



Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture

"Growing in Excellence"

**Dr. William J. Kenworthy, Interim Chair, PSLA**

The semester has ended, we have sent our graduates on to new adventures, and now with the heat of summer, things on campus have slowed. Our faculty and graduate students are now focused on research in laboratories, libraries, in fields and at stations across Maryland and beyond.

I wanted to send out special congratulations to several faculty members who received good news as the semester came to a close. Drs. Kate Everts and Ron Ritter became the newest full professors in the Department! Congratulations on reaching this career milestone! Dr. John Lea-Cox was recognized for his outstanding international extension service in the Northeast Region by Epsilon Sigma Phi.

Dr. Raffaella Fabiani Giannetto had her first book published and we congratulate her on this significant accomplishment! It was also great to see Andrea Ottesen's striking botanical art showcased on the spring cover of *Terp* magazine.

We have included stories about our PSLA colleagues Dr. Marla McIntosh and her efforts with the AAAS taskforce on women in agricultural sciences, and Dr. Kate Everts on her contributions to develop a national vegetable crop initiative strategic plan.

Keep up the good work! I am proud to say that our PSLA colleagues are working to make a difference across the state, nation, and world. Enjoy your summer!

Regards,  
Bill Kenworthy



*LARC graduates with Mr. Dennis Nola, Spring, 2008*

**Inside this Issue:**

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



*Plant Sciences graduates with Dr. Chris Walsh and Dr. John Lea-Cox, Spring, 2008*

**Newest News!...**

**UM Emergency Alert System and Safety Locations for PSLA ....**

Faculty, staff and students of the University were recently alerted of severe weather conditions through the University's **UMD Alerts**, an automated emergency warning system. Should an actual emergency occur, an emergency siren sounds on campus and participants receive notices via email and phone messaging. **If you have not already done so, please go to <http://alert.umd.edu> and register to receive UMD alerts.**

In the event of a severe weather emergency, you should move away from windows and open areas. Designated safety locations for PSLA are: Plant Sciences Building Graduate Assistant Office, Room 2125; and HJ Patterson's basement hallway.

Please be sure to register for UMD Alerts and take these warnings seriously. We care about your safety!

**Women in Agriculture...**

PSLA's **Dr. Marla McIntosh** has reached several milestones in her commitment to advancing women in agricultural sciences. She is the Chair of a taskforce of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, "Aiming Higher: AAAS Taskforce on Women in Agricultural Sciences". As part of her effort to address obstacles faced by women Ph.D.s in agricultural disciplines to becoming professors or academic administrators, she recently presented seminars for the PSLA and for the American Phytopathological Society (APS) entitled, "Aiming Higher: the Why and How of Advancing Women in Agriculture". A narrated presentation on this topic is currently on the (APS) website at <http://www.apsnet.org/webcasts/APSaimingHigher/top.asp>.

Recently, Dr. McIntosh co-authored an invited special paper with Dr. Steve Simmons, University of Minnesota, entitled "A Century of Women in Agronomy: Lessons from Diverse Life Stories" which appears in a May-June supplement to *Agronomy Journal* celebrating the centennial history of the American Society of Agronomy. The article is now available on line at [http://agron.scijournals.org/cgi/content/abstract/100/Supplement\\_3/S-53](http://agron.scijournals.org/cgi/content/abstract/100/Supplement_3/S-53).

Dr. McIntosh was a contributing author in [Motherhood, The Elephant in the Laboratory: Women Scientists Speak Out](#), Emily Monosson (ed.), published in May by Cornell University Press. The book contains biographical essays of 33 women scientists of different generations describing their personal choices regarding balancing personal and professional lives. Dr. McIntosh has been invited by the Fellows of AAAS to speak on a panel about the book on June 4 and the Union of Concerned Scientists to speak on a panel about the book on June 5, 2008.



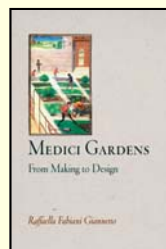
**More Newest News...**

Congratulations to PSLA Faculty member, **Dr. Raffaella Fabiani Giannetto** on the publication of her first book, *Medici Gardens, From Making to Design*.

"The book will be of great interest to those in the garden/landscape field and to those concerned with the period and early Renaissance architecture. Its publication will put an important tool into the hands of teachers and students of the history of landscape art."--James Ackerman, Harvard University.

The book reverses the usual belief that a garden is the practical application of theoretical principles extracted from garden treatises, and suggests that, in the case of the gardens in Florence, garden making preceded its theoretical articulation.

Drawing from Medici tax returns, inventories, and correspondence, Dr. Giannetto examines the transformation of these gardens from functional and pleasurable kitchen gardens to symbols of political power and family prestige. The Medici gardens of the fifteenth century were the result both of everyday living and of a poetic activity that was influenced by cultural expectations and societal demands.



Leaders in the U.S. Vegetable industry were invited by USDA/CSREES to Denver, Colorado on May 12 and 13 to develop a National Vegetable Crop Initiative (NCVI) strategic plan. **Drs. Kate Everts** and Gerald Brust (Maryland Cooperative Extension) attended from Maryland and joined about 60 participants from across the U. S. The NCVI is being formed to enhance the sustainability of the U.S. vegetable crop industry and help guide national agricultural research policy. The NCVI strategic plan goals developed at the May meeting will be available to USDA/CSREES as they develop programs to address the Specialty Crop Research Initiative, which has mandatory funding in the current farm bill legislation.

Congratulations to **Dr. John Lea-Cox** for being recognized by Epsilon Sigma Phi, an Extension professionals organization, for his outstanding international Extension service in 2008. Dr. Lea-Cox was voted to receive recognition for the Northeast Region, which includes Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York and West Virginia.

Congratulations to our "Resident Artist".....  
Did you notice on the cover of the Spring 2008 issue of TERP magazine is a beautiful picture of a bloodroot plant taken by our own doctoral candidate, **Andrea Ottesen**? One of Andrea's many talents is to present the beauty in the plant kingdom with an artistic flair that can be so striking in its simplicity. Check out her website at [www.andreaottesen.com](http://www.andreaottesen.com) for more botanical art. Enjoy!



**Within the Ranks...**

**Congratulations to  
Dr. Ronald Ritter and Dr. Kathryn Everts  
on their promotions to full Professor!**

Dr. Ritter has been with the University since 1979. He is an Extension weed control specialist and has extension and research responsibilities in the area of weed control for agronomic crops. He specializes in several areas including management of herbicide-resistant weeds, weed control in no-till cropping systems, and managing invasive weeds in grain crops.



Dr. Everts' research focuses on the epidemiology of vegetable diseases and changes in vegetable plant pathogen populations in response to disease management and cultural practices. Dr. Everts' office is at the Lower Eastern Shore Research and Education Center in Salisbury, Maryland and she has a partial appointment with the University of Delaware. Dr. Everts' Extension work involves developing and disseminating disease control recommendations and other technical information to commercial vegetable producers in both Maryland and Delaware.



**Looking Ahead...**

- Monday, June 2—Friday, July 11 —Summer Session I**
- Friday, July 4—Offices Closed for Independence Day Holiday**
- Monday, July 14— Friday, August 22—Summer Session II**
- Tuesday, August 26—New Academic Administrators Orientation**
- Thursday, August 28—New Faculty Orientation**