



# Institute of Plant Breeding, Genetics and Genomics

*College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences*

**UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA**

**IPBGG EXTENDS A HEARTY WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING  
THREE NEW STUDENTS FOR SPRING SEMESTER 2017:**



**Eric Antepenko**

Mr. Eric Antepenko is an IPBGG Research Assistant in the Ph.D. program for 2017. He is working with Dr. Scott Jackson, and his duties include working on functional genomics in peanut looking specifically at the introgression of genes and traits from wild relatives into cultivated peanut.

Eric received his Bachelor of Science in Biology and a Bachelor of Music in Music Performance from the University of Georgia in 2013.

Mr. Antepenko has been working in the Jackson Lab since 2014, initially in a Temporary Laboratory position and then as a Laboratory Technician. Eric was initially admitted to the UGA Graduate Program

through Integrated Life Sciences (ILS) in August 2016. He received a PBGG Research Assistantship to work with Dr. Jackson this spring. Please welcome Eric to our Institute, his work space is located in the CAGT building, room 240. His email address is: [ericant@uga.edu](mailto:ericant@uga.edu).



## Ben Lopez

Mr. Ben Lopez is a student in the IPBGG Master's program for 2017. He is working with Dr. Mohamed Mergoum. Ben works in the Small Grains Breeding Program as a Research Professional II at the UGA Griffin campus.

Ben received a Bachelor of Science degree in Crop Science from University of Arkansas in 2015.

His previous work experience includes a position as an undergraduate research assistant (2011-2016) at the University of Arkansas, where he was very active in the wheat breeding program. Ben began his current position as a Research Professional at UGA in March 2016.

Please welcome Ben to our Institute, his work space is located at the Sanford Barn, Griffin Campus. His email address is [benlopez@uga.edu](mailto:benlopez@uga.edu).



## Yasin Topcu

Mr. Yasin Topcu is a student in the IPBGG Ph.D. program for 2017. He is working with Dr. Esther van der Knaap. Some of his plant breeding duties include: genetic and genomic analysis of tomato fruit traits; maintaining tomato plants in the greenhouse and field; and organizing the seeds and populations.

Yasin received both his Bachelor of Science (2012) and Master of Science (2015) degrees in Horticulture from Akdeniz University, Turkey.

His work experience includes a summer position as an agricultural engineer at Kibbutz Elifaz in Israel (2010), and agricultural engineer positions at several food companies in Turkey (2011-2012). The Turkish Ministry of Education has sponsored Yasin's Ph.D. studies at UGA.

Yasin arrived at UGA from Turkey in January. Please welcome him, his office is in CAGT, room 121. His email address is: [Yasin.Topcu@uga.edu](mailto:Yasin.Topcu@uga.edu).