



Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture

"Growing in Excellence"

Dr. William J. Kenworthy, Interim Chair, PSLA

Welcome Back Colleagues!

It seems like just yesterday we were waving goodbye to our May graduates, and today we are rushing around to finish preparations for the start of a new school year. Although most have had a few vacation days, our faculty and staff have been busy throughout the summer doing research across the state and around the world, attending professional meetings, and contributing to the success of some very special projects. Several of these activities are described in this newsletter.

And, with a wider audience, there is an article highlighting the accomplishments of our faculty and students in this summer's edition of *Free State Nursery & Landscape News* from the Maryland Nursery and Landscape Association. We are very appreciative of the support the MNLA has given us in publishing this article. It's wonderful to have friends and colleagues throughout Maryland.

I really appreciate the efforts of so many who contribute to our Department's land-grant mission. It is great to see the PSLA name in the news again and again as we are Growing in Excellence! Best wishes for a productive year!

Regards,
Bill Kenworthy



An Ag Discovery participant learns about tree care and urban forestry

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LARC Intern student, Brittany Harman, gains valuable experience for her future career in the Green Industry

Newest News!...

Welcome Back to All Faculty, Staff and Students!

After a summer break and vacations, we're ready to start our new academic year. Please be sure to read the news items shared in our newsletter each month, and the events listed in the Looking Ahead section of our newsletter, to stay informed about our Department, College and University. We're proud of your accomplishments, so let us know of your own news items. We wish you all a very successful semester and happy returns to PSLA!

It's Finally Official!

The UM Senate Committee on Programs, Curricula and Courses approved in May the establishment of an **articulated double major in Secondary Education with the B.S. in Agricultural Science and Technology**. They also approved another program (known as the 4 + 1 program) in which students can earn a **B.S. degree in Agricultural Sciences and Technology and a Masters in Curriculum and Instruction** in 5 years.

The programs will be coordinated by **Dr. Scott Glenn**, of PSLA. Inquiries about curriculum specifics should be sent to Dr. Glenn at sglenn@umd.edu. Inquiries concerning university admissions requirements should be sent to Ms. Beth Weiss at eweiss@umd.edu.

Agricultural Discovery Day on Campus, July 15, 2008

This summer, our campus was one of the host sites of the Ag-Discovery program. Ag-Discovery is an outreach program sponsored by the USDA to help students learn about careers in agriculture. This program allows participants, ages 12—17, to live on a college campus for 2—3 weeks and learn about agricultural science from university professors and professionals. Ag-Discovery participants gain experience through hands-on labs, workshops, and field trips.

PSLA's **Dr. Steve Cohan**, **Mr. Jack Sullivan** and **Mr. Shaun Faulkner** provided events for participants on July 15. Dr. Cohan and Mr. Steve Nagy, a representative from Davey Tree Company, conducted a tree care clinic. Mr. Nagy discussed the physical and scientific applications of tree care and how important trees are in our urban environments. Participants were given the opportunity to try their hand at tree climbing under Dr. Cohan's supervision. Mr. Jack Sullivan gave a campus tour to participants to explain the concept of landscape architecture using living examples of plantings. And, Mr. Shaun Faulkner provided a tour of the Research Greenhouse Facility familiarizing participants with greenhouse operations, plant identification and ongoing research projects.

We thank Dr. Cohan, Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Faulkner for their energetic support of this program and for providing our student guests with some great educational experiences. Hopefully in the future, these interested Ag Discovery participants will join us as students in PSLA!



More Newest News...

Blue Poppies and the **Prince of Bhutan** were buzz words at the Research Greenhouse Complex in July. Blue Poppies, the rare, national flower of Bhutan, were being grown in the EGC Growth Chamber at the Greenhouse as a project for the Smithsonian Institution.

In the spring, Dr. David Inouye, Dept. of Biology, was approached by two representatives from the Smithsonian to grow the Himalayan Poppies (*Meconopsis betonicifolia*). He became the faculty sponsor for the project. The intention was to grow the plants to maturity from small seedlings purchased from a nursery in Alaska. The growth chamber was set to run at 8° C at night (lights off) and 18° C in the day (lights on) with a daylength of about 17 hours. Several of the plants ended up flowering, which is what the Smithsonian representatives were hoping for when they started. The 3" - 4" flowers were then presented to the *Crown Prince of Bhutan, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck* at the Opening Ceremonies of this year's Smithsonian Folklife Festival, which featured the ancient Himalayan country, its culture and crafts. To learn more about the Smithsonian Folklife Festival and Bhutan, visit <http://www.folklife.si.edu/center/festival.html> and <http://www.kingdomofbhutan.com/>.



PSLA Greenhouse Manager, **Betty Morgavan**, attended the presentation and both she and **Shaun Faulkner**, PSLA Facilities Manager, received personal thankyou's from the Smithsonian for their efforts in the project.

Landscape Architecture Interns Connect...

Brittany Harman, senior, Landscape Management, interned at Outside Unlimited in Hempstead, MD this summer (see photo on page 1). Brittany was rotated throughout the company's divisions, gaining valuable experience for her future career in the Green Industry.

Dr. Steve Cohan successfully places 25—30 PSLA LARC students in intern positions for 10—12 weeks each summer with companies such as Outside Unlimited, Homestead Gardens and Nature Unlimited, LLC. If you are a PSLA LARC student interested in interning, please contact Dr. Cohan at scohan@umd.edu.

Presentations in the Field...

article by **Dr. Bob Kratochvil**

On July 24 at a field day tour held at the Wye Research and Education Center, PSLA's **Drs. Arvydas Grybauskas and Ron Ritter** gave a presentation to members of the Maryland Grain Producers Association and Maryland Soybean Board about research they are conducting with grant funding received from those two organizations. The field day tour served as the kickoff event for the 10th Maryland Commodity Classic that was co-chaired this year by PSLA's **Dr. Bob Kratochvil**. During the afternoon Classic festivities held at the Queen Anne's County 4-H Park and attended by an estimated 300 Soybean Board and Grain Producer members, PSLA's **Dr. Jose Costa**, PhD graduate student **Patrick Forrestal**, and Dr. Kratochvil presented posters that highlighted some of their respective research funded by these organizations.

Representing PSLA in Tennessee...

article by **Dr. Maile Neel**

Jamie Pettengill, Mike Lloyd, Lesley Campbell (recent post doc now at Rice University) and **Dr. Maile Neel** presented talks at the Society for Conservation Biology annual meetings in Chattanooga, TN. This international meeting brings together conservation scientists and practitioners from all over the world. The lab was involved with five talks at the meeting, one each given by the people listed above and one presented by our collaborator Dr. J. M. Scott of the University of Idaho. All the talks were well received and generated lots of questions and discussion.

AGRN Summer Momentum

If you haven't already, be sure to check out AGNR's Summer Momentum publication at <http://agnr.umd.edu/media/Momentum/Momentum08Summer.pdf>. Included in this summer's publication are PSLA's Turf program; **Drs. Turner, Dernoeden and Carroll**; and the VA Tech Memorial Tree Ceremony held in spring.

Within the Ranks...

Welcome PSLA New Faculty!

In May, we welcomed new faculty members **Dr. Yilmaz Balci** and **Dr. Priscila Chaverri**.



We now welcome **Dr. Jianhua Zhu** after a departmental search for genomics faculty. Dr. Zhu's expertise is to employ functional genomics approaches to dissect molecular mechanisms which plants utilize to tolerate extreme environmental conditions including salinity, drought, freezing and heat stresses. We look forward to a wonderful future for our Department with these new faculty members on board.

Looking Ahead...

Tuesday through Thursday, August 19 — 21— AGNR New Faculty Orientation

Monday through Wednesday, August 25 — 27— IES Fall 2008 International Student Orientation

Friday, August 29 — PSLA Graduate Student Breakfast 9:00 a.m. — 10:00 a.m., PSB 2107/2109

Friday, August 29 — Graduate School Orientation, Information Session 2:00 p.m. — 4:00 p.m., General Orientation 4:30 p.m. — 6:30 p.m., Colony Ballroom

Monday, September 1— Labor Day, Offices Closed

Tuesday, September 2 — Classes Start

Friday, September 12 — PSLA Faculty/Staff Meeting, 9:00 a.m. — 12:00 noon, PSB 2107/2109