD	Wade Thomason
Chris McCullough	PhD	Megan O'Rourke
Dongfang Zhou	PhD	Joyce Latimer
Eric Scruggs	MS	Michael Flessner
Haidong Yan	PhD	Bingyu Zhao
John Herlihy	PhD	John McDowell
Jose Fraco De Cunha Leme Filho	PhD	Wade Thomason
Joseph Opoku	PhD	Hillary Mehl
Lindsay DeMers	PhD	Saghai Marroof
Matthew Herrmann	MS, non-thesis	Mike Goatley
Rachel Brooks	PhD	Anton Baudoin
Suman Lamichhane	PhD	Takeshi Fukao
Tosin Ogunmayowa	MS	Meredith Steele
Zhibo Wang	PhD	Bingyu Zhao



Dr. Abaye would like to recognize Hailey Humphrey as one of our 19 Spring, 2020 graduates. She majored in Crop and Soil Science and was a president of the Agronomy Club and a member of Virginia Tech's Crops Judging Team. Hailey will be working for BASF starting this summer. Congratulations to Hailey and all!



Dr. Anton Baudoin would like to recognize graduate student graduate Rachel Brooks:

Degree: Ph.D. Plant Pathology

Dissertation: Biological control of the invasive *Ailanthus altissima* (tree-of-heaven) in Virginia using naturally occurring *Verticillium* wilt fungi

Major professors: Anton Baudoin and Scott Salom

Future plans: Rachel will start on June 1 as a Forest Health Scientist with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources

## Grants:

Rahman, Mahfuz (West Virginia Univ.), Jayesh Samtani (Virginia Tech.), Alicyn Smart (U. Maine). Optimization of preventative biorational strawberry fruit and root disease management techniques: linking university research to growers education. NE SARE Research and Education \$244,349.

## Publications:

Haidong Yan, Aureliano Bombarely, Song Li, DeepTE: a computational method for de novo classification of transposons with convolutional neural network. Bioinformatics, btaa519. <https://doi.org/10.1093/>

Sarkar, S., Cazenave, A. B., Oakes, J., McCall, D., Thomason, W., Abbot, L., & Balota, M. 2020. High-throughput measurement of peanut canopy height using digital surface models. The Plant Phenome Journal, 3(1): e20003. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ppj2.20003>



Balota, M., T.G. Isleib. 2020. Registration of GP-VT NC 01 peanut germplasm. J. Plant Registrations. <https://doi.org/10.1002/plr2.20028>

Sarkar, S., Cazenave, A., Oakes, J., McCall, D., Thomason, W., Abbot, L., Balota, M. High-throughout measurement of peanut canopy height using digital surface models. The Plant Phenome Journal. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ppj2.20003>

Bernal-Galeano, V., Norton, G., Ellis, D., Anglin, N. L., Hareau, G., Smale, M., Jamora, N., Alwang, J., Pradel, W. Andean potato diversity conserved in the International Potato Center genebank helps develop agriculture in Uganda: the example of the variety "Victoria." *Food Security*. 2020. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12571-020->