



Left to Right: Asst. Coach Mike Badzmierowski, Chris Moritz, Sabrina Vladu, U. Samuel Withers, Asst. Coach Alexandra Schmidt, Morgan Ré (in front), Xuanyu "Peter" Guo, Jirius Abdallah, Cameron Bermand, Izzy Fish, Coach John Galbraith, Ben Smith, and Megan Leach.

Virginia Tech Takes Third Place, Qualifies for National Championship

The Virginia Tech soil judging team has once again qualified for the national championship contest by finishing 3rd at the Southeast Region contest on October 12, 2017 near LaGrange, TN. The contest was hosted by University Tennessee at Martin. There were 11 teams competing for the top five spots. The champions were University Tennessee at Knoxville, followed by Clemson, Virginia Tech, West Virginia, and Tennessee Tech. The top individuals were Anna Scott, Clemson; David Gentry, Tennessee; and Jerzi Hood, Georgia.

The Hokies had no top 10 individuals but had several students who did well. The high scorer for Virginia Tech was 11th place Chris Moritz, a senior Environmental Science (ENSC) major from Gloucester, VA. Other team members were Isabella Fish, junior from Haymarket, VA majoring in CSES-Genetics and breeding; Megan Leach, a junior from Falls Church, VA majoring in Environmental Science; Jirius

Abdallah a senior ENSC major from Vienna, VA; Sabrina Vladu, a junior ENSC major from Yorktown, VA; Samuel Withers, a senior in Biological Systems Engineering (BSE) from Asheville, NC; Cameron Bermand, a senior in Environmental Science from Bedford, New Hampshire majoring in Environmental Science; Ben Smith, a junior majoring in BSE from Chesterfield, VA; Xuanyu “Peter” Guo a freshman ENSC major from Beijing, China; and Morgan Ré, a sophomore from Winchester, VA majoring in BSE and Professional and Technical Writing.

The national championship will be held in March, 2018 near Memphis, TN. According to coach John Galbraith, “the contest was very challenging due to the unusual properties of the contest pits. Only one of the four pits had been shown in the practice pits. Our students had not seen soils like the ones in the contest before.” The 3rd place finish qualifies Virginia Tech for the national contest for the 20th consecutive year.



The Virginia Tech soil judging team practices in near LaGrange, TN for the SE Region Soil Judging Contest held Oct. 12, 2017. The team finished 3rd out of 11 teams.