



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

Dr. William J. Kenworthy, Interim Chair, PSLA

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As we move into Spring Break, I'm aware of how quickly time moves since we are half way through the semester. Our faculty and students have been busy across our campus and out into the surrounding neighborhood communities. We, again, have some wonderful things to report from our Department since our last newsletter.

Under the direction of Dr. Steven Cohan, our students have been active in an exciting educational project for the Anacostia Watershed and a workshop for Professional Leadership Development. In addition, one of our graduate students, Lorely Solano, has been recognized for her research related to Green roof substrates.

We also have great news to share about our faculty activities— through efforts spearheaded by Dr. Marla McIntosh, the University of Maryland campus is now a recognized Tree Campus USA by the Arbor Day Foundation. Read on below for information about a special celebration event for the campus on May 8. Dr. David Myers was a recent presenter in the Sustainability Speaker Series on campus. He gave an excellent presentation that generated many audience questions. Finally, I want to give special recognition to two of our PSLA faculty members. I am very happy to report that Dr. Maile Neel has been promoted to Associate Professor and Dr. Tim Ng has been recognized as an Emeritus Professor. My congratulations to each of you on your outstanding contributions and many accomplishments!

I hope you enjoy reading our newsletter. Have a safe and happy Spring Break!

Regards,
Bill Kenworthy



It's Official!
UM is now a
Tree Campus
USA



"Tree Campus USA colleges and universities strive to engage their student body as well as their broader community to establish and sustain healthy community forests for the benefit of current and future residents."
Arbor Day Foundation



Inside this Issue:

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

Newest News!..

**University of Maryland Named Tree Campus USA University
by the Arbor Day Foundation**

"The Arbor Day Foundation has honored the University of Maryland as a Tree Campus USA University for its dedication to campus forestry management and environmental stewardship.

Maryland is the first college or university in the state to be named a Tree Campus USA University.

"The Tree Campus USA program will have a lasting impact at the University of Maryland and throughout the country because it will engage students and local citizens to plant trees and create healthier communities for people to enjoy for generations to come," said John Rosenow, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "The University of Maryland will benefit from better tree-care practices on campus, and it will help connect the university with tree-care professionals in their community to improve the tree canopy in College Park."

Tree Campus USA, a new national program launched by the Arbor Day Foundation, honors college and universities and the leaders of the campus and surrounding communities for promoting healthy urban forest management and engaging the campus community in environmental stewardship. Tree Campus USA is supported by a \$750,000 grant from Toyota.

The University of Maryland met the required five core standards of tree care and community engagement in order to receive Tree Campus USA status. Those standards are establishing a campus tree advisory committee; evidence of a campus tree-care plan; verification of dedicated annual expenditures on the campus tree-care plan; involvement in an Arbor Day observance; and the institution of a service-learning project aimed at engaging the student body.

The Arbor Day Foundation launched Tree Campus USA in the fall of 2008 by planting trees at nine college campuses throughout the United States. More information about the Tree Campus USA program is available at www.arborday.org/TreeCampusUSA."

"The Arbor Day Foundation is a nonprofit conservation organization of nearly one million members, with a mission to inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees. More information on the Foundation and its programs can be found at arborday.org."

Press Release, Arbor Day Foundation

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.



More Newest News...

Students from the Plant Sciences, Landscape Architecture and Landscape Management programs are working with Engineers Without Borders on designing a bioretention facility for the town of Edmonston in Prince Georges County as part of the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Project. **Dr. Steven Cohan** met with representatives from Engineers Without Borders in February to develop the mutually beneficial opportunity. PSLA students will be involved in plant selection, soil profiling, and interfacing with the engineering aspects of controlling storm water management. One of the educational values of the particular project is the opportunity to work with a discipline outside the plant sciences. Engineers Without Borders is "a national nonprofit organization dedicated to sustainable development through engineering assistance and training internationally responsible engineering students." For more information about Engineers Without Borders at UM, please visit <http://www.eng.umd.edu/ewb/>.

Professional Leadership Development Workshop

The 2009 Professional Leadership Workshop had its largest enrollment since its inception three years ago. Sixty students participated in the two day interactive workshop which emphasized team work, process management, communication and other vital leadership skills. Students learn about leadership qualities and how they relate to various personality profiles. The students' learning experience was further enhanced this year by the participation of over twenty different majors including several students from the Hillman Entrepreneurs Program.

Dr. Steve Cohan established the one credit course three years ago with the objective of providing students with resources for transitioning into the work place. Mr. Jim Paluch, who conducted the workshop, is a nationally recognized leadership development consultant. His motivational skills, combined with videos and physical interactions provided an educational and fun filled learning environment.

This workshop has become a successful educational event each year. According to one student's testimonial, "I understand what it means to be a builder, and how important it is not to let yourself become a destroyer... Today, I learned that attitude is everything in the workplace and in life, and I will attempt to always walk with my shoulders back and my head up high.... Overall, this seminar was well organized and full of energy, something that I would recommend to any student interested in one day becoming a leader."



Teamwork Exercise: Proud teammates stand by their completed workshop project—a 14' suspension bridge constructed from doweling, popsicle sticks and string.

Student Award!

PSLA Graduate student, **Lorelly Solano**, received the Second Place Graduate Student award for a paper she presented on "Zinc Uptake of Sedum spp. In Various Ratios of Crumb Rubber-amended Green Roof Substrate" by the American Society for Horticultural Science, Northeast Region (NE-ASHS). Additional authors were Dr. Andrew Ristvey (MCE), Dr. John Lea-Cox (PSLA), and Dr. Steven Cohan (PSLA). Congratulations, Lorelly!!!



Within The Ranks...



Dr. Maile Neel has received promotion by the University to the rank of Associate Professor with Tenure. Dr. Neel's research focus is to understand patterns of biological diversity, as well as the relationships between these patterns and the ecological and evolutionary processes that have created them. Congratulations, Dr. Neel! Your promotion is wonderful news and much deserved.

Dr. Timothy Ng has been recognized by the University as Emeritus Professor for his lifetime service. Dr. Ng was an active faculty for 31 years. His research focused on the postharvest physiology of Cucurbits, as well as the genetics involved in the resistance to diseases that attack these fruit crops. Dr. Ng also held several administrative positions at the University. Congratulations, Dr. Ng. Your dedication and efforts are greatly appreciated.

Dr. Marla McIntosh was recently interviewed about the University of Maryland Arboretum and Botanical Garden. Dr. McIntosh was selected as Interim Director of the Arboretum and Botanical Garden last year. Her interviews can be seen in AGNR's Momentum publication and on-line with CNS, <http://www.cns.umd.edu/tv/>. A link to the on-line interview is also on the PSLA homepage.

Dr. David Myers was a presenter at the Sustainability Speaker Series held on February 25, 2009. There will be 5 sessions of the Sustainability Speaker Series this semester. Dr. Myers spoke on "Landscape Sustainability: Drivers of Consumption". For more information on the Sustainability Speaker Series, visit http://www.sustainability.umd.edu/index.php?p=news_events_sss_sp09.

Looking Ahead...

Monday, March 16—Friday, March 20 — Spring Break, no classes

Monday, March 16—Tuesday, March 17 — Offices closed

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

Saturday, April 25—Maryland Day!

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.