



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

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

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It is great to watch the campus' spring palette of color emerge. One is reminded of the renewal and resiliency of our plant kingdom. The emerging floral display also reminds me that the end of the semester is quickly approaching.

Several celebratory events are scheduled for the coming weeks. PSLA will have activities in front of the Plant Sciences Building and will be hosting tours at the Research Greenhouse Complex as part of Maryland Day on April 25. On May 7, we will be joining the College in the celebration of faculty and staff achievements at the AGNR Awards Convocation. On May 8, we will be celebrating with the Campus Arboretum & Botanical Garden as we honor three of our alumni during the public service that day. PSLA will hold our annual PSLA Awards and Ice Cream Social on May 13 to celebrate our students' accomplishments.

I know there is much to finish before the semester ends! At least we can enjoy a stroll across campus or just pause for a few minutes to take in the beauty of the landscape.

I hope you enjoy reading our newsletter. I look forward to seeing you at the campus events this month and next.

Regards,  
Bill Kenworthy, Ph.D.  
Professor & Interim Chair



**Maryland Day is Saturday, April 25, 2009!**  
10:00 a.m.—4:00 pm  
**FREE**  
**Rain or Shine!**  
Come join us on campus for a day of fun!



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**Newest News!..**

**The 11th Annual Maryland Day** will be held on **Saturday, April 25, 2009!** Grab your family, friends and neighbors and join us! It's a day of learning, exploration and fun with more than 400 hands-on exhibits workshops and live performances. A Parade of Flags will be the "kick-off" for this year's event. There will be a flag from every country in the world!!!

The Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture will have displays in front of the Plant Sciences Building (PLS), as well as in the lobby of PLS and at the Research Greenhouse Complex. At PLS, you will see models and designs from our own Landscape Architecture students; and the "Greenroof Dog House" - designed to demonstrate greenroof installation and to explain the concept of greenroofs as a mode of enhancing storm water management and energy conservation. Also located there will be the miniature putting green, a "Spin the Wheel" Contest, a Sunflower Photo Booth and more. There will be giveaways for guests.

Inside the lobby of PLS, guests will see a beautiful display of orchids. These orchids are part of a research program collaboration between PSLA and TopOrchids, Inc. from Taiwan. Come and learn about the orchid project in the lobby of PLS and see thousands in bloom as part of the tour offered at the Research Greenhouse Complex throughout the day.

Once you've visited the PSLA exhibits, be sure to see the rest of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources celebration of Maryland Day. Close to 70 other AGNR exhibits will be on Ag Day Avenue, which can be found near the Animal Sciences Building and barns on campus.



*Dr. Kenworthy in the dog house, again, with Dean Wei. Maryland Day, 2008.*

**The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (AGNR)** is working with our partners at USDA-APHIS on a new Memorandum of Understanding, which will result in an APHIS employee serving with our Plant Protection Center faculty. This person will be stationed on campus and involved in plant protection teaching activities while serving as a liaison with the agency. More details to follow as the final agreement takes shape.

**Graduate Research Interaction Day (GRID)** will be held on Monday, April 13 from 8:30 a.m.—6:30 p.m. in the Colony Ballroom, Stamp Student Union. GRID is a campus-wide, conference-style event where research done by graduate students at the University will be presented and discussed by faculty and students from many departments and schools. GRID is a venue for students to get feedback on their research and hone their conference skills. Stop in and see the projects of over 200 graduate student participants this year.

On **May 8, 2009 from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**, the **University of Maryland Campus Arboretum and Botanical Garden** will be hosting a gala event to celebrate trees, arboreta, gardens, and alumni. Three alumni will be honored at the event for their public service and accomplishments related to public gardens and plant conservation. The alumni to be honored are: Scott Aker (Gardens Unit Leader, US National Arboretum); Holly Shimizu (Executive Director, US Botanic Garden); and Sara Tangren (President, Chesapeake Natives).

This event is open to the campus community and public. More information will follow.

If you have suggestions for people and organizations to invite to the celebration, please email Dr. Marla McIntosh, Director, UM Arboretum and Botanical Garden, [mmcintos@umd.edu](mailto:mmcintos@umd.edu).



## More Newest News...



Justin Nicholas, LM; Daniel Granier, LM; Andrew Cassavant, LA; & Amber Phaire, LA

PSLA students in **Mr. Dennis Nola's LARC/PLSC 321 Materials and Construction Methodologies class** are conducting a semester long investigation of construction materials. Students in this class are from both the Landscape Management Program (LM) and the Landscape Architecture Program (LA). They are each responsible for presenting a construction material and commenting on its sustainability. Displays can be seen on the shelves in the hall outside the LARC senior studio in the Plant Sciences Building, and for two weeks in the lobby of the Plant Sciences Building. Some of the displays are interactive and all of the displays are informative and impressive! Stop by, check them out and feel free to leave comments in the designated pockets provided on the posters.

Article by Mr. Dennis Nola

**Dr. Sonja Duempelmann** took the **LARC 689B class** to Berlin during Spring Break. Sponsored by a grant from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), 15 students taking the seminar class, "Berlin-Washington: Capital Urban Spaces and Transatlantic Exchange" toured Berlin together with a group of students from the Technical University Berlin. Dr. Duempelmann and Dr. Dorothee Brantz, (Technical University Berlin), organized the trip for the graduate seminar class to investigate the political, cultural and spatial dimensions of the German and US Capitals. PSLA students had the chance to discuss capital planning issues and urban landscape design with their partners in Berlin, who had prepared tours that included underground bunkers, residential neighborhoods of former East and West Berlin and a bike tour along the line of the Berlin Wall. PSLA's seminar class will host 10 students and Professor Brantz from Berlin on their visit to UM and Washington, D.C. April 13—April 17.



Students studying models of Berlin that show its development in the 20 years after reunification and illustrate future projects.

Article by Dr. Sonja Duempelmann

The sixteen member **UM PSLA Landscape Team**, coached by **Dr. Steven Cohan**, competed in this year's **PLANET Student Career Days 2009** held at the California Polytechnic University in Pomona, CA. Members of the team included, **Mark Gonzalez, LM; Josh Burwell, LARC; Ben Butler, HortProd; Nancy Harding, LM; Brittany Harman, LM; Todd Colvin, PlantSci; Andrew Mink, LM; Josh Long, LM; Adam Chaitin, LM; Chad Stern, Finance; Megan Fleming, LM; Vinnie D'Alcotti, LM; Benjamin Brown, LM; Chris Devido, Turf; Susan Gemmell, LM; and Andrew Cantrell, LM.** The events challenged the students' technical as well as academic skills.

The students competed in 24 events ranging from business management to woody plant identification. The team placed 19 out of 59 teams. A total of 800 students competed in this year's event. The following students did exceptionally well in their respective events (placement/#competitors): Josh Burwell, Computer-Aided Landscape Design 8/39; Chad Stern, Business Management 19/88; Andrew Cantrell, Construction Estimating 7/52; Todd Colvin, Interior Plant Identification 11/89; Chad Stern & Benjamin Butler, Landscape Management Operations 3/46; Susan Gemmell, Pest Management 18/70; Susan Gemmell, Safety Management 6/95. The team's MVP was Josh Burwell, whose overall event scores placed him 41 among 753 competitors.



Patio Installation—  
Josh Long & Vinnie D'Alcotti

Prior to the competition the UM team toured Southern California with the team from Penn State. The itinerary included Hearst Castle; the Getty Museum; Huntington Botanical Garden; Descanso Gardens (where Dr. Cohan was a former director); and five-star resorts along Laguna Beach, whose landscapes are managed by the ValleyCrest Landscape Company.

Article by Dr. Steven Cohan

The **2009 Professional Development Leadership Workshop, organized by Dr. Steven Cohan**, had the largest enrollment since its inception, four years ago. Sixty students representing over twenty majors participated. Their learning experience was further enhanced by their engagement with private sector managers, who served as breakout leaders during the interactive sessions. This year's workshop was sponsored by the Brickman Group, the largest landscape management company in the U.S.

## Within The Ranks...

**Dr. Bob Kratochvil**, PSLA, and co-investigators, Dr. Josh McGrath (ENST), and Mr. Ron Mulford (MAES), were recently awarded a grant from the Maryland Center for Agro-Ecology for \$67,000. The project is titled "Use of Nitrogen Stabilizers with N Fertilizer for Corn as a Way to Maintain Profitability while Reducing Environmental Impact". Congratulations on receiving this grant!

## Looking Ahead...

Monday, April 13—Graduate Research Interaction Day (GRID) 2009, Colony Ball Room, Stamp Student Union

Wednesday, April 15 —AGNR Alumni chapter Awards, Riggs Alumni Center. Silent Auction starts at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Presentations follow.

Saturday, April 25—Maryland Day! 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Come and Enjoy!!!

Tuesday, April 28—University-Wide Celebration of Scholarship and Research, Reckord Armory. 4:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 7—AGNR Spring Awards Convocation, Colony Ballroom, Stamp Student Union. 8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Friday, May 8—Gala Event to Celebrate Trees, Arboreta, Gardens, and Alumni, 2:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m. Location to be announced. More information will follow.

Wednesday, May 13—PSLA Awards and Ice Cream Social, Plant Sciences Bldg. Critique Hall. 2:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 21—University of Maryland Commencement Ceremony, Comcast Center. 7:00 p.m.

Friday, May 22—AGNR Commencement Ceremony, University Memorial Chapel. 4:00 p.m.