



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:

Dr. Jean Carlo Possenti, a faculty member and seed scientist from the Federal University of Technology – Paraná, Brazil visited Virginia Tech and SPES faculty Greg Welbaum during the week of March 9-13. The purpose of the visit was to learn more about seed science courses taught at Virginia Tech to discuss future research collaboration.





Graduate Student Awards:

PhD student Vivian Bernal-Galeano advised by Jim Westwood, won First place at the TPS Symposium poster competition on February 21, 2020. The poster titled "Artificial host: A tool to revolutionize parasitic plant research".

In Washington, D.C., on March 4, 2020 – The American Society of Agronomy (ASA), Crop Science Society of America (CSSA) and Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) selected the 2020 ASA, CSSA, and SSSA Future Leaders in Science Award. Jaclyn Fiola as one of 18 graduate student members who received the award in recognition of her interest and engagement in science advocacy. Award winners received a trip to Washington, D.C. to participate in the annual ASA, CSSA, and SSSA Congressional Visits Day on March 3, where they met with their members of Congress and advocated for food, agriculture and natural resources research.

Jaclyn (2nd from left in photo) is a second year PhD student advised by Dr. Ryan Stewart and Dr. Greg Evanylo. The Virginia-South Carolina Congressional Visits team also included Dr. Carolyn Olson (current American Geosciences Institute President), Dr. Ann Marie Thro (retired USDA NIFA National Program Leader), Dr. Michael Plumblee (Clemson University Assistant Professor), and Dr. Elizabeth Stulberg (Science Policy Manager for ASA-CSSA-SSSA). They met with Virginia and South Carolina Congressional staff to share the importance of their research and request funding for USDA research programs.



Publications:

Flessner, M. L., Byrd, J., Bamber, K. W., & Fike, J. H. 2020. Herbicide tolerance of industrial hemp (*Cannabis sativa* L.). *Crop Science*. 60:419-427. doi: [10.1002/csc2.20055](https://doi.org/10.1002/csc2.20055)