



Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture

"Growing in Excellence"

Dr. William J. Kenworthy, Interim Chair, PSLA

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

With the heat of summer finally losing its grip on College Park, we look forward to a busy semester. We had a great kick-off to the semester by celebrating with the College at the Fall Bash welcoming new undergraduates and graduates. Each year, this event includes games, door prizes and pizza and draws a huge crowd of students, faculty, and staff. The Fall Bash is sponsored by the AGNR Student Council with the purpose of introducing students to their success network—all the persons who can help each student succeed at UMCP. Each student builds a network of contacts and mentors throughout the college experience leading to a lifetime success network that carries on throughout their career. With this event, faculty and staff are reminded of our great responsibility to train and mentor our students which, in turn, helps them to build their success networks.

With the successful publication of her co-authored book, *Motherhood, the Elephant in the Lab; Women Scientists Speak Out*, Dr. Marla McIntosh will be presenting a panel discussion on Wednesday September 24 co-sponsored by PSLA. I hope you are able to join us in the Critique Hall at 4:30 p.m. for this event.

Please take a few moments to read about other successes in our Department. We're proud to share them with you and include you in them.

Regards,
Bill Kenworthy



PSLA will be home to a duplicate collection of Sedum from Emory Knoll Farms used for green roof plantings.

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Newest News!...

In mid-September, several representatives from PSLA - **Dr. William Kenworthy**, Interim Chair; **Dr. Steve Cohan**, Professor of Practice in PSLA's Landscape Management program; **Dr. Andrew Ristvey**, adjunct professor; and **Lorelly Solano**, graduate student; visited Emory Knoll Farms in Harford County, Maryland to meet with **Mr. Ed Snodgrass**, owner and international green roof consultant. Mr. Snodgrass requested a collaboration between the very successful green roof plant nursery and PSLA. A duplicate collection of sedum grown at the nursery will be housed at the University of Maryland for use in research projects in the Department, as well as for providing a "back-up" of his collection. Mr. Snodgrass has over 200 varieties of sedum which he has collected from around the world.



The UM team collected one specimen of each variety and transported the specimens to the Research Greenhouse Complex. Each specimen will be accessioned in a database by **Katrina Emery**, a Plant Science major and honor student, who is a research assistant with the green roof research project led by **Dr. John Lea-Cox** and **Dr. Steve Cohan**.

Mr. Snodgrass has been a frequent guest lecturer for PSLA and we are proud to collaborate with him on this exciting new proposal. For more information about Emory Knoll Farms, visit www.greenroofplants.com. He is also a member of the PSLA Green Roof Research Team.

Turf Issues Article in UM's *Between the Columns*

The 'Terp Turf Team' was again in the spotlight; this time being published in UM's *Between the Columns*. "The 'Terp Turf Team' consists of five faculty members and four support staff in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources' Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture and Institute of Applied Agriculture, and the College of Chemical and Life Sciences Department of Entomology. While team members possess a wide spectrum of expertise, the program has become best known for its work in four turf-related areas: integrated pest management, selection, environmental research and education."

PSLA's Dr. Mark Carroll and Dr. Tom Turner were quoted in this month's article. PSLA members of 'The Terp Turf Team' also include **Dr. Peter Dernoeden**.

The turfgrass industry in Maryland exceeds \$1.5 billion annually and stakeholders range from homeowners to professional sports arenas. PSLA's Turf and Golf Course Management program prepares its students to enter this highly specialized profession with advanced technical knowledge and real world experiences. To read "Tackling Tough Turf Issues" by AGNR's Pam Townsend, link to <http://betweenthecolumns.umd.edu/2008/09/10/turf/>



More Newest News...

New PSLA Spanish Immersion Course for Green Industry Students!

Sixteen landscape management and landscape architecture students are enrolled in a new PSLA Spanish immersion course. The course, instructed by **Dr. Steve Cohan**, will enable the students to engage in conversational Spanish via an on line Rosetta Stone program. Each individual has a password for access, having been subscribed by Dr. Cohan. Each student will have access to the program for one year and will be required to register for the course each semester. The program provides three levels with interactive exercises. Dr. Cohan also requires submittal of written exercises in a workbook entitled "Spanish for the Green Industry." The students will have the opportunity to test their conversational skills at the end of the semester in luncheon meetings with our Costa Rican graduate students, **Lorely Solano** and **Felix Arguedas**.

Winter Wheat for Iraq!

During September, a small group of Iraqi farmers visited PSLA to learn about U.S. wheat production practices that may allow them to improve winter wheat production in Iraq. The 9 farmers are from various parts of Iraq where the climate is hot and dry most of the year, but does receive enough rainfall and cold temperatures for winter wheat to be grown. The group is touring the United States with the U.S. Department of State to learn about the newest technologies in farming.

Dr. Bob Kratochvil gave a presentation on winter wheat production to the USDS contingent and encouraged the farmers to use more sustainable practices. Since many Iraqi farmers graze sheep on the post-harvest fields and burn the remaining crop residue, their soils are depleted in organic matter reducing the soil's capacity to retain the limited precipitation received each year.

Urban Forestry Program represented at the MD Natural Resources Careers Conference!

Dr. Joe Sullivan represented PSLA and the Urban Forestry Program at the Maryland Natural Resources Careers Conference held at Camp Hickory in Garrett County, Maryland in July. The Career Conference was sponsored by the Maryland Association of Forest Conservancy District Boards and conducted by Steve Resh and Allegany College of Maryland. It was attended by high school students from each county of Maryland and from the District of Columbia. The campers spent the week gaining practical knowledge and experience in all aspects of the forestry industry including tree identification, forest stand analysis, and wood products consumerism. The students had access to computerized GIS and GPS systems for forest analysis, took a field trip to a local paper mill and got practical experience tree climbing for tree health management. For more information on the program, visit <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/nrcareersconf.html>.

Within The Ranks...

Retirement of Dr. Timothy Ng after 31 years of service to the University

One of our distinguished faculty members, **Dr. Timothy J. Ng**, is retiring after 31 years of service to the University and the State of Maryland. Dr. Ng's research has been focused on the postharvest physiology of Cucurbits, as well as the genetics involved in the resistance to diseases that attack these fruit crops. In addition to his title as Professor of Plant Sciences, Dr. Ng has held the offices of Acting Dean and Acting Associate Dean of the Graduate School, Interim Director Asian American Studies, and Associate Vice President for Research. Please join us at Dr. Ng's retirement reception which is scheduled for 4:00 p.m. on Friday, September 26, 2008, in the UM Paint Branch Turfgrass Research Facility.

Congratulations on promotion to Emeritus Status for Dr. Gerry Deitzer. Dr. Deitzer was instrumental in the planning and design of the Research Greenhouse Complex. He retired in June, 2008 and is currently employed as a consultant for private industry with regard to growth chambers and controlled environments.



Welcome to PSLA's new Webmaster, Cindy Zhao! Cindy has been part of the PSLA family for more than three years, working extensively on Knowledge Center websites for Dr. John Lea-Cox. She is very excited to have this new opportunity to work with all PSLA members addressing Department website needs and we are very glad to have her here! Welcome aboard, Cindy!

Looking Ahead...

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

Monday, September 22—Lecture by Dr. Maile Neel: "Can We Conserve Biodiversity Without Really Trying?", 4:00 p.m., Room 1140 PSB

Wednesday, September 24—Panel Discussion and Reception: "Motherhood, the Elephant in the Lab: Women Scientists Speak Out", 4:30 p.m., Critique Hall, PSB

Friday, September 26—Retirement Party for Dr. Tim Ng, UM Paint Branch Turfgrass Research Facility

Tuesday, October 7—Faculty and Staff Convocation, 3:00 p.m.— 4:00 p.m., University Memorial Chapel

Friday, October 24—PSLA Faculty/Staff Meeting, 9:00 a.m. — 12:00 noon, PSB 2107/2109