



Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture

"Growing in Excellence"

Dr. William J. Kenworthy, Interim Chair, PSLA

In early May, I was proud to give our State of the Department report to the college as part of the College awards program. I am proud to say we have accomplished much in the short time since our Department's launch on July 1, 2006. As we near the end of a busy semester, rush to complete finals and plan for graduation, we pause to recognize the many achievements of our faculty, staff and students.

At special campus ceremonies, two of our colleagues were among those recognized: Kathy Hunt was recognized at the Annual Service Awards banquet; and Dr. Peter Dernoeden was recognized at the University-wide Celebration of Scholarship and Research reception. John Lightle, our Outstanding Landscape Architecture senior, has been selected to give the student address at the AGNR graduation ceremony. This is a special honor for a member of the graduating class and we look forward to John's presentation.

In our own Department, we recognized all of our PSLA student award and scholarship winners. It was a great occasion to share with students, family members, and even several scholarship and award donors who were on hand to make the afternoon a special time of celebration. Each of our graduates has worked hard to complete the requirements for their respective degree whether it is a BLA, BS, MS, or PhD.

We all have accomplished much and there is more to do. I am excited to see us working together to create excellence in our education, research, and Extension programs. The seeds of change have been planted, and our graduating seniors will now help us to bring these changes and excellence to our world. I join with my colleagues in extending our congratulations and very best wishes to each senior as you walk across the stage and into your new career. We hope you will keep us informed of your activities and please return to visit when you can. Go Terps!

Regards, Bill Kenworthy



A crowd gathers at the PSLA exhibit outside the Plant Sciences Building on Maryland Day

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Dean Wei visited the PSLA exhibits on Maryland Day. Could that be Dr. Kenworthy in the doghouse again?

Newest News!...

Maryland Day and PSLA.....

The 10th Annual Maryland Day was held on Saturday, April 24. PSLA had several popular exhibits. In front of the Plant Sciences Building, visitors were able to see Landscape Management's "Dog House with a Green Roof" - designed to be a demonstration of a greenroof installation to explain the concept of green-roofs as a mode of enhancing storm water management and energy conservation. Inside the lobby of PLS, guests were treated to a beautiful display of cascading orchids. These orchids are part of a research program collaboration between PSLA and TopOrchids, Inc. from Taiwan. The orchid project itself could be seen on the Research Greenhouse Tours that were available throughout the day. Many thanks to all the students, faculty and staff who planned, coordinated and volunteered for this event.

Presenting PSLA.....



Dr. Kenworthy presented an overview of PSLA at the annual AGNR Spring Awards Convocation on May 9. It was great to hear about the Department and the accomplishments of students and faculty. Other departments and programs presented were AREC, MCE, 4-H, Agriculture and Natural Resources Programs and International Programs in Agriculture and Natural Resources.

The Awards Convocation has been video-streamed online. Link to <http://aqnradmin.umd.edu/convocation.cfm> to view Dr. Kenworthy's presentation or the entire event.

Congratulations, Graduates!!!

The University Commencement Exercises were held on Thursday, May 22 in the Comcast Center, with the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Commencement Exercises being held the following day in the Memorial Chapel at noon. The Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture will have 24 graduating seniors.

Congratulations, graduates, and best wishes for much success in the future! We are very proud of all your accomplishments!



This spring, **Andrea Ottesen**, PhD student, went to the Amazon in support of a class led by Dr. Jim Duke, world-renowned ethno-botanist. From her work with Amazonian medicinal plants, Andrea authored a field guide, Amazonian Medicinal Plants—Chemistry and Use, which was used on the trip. She also put her artistic and photographic skills together to create a ladies scarf with an Amazonian butterfly print.

Recently, Andrea attended a benefit for the rainforest sponsored by ACEER (Amazon Center for Environmental Education and Research) and National Geographic. At the benefit, Andrea presented singer and ACEER spokeswoman, Olivia Newton-John with one of her scarves and presented her book on Amazonian medicinal plants to John Easterling, founder of the Amazon Herb Company.



More Newest News...

On Wednesday, May 14, PSLA held its annual Ice Cream Social and Awards Ceremony. Congratulations to our award recipients!



UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

The Homeland Garden Club of Baltimore Award— Nina Fulkoski; **ASLA Honor and Merit Nominees and Award Winners**— Brian Hughes, Lauren Kovach, John Lightle, Allison Poirier; **Landscape Architecture Award of Excellence**— John Lightle; **Outstanding Agronomy Senior Award**— Katy Nolte; **Bartlett Tree Foundation Scholarship**— Joseph Rothleutner; **Bayer Environmental Science Turfgrass Scholarship**— Christopher DeVido; **MD State Golf Association – Emmet Gary Scholarship**— David Corley, Steven Hutzell; **Francis R. Gouin Undergraduate Research Award**— Julia Harshman; **Joe E. James Memorial Award**— Demetra Skaltsas; **Link-Shanks Award**— Andrew Cantrell; **Joseph Newcomer Memorial Award**— Patrick Watkins; **PLANET (Professional Landcare Network) Team Recognition**— Eric Adam, Andrew Cantrell, Adam Chaitin, Todd Colvin, Lindsay Halterman, Lauren Peddicord, John Prothro, Eric Routh, Chad Stern, Brian Touchard, Chase Townshend, Clark Zurowski



GRADUATE AWARDS

Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant in PSLA— Allen Dawson, Michael Lloyd, Josh Nadler; **Leland E. and Catherine B. Scott Award**— Felix Arguedas ; **Francis C. Stark, Jr. Fund for Learning Resources**— John Majsztrik; **John H. Weinberger Scholarship**— Andrea Ottesen



RECOGNITION OF OTHER SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

We would like to congratulate the following recipients of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and other organization scholarships this academic year:

Beltsville Garden Club Scholarship— Lindsay Nicole Halterman; **Bowie-Crofton Garden Club Scholarship**— Mary Marcinko; **Chapel Valley Landscape Scholarship**— Chase Townshend; **Kenneth S. Fowler Memorial Endowment**— Lisa Sinclair, Susan Sinclair; **Maryland Greenhouse Growers Association Scholarship**— Laura Templeton-Brandt; **James and Dessie Moxley Scholarship**— Daryn Harper, Henry Hinz, Steven Hutzell; **A.F. Vierheller Award**— Tyler Butler, Demetra Skaltsas; **Maryland Crop Improvement Association James R. Miller Award**— Patrick Forrestal

Green Footprint...

Landscape Architecture spring graduate, **Bobby Tjaden**, is leaving a green footprint on the College Park campus. While studying landscape architecture and working with UM Facilities Management, Bobby has helped design and landscape the Memorial Plaza, Alumni Circle, South Campus traffic circle, and Route 1 sports fields. Upcoming projects include the Jim Henson Memorial Garden Redesign and the Memorial Chapel labyrinth and meditation garden. According to Bobby, "The Landscape Architecture program has been a great addition to my career and my life. The professors and students I work with on a daily basis have become more family than colleagues or professors. ..." Bobby was recently interviewed by UM Newsdesk. To read more about Bobby, please view <http://www.newsdesk.umd.edu/undergradexp/release.cfm?ArticleID=1662>.

AGNR Commencement Speaker.....

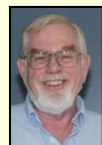
John Lightle, Landscape Architecture senior, will be the speaker at the AGNR Commencement Ceremony on Friday, May 23. Usually, students from the same department are not chosen to speak at both winter and spring commencements. December's Commencement speaker was also from PSLA. John's selection as speaker this spring not only "breaks the mold", but is a testament to his excellence as a student. John has won several awards for his efforts. Most recently, he was an ASLA Honor and Merit Nominee and Award Winner and also earned the Landscape Architecture Award of Excellence.

Within the Ranks... PSLA Faculty and Staff Recognitions! Congratulations to ...



- **Dr. Peter Dernoeden**, recognized for his contributions to scholarly research at the University-wide Celebrations for Scholarship & Research, May 1, 2008

- **Ms. Kathy Hunt**, recognized for 20 years of service to the University at the Annual Service Awards Banquet on April 24, 2008



Congratulations to Dr. Gerry Deitzer on his retirement after 20 years of service to the University of Maryland. Dr. Deitzer's research has been in the area of Plant Photobiology, especially as it relates to the regulation of plant reproductive behavior by the spectral quality of light. Dr. Deitzer has taught PLSC 201, PLSC 400 and PLSC 683 each year and was active for many years on the planning and construction committees for both the Plant Science Building and the Research Greenhouse. He will retire on June 30, 2008, but will continue to work as a consultant with the growth chamber manufacturers.

Welcome to our newest faculty.....

Dr. Priscila Chaverri comes to PSLA from Howard University where she was an assistant professor. Her primary research and teaching interest is the biology of fungi important in agricultural and natural ecosystems. Dr. Chaverri's current work involves fungi which are important pathogens of ornamental and shade trees and horticultural plants.



Dr. Yilmaz Balci is joining us from West Virginia University where he was an assistant professor. His research has focused on soil-borne pathogens, especially Phytophthora species. Dr. Balci is particularly interested in the detection and management of tree diseases, as well as plant responses to a variety of pathological and environmental disturbances, especially in the forest setting.

Looking Ahead...

Thursday, May 22—University Commencement, Comcast Center

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