



Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture

"Growing in Excellence"

Dr. William J. Kenworthy, Interim Chair, PSLA

With March Madness over, the semester is quickly coming to an end. As we scramble to keep up with the crush of assignments and project deadlines, in this month's news I would like to recognize some special accomplishments of our PSLA undergraduates, graduates, and faculty.

The Landscape Management Team's trip to Atlanta was a great experience for our undergraduate students. We are proud of the team's high placing in the overall competition and Lindsay's top finish in the sales competition! Way to go Lindsay, Todd, Brian, Andrew and the rest of the team! On the graduate level, three of our graduate students took time to participate in the campus Graduate Research Interaction Day. Each shared results from their research as part of the day-long conference.

Departmental research attracts the interest of scientists and professionals from around the world. Our research on irrigation sensors and on wheat breeding brought both international speaking invitations for PSLA faculty and visiting Russian plant breeders to PSLA. As interest has grown in green building technology, our faculty and students have shared their knowledge with a wide range of interested stakeholders. Earlier this month PSLA faculty contributed to a workshop at the National 4-H Conference for high school students from across the USA.

In addition to our daily tasks, we paused to commemorate the students and faculty who tragically lost their lives in the Virginia Tech shootings last April. PSLA was honored to host a campus dedication ceremony of three dogwood trees given as a memorial for those lives lost. These trees represent a living legacy by uniting universities across the region.

Looking ahead, Maryland Day is this Saturday. Be sure to bring your families and take part in the fun, games and exhibits!

I hope your spirits are lifted by the emerging blossoms across our campus and the sense of renewal brought by the springtime growth. We look forward to hearing of your continued successes as we near the close of this spring's semester.

Regards, Bill Kenworthy



Landscape Management students won 17th of 64 teams in the 32nd annual Student Career Days in Maine

Inside this Issue:

Message from the Chair	1
Newest News!	1
More Newest News!	2
Within the Ranks...	2
Looking Ahead...	2



Newest News!...

Maryland Day on UM Campus, Saturday, April 26



AGNR Dean Wei and Mrs. Wei visit the PSLA display at Maryland Day, 2007

It's the 10th Annual Maryland Day and we're celebrating in a big way! Grab your family, friends and neighbors and join us! It's a day of learning, exploration and fun with 400 hands-on exhibits workshops and live performances. All that, and 50,000 cupcakes to be served throughout the day at Hornbake Plaza in honor of the 10th anniversary!

Festivities begin at 10 a.m. with the opening ceremony featuring President C.D. (Dan) Mote, Jr., ABC-2 News anchor and alumna Mary Beth Marsden, and Testudo. Enjoy your cupcake while listening to music played by the university's free-form, student-run radio station, WMUC.

The Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture will have displays in front of the Plant Sciences Building, as well as in the lobby of PSB and, of course, at the Research Greenhouse Complex. At PSB, you can see Landscape Management's "Dog House with a Green Roof" - designed to be a demonstration of a greenroof installation to explain the concept of greenroofs as a mode of enhancing storm water management and energy conservation. Also on display at the front of the building will be a miniature putting green, a "Guess the Soybean Count" jar, a Sunflower Photo Booth and more. There will be prizes and giveaways for guests. Inside the lobby of PSB, guests will see a beautiful display of cascading orchids. These orchids are part of a research program collaboration between PSLA and TopOrchids, Inc. from Taiwan. Come and learn about the orchid project in the lobby of PSB and as part of the tour offered at the Research Greenhouse Complex throughout the day.

Once you've visited the PSLA exhibits, be sure to see the rest of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources celebration of Maryland Day. Close to 70 other AGNR exhibits will be on Ag Day Avenue, which can be found near the Animal Sciences Building and barns on campus.



Orchids from the Research Greenhouse on campus

Landscape Management Team Competition

Article by Steven M. Cohan, Ph.D.

This year's team traveled to North Metro Technical College, in Atlanta, GA to compete in the 32nd Student Career Days. There were 64 colleges and universities from California to Maine in attendance. The competition was tough among the 850 student who competed in 25 events ranging from business management to landscape design. PSLA's team placed 17th among the 64 teams. The most valuable player was **Lindsay Halterman**, Landscape Management, who placed first among 50 competitors in the sales competition. Lindsay presented design concepts and sold a \$360,000 landscape project to judges in ten minutes. Other outstanding team members included **Todd Colvin**, Plant Science; and **Brian Touchard** and **Andrew Cantrell**, Landscape Management, who placed in the top ten percent among 850 competitors. Next year, the event will be in California. Talk of possible fundraising activities to supplement industry support for Landscape Management students who wish to participate has already begun.

If you have any suggestions or are interested in participating or contributing, please contact Dr. Steven Cohan at scohan@umd.edu



First Place Winner, Lindsay Halterman



More Newest News...

Memorial Tree Dedication Ceremony in Honor of VA Tech Faculty and Students

On Tuesday, April 8, 2008, a Memorial Tree Dedication Ceremony was held on Chapel Field near the University Memorial Chapel in honor of the 32 students and faculty members who lost their lives in the shootings at Virginia Tech last spring.

Dr. Joe Sullivan, PSLA, was contacted in December by Mr. Peter Becker of Bartlett Tree Experts with the idea of donating trees for the memorial. They selected the site on Chapel Field with the help of Bill Mallari from UM Facilities Management. Bartlett Tree Foundation, which donated the trees, sponsors scholarships for students in PSLA at the University of Maryland and approximately 30 other institutions. They have taken the initiative to donate trees as a memorial at each campus they support. The trees are a variety of dogwood, which is the state tree of Virginia.

Invited speakers at the event were Mr. Peter Becker, Bartlett Tree Experts; Dr. Cheng-i Wei, AGNR Dean; Dr. Linda M. Clement, UMD Vice President for Student Affairs; Dr. William Kenworthy, Interim Chair, PSLA; Rev. Dr. Peter Antoci, The Episcopal/Anglican Campus Ministry; Mr. Andrew Friedson, President of the UMD Student Government Association; and representatives of two Virginia Tech alumni chapters in Maryland -Mr. Ed Cannon, President of the VA Tech Alumni Chapter in Baltimore and Mr. Bruce Bain, President of the VA Tech Alumni Chapter in Annapolis.

The event was covered by WBAL, Ch. 11 Baltimore; WRC, Ch. 4, Washington; CTV, PG county cable, Ch. 76; UMTV; Maryland Journalism 360; Mac Nelson, University Video Producer; and the Diamondback.



Invited speakers stand in front of the memorial dogwood trees, which will bloom later this spring.

Sensor Irrigation Research and Project

Article by John Lea-Cox, Ph.D.

Drs. **John Lea-Cox** and **Andrew Ristvey** recently gave four invited presentations at the [IV Curso sobre Programación de Riegos](#) (IV Irrigation Scheduling Workshop) at the [University of Lleida, Spain](#) in late February, 2008. Their presentations focused on their current research at College Park and at the [Wye Research and Education Center](#), which is investigating the use of sensors for real-time scheduling of irrigation in soilless substrates, by using wireless sensor networks. Much of the basic research for these studies is being done by **Mr. Félix Arguedas**, PSLA MS graduate. Approximately forty irrigation professionals from all over Europe and as far away as Argentina attended the four-day workshop.

In a related development, John Lea-Cox and Félix Arguedas recently completed the installation of a twelve-node wireless sensor network at [Raemelton Farms](#), near Frederick, MD. This historic farm was once owned by Charles Carroll, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. The present owner, Mr. Steve Black has established an ornamental tree farm on the property, and is keenly interested in maintaining the sustainability of the farm, while minimizing input and labor costs.

The Decagon sensor network, funded by the [Horticultural Research Institute](#), has been installed to provide real-time environmental and soil-moisture data so that Mr. Black can precisely manage water and nutrient applications to the 30 acres of trees currently under production. Water and nutrient use will be compared from blocks

irrigated using sensor data compared to traditional irrigation scheduling practices during 2008. For further reading, see this month's article in Nursery Management Pro magazine, <http://www.greenbeampro.com/content/view/1336/44/>.



Installation of sensor irrigation system at Raemelton Farms, circa 1776



Lleida, Spain

Visiting Scientists

On February 28, **Dr. Jose Costa** met with two Russian scientists, Dr. Valery Dubovoy and Dr. Anatoly Makarov from the Research Institute of Phytopathology, Golitsino, Russia. They toured the Research Greenhouse Facility and Dr. Costa's wheat breeding program with Deborah Yeadon, International Program Specialist from the USDA/ARS Office of International Research Programs. Drs. Dubovoy and Makarov were in the US as part of the Russian USDA ARS/FSU Program. They participated in the American Society of Microbiology Biodefense Conference, February 25- 27, The ARS/FSU Program is funded by the U.S. Department of State Bio-Chem Redirect Program. Through scientific cooperation in agricultural research, the ARS/FSU program supports the Department of State's nonproliferation mission while advancing agricultural science by establishing new expertise in the former Soviet Union region, enhancing the effectiveness and productivity of ARS research programs, and helping to improve the economy of these countries through advances in agricultural technology.



Dr. Jose Costa , Ms. Deborah Yeadon and visitors from Russia

National 4H Conference

Article by Steven Cohan, Ph.D.



Dr. Steve Cohan along with Brian Hughes, Landscape Architecture, and Laura Schuman, Environmental Science, conducted a workshop at the national 4H conference held in Chevy Chase, MD on April, 1. The workshop consisted of three components, green roofs conducted by Dr. Cohan; green cloaks, based on Laura's graduate work with Dr. Dave Tilley; and a green roof, green cloak design project which was coordinated by Brian. The students most of whom were high school students were from all regions of the Country.

Within the Ranks...

Congratulations to our graduate students, **John Majsztrik** (Ph.D. candidate), **Felix Arguedas** (MS Candidate), and **Lorely Solano** (MS candidate) who gave oral presentations on their research and results at the Graduate Research Interaction Day (GRID) conference on campus Thursday, April 17.

Looking Ahead...

Thursday, April 24 - Annual Service Awards Banquet, Grand Ballroom, Stamp Student Union

Thursday, May 1 - University-Wide Celebration of Scholarship and Research

Wednesday, May 9 - AGNR Spring Awards Convocation, Colony Ballroom, Stamp Student Union

Wednesday, May 14, 2:00 P.M.—PSLA Awards Ceremony and Ice Cream Social, Critique Hall, 1104 Plant Sciences Bldg.

Thursday, May 22—University Commencement, Comcast Center

Friday, May 23, 12:00 Noon —AGNR Commencement, University Memorial Chapel