



Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture
"Growing in Excellence"

Dr. William J. Kenworthy, Interim Chair, PSLA

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The semester is quickly coming to an end. We are rushing to complete projects and prepare for final exams. Data are being analyzed and summarized to complete those year-end reports for our stakeholders. As a result of some of the research being conducted here, Dr. Mark Carroll was invited to give a presentation at the annual meeting of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry.

It's also a time for hope and joy, and nothing reflects those two qualities like graduation. The feeling of accomplishment is evident as we celebrate this milestone. We're proud of one of our graduating LARC seniors, Brian Hughes, on his selection as a speaker at the AGNR Commencement ceremony.

We also share a sense of hope and excitement with our graduates as they look forward to employment in the "real world". We were fortunate to offer exciting career opportunities to our graduates at the Green Industry Career Fair held last month.

As we close out this semester and year, we turn our attention to the future—to the new semester and a new year. We have great things coming up in the spring semester at PSLA— new courses, seminars and experiences.

Amongst the bustle of these next few weeks, I hope you take time to enjoy the holiday season. It's a time for family, friends, and sharing with others; a time for parties and a time to relax.

We'll see you in January as we start a new semester and year filled with possibilities.

Happy Holidays,
Bill Kenworthy



Kathy Hunt at the PSLA booth during the Green Industry Career Fair on November 6. The PSLA display included the Greenroof Doghouse.

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*Happy Holidays
from PSLA!*



Newest News!..

The Green Industry Career Fair, organized by **Dr. Steve Cohan**, was held on November 6 in the Grand Ballroom of the Stamp Student Union. **Kathy Hunt**, PSLA Program Coordinator, hosted the Plant Science booth, along with rotating faculty.

On the recruitment front, Ms. Hunt had several inquiries from students regarding major options with PSLA. The UM Department of Environmental Science and Technology was also represented at the Fair, as well as American University.

Although student attendance was down from previous years, many of the exhibitors were pleased with the quality of the students. All of the companies were offering both internships and career positions. Exhibitors ranged from independent retail and production nurseries to billion dollar corporations such as a Valleycrest Landscaping. The latter received over thirty resumes from students during the Fair.

Several alumni of the PSLA Landscape Management program were recruiting for their new employers. Three of these individuals were, **Chase Townshend**, 2007, currently employed by James River Grounds Management; **Diana Bramble**, 2005, currently employed by the Smithsonian Institution and who was recruiting for the Horticultural Services Department there; and **Tom VandeVoordt**, 2005, currently employed with Ruppert Companies.

Our thanks to those members of PSLA who helped to make this a successful event, and to the exhibitors for their participation and support.



PSLA Alumni Diana Bramble, Tom VandeVoordt & Chase Townshend recruited for their companies at the Green Industry Career Fair.



More Newest News... A new spring semester seminar series is being offered entitled, "Green Roofs and Related Urban Sustainability Topics." Fourteen speakers from academia and the private sector will be addressing topics ranging from green roofs to sustainable policies and solutions. Among the speakers are representatives from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources; DuPont; the UM Office of Sustainability; Chesapeake Solar; The Low Impact Development Center, Inc.; Emory Knoll Farms; Roofscapes, Inc.; and researchers from the University of Maryland and Pennsylvania State University.



The course, PLSC489V, is scheduled for Tuesdays, from 12:30 p.m.-1:45 p.m. in PSB Room 1117. The course currently has a waiting list and a lecture room is being sought to accommodate all who are interested in attending. The final class meeting will include a field trip to the Green Building Institute in Jessup, Maryland.

Based upon the positive response the course has received **Dr. Steven Cohan** is pursuing the development of a modular course on Urban Sustainability.

Research Greenhouse Activities

Two Lakeland Stars groups visited the Research Greenhouse Complex, one on November 11 and one on November 20. Each group was composed of about 25 Paint Branch Elementary School children and 25 University of Maryland College Park Scholars student tutors, as well as their teacher and campus sponsor, Tabetha R. H. Mwita, Lakeland STARS Program Director. <http://www.scholars.umd.edu/stars/>

Mr. Shaun Faulkner, Facilities Manager, escorted the groups on tour through the Greenhouse and spent time with the students for a question and answer session after the tours.

Congratulations to PSLA LARC Senior, **Brian T. Hughes**, for being selected as one of two student speakers and the AGNR Commencement ceremonies on Sunday, December 21, 2008. Brian, we're proud of your accomplishments!

Within The Ranks...

Dr. Mark Carroll gave an invited presentation on the regional nature of golf turf chemical runoff at the annual national meeting of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry. His presentation was part of a special symposium that brought together representatives from academic, regulatory and governmental institutions to explore the latest developments in risk assessment and risk management strategies related to the use of third and fourth generation pesticides in urban environments. The symposium took place on November 18 in Tampa, Florida, and was jointly sponsored by the American Chemical Society Agrochemicals Division and the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry.

PSLA MLA Coordinator, **Mr. Jack Sullivan**, FASLA, will be the Master of Ceremonies for the American Society of Landscape Architects joint Maryland and Potomac Chapters 2008 Gala and Awards Presentation on December 9, 2008. The event will be held at the Hilton Baltimore.

Dr. John Lea-Cox has been appointed the advisor for the PSLA Horticulture and Crop Production major. He will assume these duties as new students are added to the program in the fall 2009 semester. Dr. Lea-Cox may be contacted at jlc@umd.edu or 301-405-4323.

Looking Ahead...

Friday, December 12 — Last Class

Friday, December 12 — AGNR Faculty & Staff Holiday Party, 1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m., 3rd Floor, Marie Mount Hall

Monday through Saturday, December 15—December 20 — Final Exams

Friday, December 19—PSLA Faculty/Staff Meeting, 9:00 a.m.—12:00 noon, PSB 2107/2109

Friday, December 19—PSLA Faculty/ Staff Holiday Party, 12:00 noon—1:30 p.m., Critique Hall, PSB

Saturday, December 20 — Main Winter Commencement Ceremony, 7:00 p.m., Comcast Center

Sunday, December 21 — AGNR Commencement Ceremony, 1:00 p.m., University Memorial Chapel

Thursday, December 25— Sunday, January 4 — Winter Break

January 5 — Winter Term Classes Begin

Monday, January 19 — Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

Friday, January 23 — PSLA Faculty/Staff Meeting, 9:00 a.m.—12:00 noon, PSB 2107/2109

Friday, January 23 — Winter Term Classes End

Monday, January 26 — Spring Term Classes Begin