I visited with the editors to plan this issue as one small piece of the many events celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Cooperative Extension Service across Maryland and the U.S. I lobbied hard for 100 feature stories instead of the usual five to give a complete representation of Extension. Trying to grasp the extent of what today’s University of Maryland Extension (UME) is doing with and for the citizens of Maryland in just five stories was a challenge, but I think we captured some programs that affirm the original mission of Cooperative Extension, and yet share some progressive, inspiring new programs reaching audiences and addressing issues never anticipated 100 years ago.

Our colleagues across the nation have done a great job in sharing images and stories at events and via social media. I encourage you to “like” the Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/Extension100Years not just to reflect “like” the Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/Extension100Years, but also to appreciate the depth and breadth of Extension efforts at the University of Maryland, College Park. Approximately 200 faculty in concert with another 200 or so support staff and contractual employees located at the University of Maryland, College Park, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, 23 counties, Baltimore City and four research and education centers address and provide programs to meet today’s challenges in the areas of 4-H & Youth, Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources, Food and Nutrition, Health and Wellness, Home Gardening, Money, Water and Chesapeake Bay. Many UME faculty members have joint appointments with research and academic programs. This promotes the exchange of knowledge between the universities and among academic specialties. I encourage you to visit AGNR’s Extension website to learn more about these programs in your area http://extension.umd.edu. If you are not familiar with the location of your local UME office, there is a directory at the same site, along with upcoming classes, programs and events.

I would be remiss if I did not share that this was also a sad spring with the death of one of our key UME team members, Denise Freibertschild, who came to AGNR as a product of the 4-H program, graduated with distinction from AGNR and served the college, UME and the 4-H program with a commitment and passion that is to be envied. A full tribute to Denise is on page 32. We also celebrate the lifelong contributions to AGNR of former Extension Director and Acting Dean, Dr. Craig Oliver and communications specialist T. Milton Nelson, both of whom died since our last issue. They mentored many of our current faculty members and their legacy continues.

And while this issue is focused on Extension, the role that our academic units and the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station play in meeting AGNR’s mission is vital and thriving. External research funds are at an all-time high and the quality of our students continues to amaze faculty, staff and administrators.

As always, I look forward to seeing many of you at upcoming events described between the universities and among academic specialties. I encourage you to visit AGNR’s Extension website to learn more about these programs in your area http://extension.umd.edu. If you are not familiar with the location of your local UME office, there is a directory at the same site, along with upcoming classes, programs and events.

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Dwight Baugher stood in the middle of his soybean field one recent morning, contemplating the coming crop. Elsewhere on the 600-acre Carroll County farm the pick-your-own strawberry operation was poised for a roaring start as the cool spring suddenly had temperatures shooting into the upper 80s. In the midst of all this happy possibility, Baugher recalled what could be called his “cantaloupe crisis.”

“Based on my experience, I was sure it was downy mildew,” the grower said of his 15 acres of cantaloupe plants with their yellow leaves and lesions that were starting to form, but the treatment he was using wasn’t working. That’s when he turned to Bryan Butler from the Carroll County Extension office who determined it was instead powdery mildew, requiring a different tactic. “The plants perked up and did fine. It could have cost me a lot” not to have the right answer, he said.

Like so many growers, farmers, 4-H kids, Master Gardeners, homemakers and others around the country, Baugher places great importance in Extension, which this year is celebrating its 100th anniversary.

“When you think about it, they’re connected to different experts around the world. Sometimes if a farmer’s in the middle of his field he can feel pretty lonely,” Baugher said. “It’s all about speed and Extension is quick to get their feet on the ground. Like when we started getting stink bugs, we didn’t even know what that thing was that was causing all that damage, but they were right on it.”

The Cooperative Extension Service officially started on May 8, 1914, with passage of the Smith-Lever Act that also extended federal support to land-grant institutions, including the University of Maryland.

Dr. Stephen Wright, associate dean and associate director of Extension at the University, said, “The purpose was to take the theoretical advances in agriculture and home economics, take the experiments, and then transfer it in a way that was practical to the public—a translation of research into practical applications” whether it was genetic research to improve livestock or crops, or advances in health and nutrition.

“The act was designed to make sure the family farm was vibrant and healthy … to improve the well-being of the entire family.”

Although in 1914 the majority of the country lived in rural areas, the thought wasn’t just on farms, rather it acknowledged that people in cities also needed to eat and “without strong agriculture, who’s going to feed these people?” Wright said.

Dr. Cheng-i Wei, dean and director of the University of Maryland Extension and Agricultural Experimental Station, said prior to the Smith-Lever Act, the model was for higher education to teach and the student would go out and contribute to society. “But sometimes this was too slow and so many people needed help—the general public that didn’t have the time or the money to go to school. These were people who needed to improve the production of crops and animals; they needed answers to food problems. A hundred years ago, when farmers across Maryland were isolated from each other, the Maryland Cooperative Extension Service was created to share vital information about agriculture and homemaking. Now the University of Maryland Extension, based in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, has a much broader focus, offering education and support on topics such as health and wellness and environmental preservation. A glance back at its century of service.”
safety issues” and other topics. “I think one of the main reasons Extension was started was to help the general public. And for the farmers, even though there was research being done at university experimental stations, “only the researchers knew the results” and it wasn’t getting open in a timely fashion to those on the front line who needed it.

Dr. Wei was involved with Extension early in his academic career, whether it was working in research with extension faculty or being asked to lecture in their classrooms. Now, as its director, Extension makes up 40 percent of his budget. And speaking of the budget, funding levels is one of the changes he has seen through the years. Increasingly they have to come up with ways to do more with less.

“We can’t do everything for everybody,” he said, and programs had to be cut. But it also brings about new solutions. For instance, rather than having everyone rack up travel expenses to attend conferences and meetings, more video conferencing is being used to connect Extension with non-farm youngsters being able to attend the show ring. But even that aspect of Extension has never changed—it’s to build stronger communities and in turn a stronger economy. Dr. Wei added that “The format may change, the delivery system may change, but there’s always going to be a need for Extension.”

Stronger Communities, Economy

During Extension’s 100 years, Dr. Wright said that “Essentially the mission has never changed”—it’s to build stronger communities and in turn a stronger economy. Dr. Wei added that “The format may change, the delivery system may change, but there’s always going to be a need for education.”

Marianne Willburn, a graduate of the Master Gardener program in Frederick County said that, “Working within the Master Gardener program has connected me to a large amount of passionate gardeners and garden educators and has been a great resource during my community garden involvement. People really trust the Master Gardeners as educators, and while we don’t pretend to know everything, we usually know where to go to find out the answer.” Willburn continued that, “Thanks to the fairly recent advent of evening classes in my county I’ve been a Master Gardener for four years—through the learning process continues every year through continuing education classes, lectures and advanced training seminars.”

Stronger Communities, Economy

And sometimes it just comes down to a fruit and vegetable farmer who is saying “We are the number one agricultural system in the world, we have the safest food supply in the world, this is all through Extension.”

Dr. Wright recalled hearing that “Extension is the front door to the university,” an observation that hits the mark as Extension looks at current issues such as the impact of global warming, problems with invasive species and improving the health of the Chesapeake Bay. The program also seeks to teach the public what Dr. Wright called “healthy finances” where folks are taught “how to save, how to invest, how to purchase a home.”

Dr. Wright became even more passionate about his belief in Extension, saying “We are the number one agricultural system in the world, we have the safest food supply in the world, this is all through Extension.”

And sometimes it just comes down to a fruit and vegetable farmer who is stumped over why his cantaloupe crop is doing poorly. “I hope Extension goes another 100 years,” Dwight Baugher said.
Extension is Helping to Restore the Chesapeake Bay – One Program at a Time

By Holly Porter

For 100 years, University of Maryland Extension (UME) has been sharing practical knowledge from the research lab to the field or home. “Farmers were the first environmentalists,” says Dean Cheng-i Wei, director of UME. “We’ve been helping to protect the Bay for years – but now we have official programs focused on water quality and they are showing great results.”

UME is leading the way with programs focused on restoring the Chesapeake Bay. Here are just a few of the highlights:

**Integrated Pest Management**

The goal of the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program is “to offer alternatives to high risk pesticides such as those that have been detected in the Bay and associated tributaries,” says IPM coordinator Dr. Cerruti Hooks.

One of the most effective production practices is a method farmers are already using for soil health – cover crops. Not only do cover crops prevent erosion and absorb excess nutrients, but they can be adapted to suppress weeds and insects. Originally focused on grain and vegetable farmers, this program also reaches nursery/greenhouse operations and landscapers. Extension offers training and online resources on plants to consider and biological options for greenhouses. They also have “IPM alerts,” a weekly report of what insects have been spotted throughout the state and information to combat them.

**Master Gardener**

Started in 1978, the Master Gardener program trains volunteer horticultural educators, who agree to work within their communities to teach other Marylanders the basics of gardening and landscaping sustainably.

Some of the training focuses on managing plant and pest problems through IPM, native plant use, organic gardening, tree and shrub selection and reducing water pollution through practices that lower stormwater run-off and improve soil quality.

Over 1,800 people have completed the 40 to 50 hours of training. In 2012, volunteers spent over 104,000 hours teaching residents in 20 counties and Baltimore City. In the future, Extension specialist Jon Traunfeld hopes to add online training to attract the next generation of Master Gardeners.

**Native Plants**

One technique for improving the health of the Bay that has attracted a lot of attention is the use of native plants. Research shows that native plants are great for protecting the Chesapeake Bay – they don’t require as much fertilizer, don’t need excessive watering and have adapted to native insects, so no need for special pesticides. Master Gardeners can be certified as native plants specialists, with extra training and volunteer hours focused on natives.

“The outreach efforts are working and native plants are the fastest growing segment in the nursery industry,” says Sara Tangren, one of the Master Gardener trainers. Tangren works with nursery operations that track the receipts by category, and demand has been up 12 to 20 percent over the past eight years.

**Bay-Wise Programs/Bay-Wise Landscape Management**

With over 5.8 million people living in Maryland, water quality must be a shared responsibility. The Bay-Wise Landscape Management program was established to focus on “a holistic approach to landscape management, with an emphasis on protecting the Chesapeake Bay,” says Wanda MacLachlan, area educator in Howard County.

Today, more than 1,100 Master Gardeners are certified Bay-Wise trained. They offer one-on-one site visits, garden tours, training demonstrations, classroom teaching and more. Some of the training includes appropriate mulching, proper mowing techniques, controlling stormwater runoff and encouraging wildlife. Over 1,900 residential or public gardens have been certified Bay-Wise, including the Governor’s House in Annapolis. In 2012, Bay-Wise Master Gardeners contributed over 13,000 hours of volunteer work, valued at more than $300,000.

**Master Naturalist**

The Master Gardeners program success is offering intensive training programs to people who will share their knowledge by volunteering in their community. In 2010, UME created the Master Naturalist, an ecological and natural resource focused program. Participants are taught science-based education on plants, wildlife,
licensed individuals. Chuck Schuster, with over 61 percent of the state license). In 2013 alone, UME worked turf technicians (the front line applicators and licensed pesticide applicators and turf management technicians. The law is designed to reduce nutrients going into the Chesapeake Bay from synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. In Baltimore City, urban agriculture includes educational, school-based systems, for-profit farms, community farms and private landowners. According to Urban Agriculture Educator Naima Jenkins-EI, approximately 75 percent of the farmers in Baltimore began their farming education journey with the Master Gardener program. Since so many have been through that training, the majority of urban farms in Baltimore City use alternatives to synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. “The possibilities for urban farming are endless and I believe urban farming will help restore the health of the bay,” says Jenkins-EI.

**Switchgrass for Buffers & Bedding**
UME and the University of Delaware Extension are partnering to explore the options of switchgrass for bedding on poultry farms. Switchgrass is a native plant that is often used in buffer strips to prevent nutrient runoff. The broiler production level seems to be the same, yet switchgrass costs 33 percent less than commonly used pine shavings. “It’s a win-win for everyone,” says Jon Moyle, Ph.D., poultry specialist for the Lower Eastern Shore Research & Education Center. “The product saves money for the poultry industry, is a best management practice for farmers and a business opportunity for the bedding industry.”

In October 2013, the Fertilizer Use Act took effect for Maryland homeowners and turf management technicians. The law is designed to reduce nutrients going into the Chesapeake Bay from the University of Maryland has been certified as Master Naturalists, contributing over 11,000 hours of time to their communities.

**Turf Technician Training**
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**URBAN FARMING**
With 1.2 million acres of urban land in the state, urban farming programs have become a growing part of Maryland agriculture. Urban farms transform forgotten land into productive grounds and provide fresh, locally grown produce. In Baltimore City, urban agriculture includes educational, school-based systems, for-profit farms, community farms and private landowners. According to Urban Agriculture Educator Naima Jenkins-EI, approximately 75 percent of the farmers in Baltimore began their farming education journey with the Master Gardener program. Since so many have been through that training, the majority of urban farms in Baltimore City use alternatives to synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. “The possibilities for urban farming are endless and I believe urban farming will help restore the health of the bay,” says Jenkins-EI.

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This past April, switchgrass bedding was applied to a volunteer production farm for a one-year study. The researchers plan to test another farm later this year as well.

**SEA GRANT PROGRAM**
If UME is the “boots on the ground” of agriculture, then the Sea Grant Program is the “boots on the dock,” according to Watershed Restoration Specialist Don Webster. “But our work isn’t done. We would love to see aquaculture production reach one million harvested bushels, and then increase annually after that.”

**WATERSHED RESTORATION**
Under Sea Grant’s Watershed Protection and Restoration program, the watershed specialists help with stormwater management through workshops, assistance with regulations, forming partnerships to help fund projects and working directly with policy makers. "We connect people to resources – whether monetary or educational,” says Jennifer Dindinger. In just five years, the watershed specialists have created over 430,000 square feet of rainscaping, planted 20,000 trees or shrubs, and reached over 15,000 people. They have also become a trusted source with many local governments and communities.

**OYSTER RECOVERY**
One of the main focuses of the Sea Grant Extension is to restore a Maryland signature crop and natural water filter – the oyster. The restoration effort has three main focuses: providing seed for oyster aquaculture, offer businessses financing and public policy assistance and public education. In 2012 the Horn Point Oyster Hatchery produced a record 880 million spat (young oysters) and offered technical assistance to help loan applicants receive $717,000 to launch new businesses. “We have seen many new leases and people getting into the aquaculture business,” says Sea Grant Extension Specialist Don Webster. “But our work isn’t done. We would love to see aquaculture production reach one million harvested bushels, and then increase annually after that.”
Oliver Douglas, the hapless city lawyer-turned-farmer on the old TV comedy Green Acres, faced his fair share of headaches, whether it was planting seeds at the wrong time of the year or getting talked into growing some obscure crop by the clueless agricultural agent, Hank Kimball. Mr. Douglas most definitely could have used the services of the Maryland Beginning Farmer Success Program.

The program, spearheaded by University of Maryland Extension with input from Future Harvest Chesapeake Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture, the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC) and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, is designed to help educate fledgling farmers in areas such as production, marketing, land management, business planning and developing financial resources. The partnership uses a variety of avenues to accomplish its mission from websites linking farmers with landowners who may have viable acres they’re not farming, to organized tours of ag operations and matching new farmers to those who have been around the barn a time or two. UM Eastern Shore is also focusing on helping small-scale, limited resource and socially disadvantaged farmers in southern Maryland and along the Delmarva Peninsula.

Frederick County farmer Ben Sayler, who leases four acres near Walkersville and also has vegetable plants filling every available inch on the 10th of an acre surrounding his house, has gone through the Beginning Farmer program.

“I was never in farming, but I’ve grown vegetables ever since I was 10 in the backyard in Middletown where I grew up,” Sayler said. “I’ve always loved nature,” enrolling at Virginia Tech and majoring in forestry and biology. After graduation he found a job as a procurement forester, working with landowners to develop a forest management plan, including selective harvesting.

“Then the economy crashed,” he said, bringing construction to a grinding halt and freezing a demand for timber. Laid off from his job, Sayler turned to a longtime love of making beer and went to work for Frederick’s Flying Dog Brewery, starting out on the bottling line. Within a short time he became quality control manager. He also started growing vegetables and working towards an eventual Masters in Business Administration from Mount St. Mary’s University. Plus, he enrolled in the Beginning Farmer Program, becoming an apprentice to Rick Hood of Summer Creek Farm in Thurmont.

“I really respect his practices,” Sayler said. “I learned how to farm on a larger scale and how to try and make a profit ... Any question I had in my head I tried to have answered.”

Hood said that Sayler was one of four apprentices that he has mentored and he will have another one this year. A farmer for about 25 years, Hood believes such a program would have been beneficial to him when he started out, particularly in the area of direct marketing. His 34-acre operation provides produce to a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture), farmers’ markets and wholesale to grocery stores.

“It shows them what can be done,” he said of program participants. “As well as giving them a dose of reality.”

Sayler said the farm tours were also a plus. “I made lots of connections. I talked and met with farmers. The information was very valuable; lots of them have been through trials and tribulations.”

The Beginning Farmer’s emphasis on education resonates with Sayler. “I’m already passing on things to my workers, telling them why we do what we do, so that it’s not just a job, it’s...”
not me just saying ‘do this’ I want to educate them as well.” A large part of his own education is coming front and center as he puts into practice what he’s been learning. “This is our first year and a lot of time has been taken up getting it going. I’ve had 100-hour weeks for the past four months ... there are times I’ve been in the fields with a headlamp putting in okra.”

But it’s worth it. He operates a CSA and goes to three markets a week. According to his five-year plan, he expects to open a farm brewery—he’s already growing hops—along with starting a CSA members, farmers’ markets and restaurants. “I think Beginning Farmer is really tied into the evolving interest in local food.”

Ben Beale, an Extension educator in St. Mary’s County, touted the mentoring and apprenticeship parts of the program that Sayler found so valuable. “It’s great they can call and talk,” Beale said, as well as actually getting dirt under their fingernails on a farm. New farmers, who are defined as being in agriculture 10 years or less, can see what they’re getting themselves into from the start.

Dill said that “It’s exciting to have so many levels” where there are different options for education whether it’s the classroom, field days or a farm apprenticeship. Most importantly, “they’re not on their own when they leave the classroom.”

Dr. Hanson said USDA provided a $677,000 grant for Beginning Farmer that started in the fall of 2012 and is scheduled to last into 2015. “We get a lot of calls, people are interested,” he said, adding there’s not a generalized Beginning Farmer. “They come in at different levels.” Dill observed that “Some are at square one and others are at square six.” Some may have grown up on a farm, Dr. Hanson said, others are from the city and are looking for a lifestyle change as well as a new career, while others have practiced farming as a hobby and want to go to the next step. “Some are in the program to grow food for their families,” he added. “Those people are passionate; it’s not a casual thing they’re doing.”

At latest count, there are 919 beginning farmers, Dill said. As to measuring the program’s success, Dr. Hanson said it will be “more farmers, more farm acreage,” with there being no doubt of success if the numbers are there. Another outcome he sees is the successful healthy living programs – one that grew out of some alarming health numbers in a local area and one that has kids all over the state rocking to its lessons.

LIVING – AND THRIVING – WITH DIABETES
Western Maryland is known for its mountains, rivers and outdoor sports. The region has another distinction – the rates of diabetes and
obesity in Garrett, Allegany and Washington counties are among the highest in the state.

It’s a health statistic that led University of Maryland Area Extension Director Dr. Jennifer T. Bentlejeski to start a unique diabetes education outreach for Western Maryland residents in 2000. Hands-on and practical, the program has shown more than 2,200 people in the region how to live – and thrive – with diabetes. The program, said one participant, “has changed our lives forever.”

Most class participants have Type 2 diabetes, which goes hand in hand with obesity. More than half are retired age or older – they’ve had many years of eating patterns that may have led to diabetes.

“Living with diabetes can be overwhelming,” says Lisa McCoy, UM Extension Educator for Healthy Living in the Western Region, who took over the program this year. “It means a lifestyle change that you have to stay with for the rest of your life.”

What and how much you eat and physical activity are critical to lowering blood glucose levels to control diabetes. Every one percent decrease in blood glucose can reduce a diabetic’s risk of kidney disease and other complications by 35 percent; mortality by 25 percent; heart attack by 18 percent. Controlling diabetes not only helps drates, the food compound that most affects blood sugar levels, and they get in the habit of reading food labels. Between classes, they have a chance to practice what they’ve learned.

“We tell people they can include all kinds of food in their lives. Our goal is to show them how to fit them into their day-to-day life with diabetes,” says McCoy.

Some participants bring family members to learn along with them. Cathy Young of Oakland came with her diabetic mother and her 16-year-old daughter, who used the lessons for a home school assignment on nutrition. Young had already learned a lot on her own after her mother was diagnosed with diabetes, but she took the class, she says, “to find out everything I could to help my mom.”

Six months after the last class, the Extension educator follows up by phone with each participant to see how they are doing. The results have been impressive. Where only 12 percent felt they could manage their diabetes when they started the classes, 52 percent were confident of their ability to control it after completing the program. Eighty-two percent had lost weight and 50 percent had improved their blood glucose levels. Almost 80 percent had increased their physical activity. “Using this nutrition information has undoubtedly changed my sugar levels and my life,” said one participant.

If current health trends continue, UM Extension’s 4-H Youth Development team has set up Health Rocks! programs in almost every Maryland county and Baltimore City. According to Dr. Lisa Dennis, UM Extension specialist, 4-H Youth Development, more than 48,000 kids, aged 8-17, have gone through a Health Rocks! program in Maryland since 2011.

“Health Rocks! is more than a few lessons and a pretty cool sling pack. It’s a program that draws on the community to help kids understand what tobacco, alcohol and drugs can do to them. In keeping with the 4-H mission to partner youth with caring adults, national 4-H trains adult and teenage volunteers to lead the Health Rocks! classes.

Teachers, parents and youth pastors work in teams with college and high school students to teach the 10-hour curriculum. In 2013 alone, more than 4,100 teens and 800 adults led Health Rocks! programs in Maryland schools, community centers, 4-H meetings, churches and fire halls.

There is a Health Rocks! curriculum for elementary-aged youth and another for middle school students. At both levels, the program gets kids’ attention with hands-on techniques that give them an “Aha!” understanding of the effects of tobacco, alcohol and drugs.

For example, in one activity that illustrates how smoking works on the lungs, the kids breathe through a fat straw while they quickly move around the classroom or yard. Then they do the same thing with a normal size straw, and a third time with a coffee stirrer straw.

“By then they are huffing and puffing,” says Sandy Corridon, a UM Extension specialist who works with the Health Rocks! program. “They really see that it’s harder to breathe, and we have our teachable moment.”

Because just saying “No” isn’t always easy in the teen years, Health Rocks! emphasizes decision-making techniques that will lead to wise choices. It shows them some ways to handle the situation when they’re offered a cigarette, a beer or drugs and talks about how to reduce stress without turning to alcohol or drugs.

“Our Maryland Health Rocks! program also strives to include parents in the sharing of information,” says Corridon. “We prepare and send home fact sheets and promote conversations at back-to-school nights on the latest substance abuse fads, how kids hide drugs and ways to help youth make wise decisions about health.”

Health Rocks! is staying current with teen technology. Kids can download an app for a new learning game, Health Rocks! Carnival, on their phone or iPad. There’s also a Spanish language curriculum.

UM Extension is hoping Health Rocks! will sustain itself in Maryland. In many counties, mini-grants are already funding the program. In keeping with recent Maryland Health Education standards, some school systems have adopted Health Rocks! to be taught by their staff as part of their curriculum.

On the survey they take after completing Health Rocks! kids of all ages overwhelmingly say the program was interesting and that they learned a lot. Some of them go on to be teen leaders to help teach Health Rocks! If the survey results are a good indicator, the healthy living future looks very promising for tens of thousands of Maryland kids.
100 Years and Counting – 4-H Continues to Develop Leaders of Tomorrow

By Debra L. Spurrier

Peyton Bollinger, 9, is building an attachment for a robot that will collect medication from a dispenser for a senior citizen. He chooses each piece carefully and tests out how the arms to his platform swing while his mentor looks over his shoulder. The run is a success and Peyton, who is normally uncomfortable with public speaking, reports his design to his team and a room of 11 4-H’ers.

Sure, 9 years old seems a bit young to be carrying the weight of technological problems on his shoulders, but Peyton, a member of the RoboRangers 4-H Club in Frederick is like most youth who have come through Maryland’s 4-H program – he has found a project that not only interests him, but is molding him into a future leader.

Maryland 4-H has united youth from the tip of the Eastern Shore to the mountains of Garrett County for 100 years. One of the largest and longest-running youth development groups in the country, the organization started as community canning and corn clubs, using research from the land grant colleges to improve crop production. Like a fine-aged wine, the program has matured into a cultivator of tomorrow’s leaders supported by University of Maryland faculty, volunteer leaders and community organizations.

“4-H continues to honor the same principles it was founded on, and this has resulted in a century of alumni with skill sets to be leaders around the nation,” explains Dr. Jeff W. Howard, University of Maryland Extension Assistant Director and State 4-H Program Leader. “All 4-H programming has elements of leadership development, community advocacy, citizenship and confidence with public speaking as...”

What is 4-H?

4-H is the largest nation-wide hands-on youth development program with over 6.5 million members. Its purpose is to provide a supportive setting for all girls and boys to mature into competent, caring and responsible people through volunteerism and the learning of valuable life skills. At its most basic level, 4-H is about belonging to one or more 4-H clubs and pursuing the projects and interests that you love, all while serving the community. 4-H’ers can explore many different areas of interest, like:

- Art and music
- Science and technology
- Animals and agriculture
- Communications
- Healthy living
- History and heritage
- Citizenship
- Community action and volunteering

2000

Initiated the Food Supplement Nutrition Education program to educate food stamp recipients about healthy eating on a limited income. (In 2013, more than 30,000 people participated!)

2008

Started Annie’s Project, an education program to empower women in agriculture to successfully run their operations.
Maryland 4-H teams take top spots in worldwide robotics competition

Two Maryland 4-H teams took home top honors in the FIRST Federal Trade Commission Competition in St. Louis, MO.

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is a worldwide robotics organization and the FTC’s FIRST Tech Challenge encourages high school students to build a robot that will fit into an 18-inch by 18-inch box. Robots must perform several pre-programmed tasks then the student team drives the robot for two minutes. This year, more than 3,200 teams from 29 countries competed in the world competition.

The Techno Clover team from Garret County won first place in the World Championship.

The Green Machine team from Howard County was part of the alliance that won second place in the competition.

Maryland 4-H depends on dedicated faculty and staff, 4-H educators who are passionate about their work, UME certified volunteers and community supporters who provide youth opportunities to learn, travel and put their skills to the test at competitions across the U.S. and abroad. It offers youth the chance to learn a skill, develop healthy living habits, meet new people with similar interests and have fun doing it all.

Organized the Health Insurance Literacy Initiative, which spread to other states, to help people evaluate their options for health insurance.

The 4-H robotic program is a prime example of how the organization has evolved to remain relevant. Arlene Lantz, a 4-H All Star and volunteer 4-H club leader in Garrett County, started the G-FORCE FTC (FIRST Tech Challenge) Team 2818 in 2010. The program stretched across the state with the help of the late Denise Frebert-shauser at UME, to train and promote 4-H robotics.

"Robotics is an amazing life skill and character building program," says Mrs. Lantz. "It is great to see 4-H maintaining its character but yet changing and keeping up with the current and future skills youth need for their future."

The program has gained much momentum over the last four years, gathering youth from nearly every county in the state and growing a program that garner national recognition for ingenuity, design and teamwork.

Recently, two Maryland teams traveled to the World Robotics Competition – one from Garret County and one from Howard County – and brought back first and second place honors from among over 300 teams competing. To get to this level they had to compete against 3,300 worldwide.

"4-H is cutting-edge – it has always been – and yet it has developed youth leaders in a quiet way," says Corridon. 4-H doesn’t use fancy marketing or slick gimmicks to attract and retain members. Word of mouth, a proven track record and a solid place on the resumes of leaders has fortified 4-H’s reputation.

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Maryland 4-H Teams Take Top Spots in Worldwide Robotics Competition

Two Maryland 4-H teams took home top honors in the FIRST Federal Trade Commission Competition in St. Louis, MO.

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is a worldwide robotics organization and the FTC’s FIRST Tech Challenge encourages high school students to build a robot that will fit into an 18-inch by 18-inch box. Robots must perform several pre-programmed tasks then the student team drives the robot for two minutes. This year, more than 3,200 teams from 29 countries competed in the world competition.

The Techno Clover team from Garret County won first place in the World Championship.

The Green Machine team from Howard County was part of the alliance that won second place in the competition.

Maryland 4-H continues to be proud of its century-deep roots and Dr. Howard says that while these projects are still relevant today, the program has broadened to highlight and focus on science and STEM-related opportunities to make certain all youth have the chance for a 4-H experience.

To illustrate the breadth 4-H now expands, Cassandra Corridon, UM Extension specialist, 4-H Youth Development, who grew up holding traditional 4-H projects in the Frederick County 4-H program in the 1960s shares, "Today, Maryland 4-H reaches not only traditional community club members, but also military 4-H programming, the school enrichment and after-school programs. Over 96,000 youth are being served with a 4-H program that develops youth from where they are today to where they want to be. Our outreach is expansive, our impact impressive and our dedication to the program and the youth outcomes unquestioned."

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The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources welcomed two Thoroughbred colts born on the university’s Campus Farm this spring. The UMD community helped brainstorm names for the horses in their future racing careers. The suggestions were then pared down to a list of finalists and put to a public vote. As a result:

A chestnut colt, born March 29 by Friesan Fire out of Daylight Lassie, will be known as Fear the Fire on the track. Students in the Department of Animal & Avian Sciences cared for both the mares and foals throughout the spring semester and will continue to work with the Thoroughbred colts until they are sold at auction as racing prospects in December.

A bay colt, born February 13 by Rock Slide out of The Best Sister, will be racing under the name Maryland’s Best.

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Extension faculty member Donald Webster will be taking on a new title this fall, replacing Vincent Novara to become the next chairman of the University Senate and the first from University of Maryland Extension.

Webster, 67, was selected to join the senate’s Faculty Affairs Committee in 2011 and became a senator for AGNR in 2012. Since then, he has made efforts to educate on- and off-campus organizations about AGNR and Extension, efforts he plans to continue as chairman.

Specifically, some of Webster’s goals include, “to continue to operate the Senate in the efficient manner that has been its tradition, to work with administration to continue to build UMD into the best public institution in the nation, to educate campus about the unique abilities of AGNR with its reach into all counties, [and] to educate UME about its role in the overall functioning of campus,” Webster said.

Webster works at the Wye Research and Education Center in Queenstown, focusing his work on commercial aquaculture in the Chesapeake Bay.

Roughly 950 green thumbs took advantage of 30 workshops at the annual Master Gardener/Master Naturalist Training Day held in late May on the University of Maryland’s College Park campus. Dennis vanEngelsdorp, Ph.D., apiarist and entomology professor at UMD, presented the keynote address on "Why We Need Bees."
UMD’s appetite for locally grown food has planted the seed for a new campus-run farming operation. Terp Farm, located 15 miles south of the university on its crop research facility in Upper Marlboro, will grow vegetables year-round. The kale, tomatoes, peppers, herbs and more will be incorporated into select dishes in the dining halls and on the Green Tidings mobile food truck and will be distributed to people in need on campus and in the College Park community.

The three-year pilot project, funded by a $124,400 grant from the UMD Sustainability Fund, brings together Dining Services, the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the Office of Sustainability—and a lot of students.

Seniors majoring in plant science and landscape architecture helped determine which crops would be most profitable. Professor Chris Walsh will hold his horticulture course lab on the site, and some students are lobbying for an agriculture mechanics class there. The farm’s lead agricultural technician, Guy Kilpatrick, hopes to offer specialized training for students planning careers as independent farmers.

“This is going to be a great opportunity for students—it’s going to be heavily used,” says Associate Professor Scott Glenn.

He was on his hands and knees there on Earth Day, April 22, helping a dozen plant science seniors create the farm’s first native pollinator garden. The black-eyed susans, lavender, aster and sedum will attract beneficial insects.

Then the students planted mountain mint, rye grasses and other flowers (all cultivated in the campus greenhouse) outside a scrubbed-up old poultry barn that will be used for cleaning and packing the harvested vegetables.
2014 AGNR Convocation and Awards

Faculty and staff from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (AGNR) came together on May 8 for the 2014 Convocation and Awards Ceremony. The theme for this year’s event focused on the 100th anniversary of the Smith-Lever Act – the 1914 legislation that created the Cooperative Extension Service at land grant universities throughout the country, including the University of Maryland. Featured speakers outlined how Extension is still relevant in today’s modern world and emphasized what it must do to continue serving residents of the state for the next century.

Following the morning’s presentations, the College took time to celebrate staff and faculty members marking a milestone in years of service. Finally, the 2014 College of AGNR Excellence Awards were presented. The honorees included:

DEAN GORDON CAIRNS AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED CREATIVE WORK AND TEACHING IN AGRICULTURE

Erik Lichtenberg, Professor, AREC

Dr. Lichtenberg has developed an international acclaimed, world-class research program through solving significant real problems facing agriculture in the State of Maryland. He provides an impressive model of how research, teaching, extension and service should be integrated into the land grant system. The excellence of his lifetime achievements has been recognized by his being named a Fellow of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA), the leading such society in the world; editor of the American Journal of Agricultural Economics, the leading journal in his field in the world; and his award for the Publication of Enduring Quality from the AAEA. He has also been honored internationally with the Bronze Medal for scholarship from the University of Helsinki and has held the prestigious appointment as the senior economist for agriculture, international trade and natural resources with the President’s Council of Economic Advisers.

UME EXTENSION EXCELLENCE AWARD

Bryan Butler, Principal Agent, UME-Carroll County

Bryan Butler has been recognized for his excellence in teaching, dedication to his profession, his creativity in programming and reaching targeted audiences, and his in-depth knowledge and passion of the subject matter for which he is responsible. In 2009, Bryan became responsible for commercial fruit production in Carroll, Frederick, Washington, Howard, Montgomery, Harford and Baltimore counties. Bryan spent six months on sabbatical leave in 2011 working with the USDA – Appalachian Fruit Research Station in Kearneysville, WV. Working with Dr. Tracey Leskey, he worked in seven Maryland orchards experimenting with a wide variety of monitoring tools to better understand the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB). The team was able to offer advice on using aggressive and severe spray schedules for orchardists. From this research, he developed and presented a “train the trainer” program providing all teaching materials for Maryland Master Gardeners to deliver to the general public.

THE PAUL R. POFFENBERGER EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AND ADVISING AWARD

Sarah Balcom, Lecturer, ANSC

Inspirational, innovative and scholar are just a few of the words used by faculty and students to describe Dr. Sarah Balcom from the Department of Animal and Avian Sciences. Since joining the faculty a mere four years ago, she has developed seven courses and was appointed as Department Undergraduate Director in 2012. She has championed the effort of “flipping” traditional courses, where the student is responsible for mastering course material and the professor augments it with higher order thinking opportunities. One of Sarah’s strongest attributes is her ability to balance being a challenging and effective teacher while nurturing the students to bring out their potential.

FACULTY RESEARCH AWARD

Kenneth Leonard, Associate Professor, AREC

Dr. Kenneth Leonard has become a world-class leader in health economics research for developing countries. Leading scholars at both Oxford and Yale laud his reputation, which is rated among the top five economists in his field in the world. One prominent economist has said, “I’ve learned more about health care systems in Africa from Leonard than from any other scholar.” The uniqueness of his research owes to his pioneering design and innovative methods to describe the complexity of issues and successful networks in rural communities and their effects in developing countries. His insights have been previously undiscovered by researchers who were constrained by the paradigms of developed countries. His work has changed his accepted wisdom by demonstrating that comparison with developing countries may be necessary to gain sufficient variation for statistical identification. The significance of his findings reach far beyond the economics to the international medical community concerned with vulnerable populations. His work shows that better incentives for modern doctors can improve patient welfare by up to 160%.

OFF-CAMPUS STAFF EXCELLENCE AWARD

Ellen Green, Extension Program Assistant, MREDC, UME (WREDC)

Ellen Green works with the University of Maryland Extension at the Western Maryland Research and Education Center as an Extension Program Assistant. She is the web developer and administrator for the Maryland Rural Enterprise Development Center’s (MREDC) website and is assisting with the Beginning Farm Success website for new farmers. MREDC is a virtual business development center for agricultural and natural resource-based businesses, entrepreneurs and specialty food processors. Ellen is the consummate professional who always gives her best effort to a project. She is mindful that technology and educational programming can sometimes be challenging, but works with any Extension educator or program to “get it right.”

OFF-CAMPUS STAFF EXCELLENCE AWARD

Cheryl Hill, Business Service Specialist, Carroll County, UME

Cheryl’s career with University of Maryland Extension began in 1995 as an Administrative Assistant at the UME-Carroll County office. As the Business Support Specialist, she provides exceptional customer service, taking time to establish genuine relationships which build significant support and loyalty. She has developed strong ties to Carroll County government, particularly with the County Budget Analyst and Building Maintenance. These ties are critical when communicating budget and housing issues. She is given all significant financial assignments in the office and handles each with meticulous precision. She works side by side with the AED in developing the Carroll County budget and her years of knowledge of the budget are huge in seeking county support for UME.

ON-CAMPUS JUNIOR FACULTY AWARD

Abani Pradhan, Assistant Professor, NSCS

Dr. Abani K. Pradhan, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Nutrition and Food Science and also has an appointment in the Center for Food Safety and Security Systems at the University of Maryland. He has quickly developed an independent and innovative research program in the area of food safety and risk assessment. He has also made outstanding teaching contributions, developing a new graduate level course “Food Safety and Nutrition Risk Assessment,” and redesigning the undergraduate course, “Food Quality Control.” Beyond regular classroom teaching, he is faculty advisor of UMD Food Science Club and is enthusiastically mentoring students to organize and participate in different professional activities.

OFF-CAMPUS JUNIOR FACULTY AWARD

Jennifer Dindinger, Agent and Regional Watershed Restoration Specialist, UME

Jennifer Dindinger is an Agent and Regional Watershed Restoration Specialist with Sea Grant Extension, Lower Shore Cluster, located in Dorchester...
County. She holds a tenure track position which she began in 2012. In 2004, she started as a Faculty Research Assistant in the Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology and later became their communications and outreach coordinator. In 2009, Jen moved to the Sea Grant Extension program as an Associate Agent. Throughout her AGNR career, Jen has been recognized as an excellent communicator, collaborator and colleague. In November 2012, she agreed to co-chair the effort to develop the UME 2014-2019 Strategic Plan, now lauded as a plan of exceptional quality, addressing all the challenges put forth and that will impact all of UME and the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and their constituents on a day-to-day basis for the next five years.

**On-Campus Staff Excellence Award**

**Non-Tenure-Track Faculty Excellence Award**

Glori Hyman, Director and Lecturer, IAA

Glori Hyman was appointed Acting Director of the Institute of Applied Agriculture (IAA) in 2007. Four years later, she became the official Director of IAA. She provides vision and leadership over all departmental academic and professional activities and administrative leadership for the finances, policies and facilities of the department; serves as an engaged partner with industry; supports departmental excellence through the recruitment of outstanding new faculty, staff and students; and fosters the professional growth of department personnel. She also teaches and developed the oral communications programs in 2012, a fundamental part of the University’s new general education program. She has also implemented a transfer advantage program to provide a seamless transition from the IAA into one of the College’s four-year programs.

**Staff Service Awards**

**Years**


**Years**

- Ronald J. Clare, Donald L. Murphy, Jorge A. Ovando, Vernora R. Petty, Theresa A. Rich, Margarita Vinogradova

**Years**

- Susan C. Edington, Aaron R. Cooper, Katherine E. Faulkner, Jennifer A. Reynolds, Steven M. Rogowsky, Ruby J. Schwinn, Tina M. Scites

**Years**

- Christopher R. Aubry, Barbara J. Barg, Sara A. Barnard, Francis A. Breeding, Isatou F. Mbye, Deborah L. Patrick

**Years**

- Debby G. Cunningham, Nenita R. Harris, Loc K. Hoang, Eileen Morgan, Brad Paleg, Timothy A. Shelle, Gail P. Yester

**Years**

- Kevin L. Carpenter, Marythai Y. Pandian, Sheila R. Shorter, Wendy L. Whittemore

**Years**

- June T. Thomas

**2014 Ag Day/Maryland Day**

More than 80,000 people came to the College Park campus for the 16th annual Maryland Day and the 89th annual Ag Day on Saturday, April 26. Ag Day Avenue was packed with people enjoying educational activities, watching livestock shows and riding demonstrations, getting up close and personal with biting plants, and learning all about what the College of AGNR has to offer!
MERRIGAN SPEAKS ON FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE

The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, in conjunction with the University of Maryland ADVANCE Program for Inclusive Excellence, invited the Executive Director of George Washington University’s Sustainability Institute, Dr. Kathleen Merrigan, to share her thoughts about food policy as a part of their Distinguished Women Scholars Seminar Series. Merrigan is a former Deputy Secretary of Agriculture and United States representative in the United Nations’ Commission on Sustainability.

The seminar, “Redesigning Food Policy In and Outside of Our Nation’s Capital,” took place on May 2. Attendees enjoyed locally grown snacks while Merrigan, named one of Time magazine’s 2010 “Most Influential People in the World,” spoke about changes taking place in contemporary American agriculture. “The exciting thing about agriculture now is that the future is unwritten,” Merrigan said. “We know there are challenges to face, but anything can happen, and that, to me, is a field you want to be in.”

2014 AGNR ALUMNI AWARDS

Congratulations to the 2014 AGNR Alumni Awards recipients who were recognized at the Samuel Riggs IV Alumni Center on April 10. Over 200 gathered to welcome graduating students joining the AGNR Alumni family and celebrate the accomplishments of students, faculty and alumni recognized. Nearly $2,000 was raised during the silent auction to support AGNR student clubs and scholarships.

Dean Cheng-i Wei (middle row second from right) joins Ray Bosmans, AGNR Alumni Chapter president (middle row far right) in congratulating the winners.

In front row from left, are, Anna Wallis, Plant Sciences and Landscape Architecture, Outstanding Graduate Student, M.S. candidate; and Julia Thome, Ornamental Horticulture, Institute of Applied Agriculture, Outstanding Student, 2 year program.

In middle row from left, are, Utpal Pal, VA-MD Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, Excellence in Research; Ashley Belle, Environmental Science and Technology, Outstanding Graduate Student, Ph.D. candidate; Anne Turkos, University of Maryland Archivist, Honorary AGNR Alumni Chapter member; Sarah Balcom, Animal and Avian Sciences, Excellence in Instruction; Ann Sherrard M.P.H. ’90, Garrett County 4-H Youth Development, Excellence in Extension; Wei and Bosmans.

In back row from left, are, Joseph Maher, Agricultural Resource Economics Outstanding Graduate Student – direct from M.S. to Ph.D.; Timothy J. Von Thun - Outstanding Student, 4 year program; Heather Shive Ph.D. ’10, Veterinary Medicine, Outstanding Alumnus, Early Career; Tim Allen ‘05, Environmental Science and Technology Outstanding Alumnus, Early Career; Budhan S. Pukazhenthi Ph.D. ’92 & ’96 Animal and Avian Sciences, Reproductive Physiologist, Smithsonian Zoological Institution Conservation and Research Center and adjunct professor ANSC who was named AGNR’s Outstanding Alumnus for 2014.

The following students were noted as Honorable Mention undergraduate students having been nominated by their departments: Aaron Frock, Brent Waite, Stephanie Marino, Kayla Miner, Jack Trimble, Cui Yin Wu; and Graduate Students Matthew Angel, Glade Dlott, Adriana Mendoza, Yuchen Nan.

Additionally, graduating AGNR Student Ambassadors Hanum Wensil-Strow, Andrew Breeze, Yingtang Han, Nicholas Stavely, Brooke Hyman and Hannah Klein were thanked for their service to AGNR along with Tim Von Thun and Megan Parry were recognized for their service and leadership to the AGNR Student Council.
ENST Alumnus Named Second Best Soil Judge in the World

When it comes to judging soil, environmental science and technology alumnus Tyler Witkowski can compete with anyone in the world. The December 2013 graduate proved his prowess by earning second place at the first International Soil Judging Competition held June 5-7 in Jeju, Korea.

Tyler Witkowski

At the competition, hosted by the International Union of Soil Sciences and the Korean Society of Soil Science and Fertilizer, Witkowski was a member of the USA team -- one of 13 teams representing eight different countries. The USA team, totaling eight members, was divided into two teams of four. Witkowski contributing to team USA-B, the grand prize winner of the competition. Members of both USA teams are the top ranking soil judgers of the world.

Dr. Witkowski was the only Soils Contest held in Eastern Pennsylvania in April. Witkowski was the only graduate of four, Witkowski contributing to the team USA-B, the grand prize winner of the competition. Members of both USA teams are the top ranking soil judgers of the world.

The citation noted that while he officially retired more than a decade ago, Coale has continued to serve Virginia’s agriculture community. His early work at Virginia Tech featured research to help boost Virginia’s seafood industry and food safety. Other projects he worked on included agriculture diversification, direct marketing for farmers and agri-tourism. He spent a significant amount of time helping Virginia fruit and vegetable producers gain better access to retail and wholesale markets. He also worked extensively with the farm equipment industry.

Charlie and his wife, Ellen Kirby Coale ‘58 established the H. Palmer Hopkins Scholarship Fund in February 2004 in honor of his former teacher and mentor to support students enrolled in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources who intend to pursue a career in agricultural science education. Charlie and his extended family are regulars at Maryland Day/Ag Day where they have enjoyed reconnecting with colleagues, fellow alums and visiting with recipients of the Hopkins Scholarship.

College of AGNR alumnae Miles (“Pat”) Patterson’s pursuit of a college degree was anything but easy, so he decided to give back in a unique way that has personal ties to his past. Patterson recently established an endowed fund to fund the university’s Disability Support Services program “Text to Voice.” The program converts textbooks into audio files that students can listen to while reading their textbooks and is extremely helpful to students with learning disabilities, especially dyslexia. Patterson himself has dyslexia, but was not diagnosed until he pursued a degree in horticulture at the University of Maryland.

“When I went to the University of Maryland it was like going abroad,” says Patterson. “It was so overwhelmingly large, expansive and full of knowledge – and everyone else was so overwhelmingly large, expansive and full of knowledge – and everyone else was so knowledgeable, but I really had to scrub to get that knowledge.”

After earning his degree in 1963, Patterson and his sister converted their family’s dairy farm in Monkton into a nursery business, with the help of their parents. Together, they grew the property from a low-technology dairy farm to a thriving business that employs 40 people. Today, Manor View Farm sells ornamental trees and shrubs to the area’s landscape contractors.

“Having this disorder has made me look at life differently than other people because I’m constantly searching for a way to learn, understand and express myself,” Patterson said. “Really, I like what I am with this disability, and I think that in the long run, it has given me an advantage, not a disadvantage.”

Patterson says he hopes his donation will help students find creative ways to cope with their own disabilities without allowing those challenges to hold them back.

Dr. Coale Honored for Service to Agriculture

Dr. Charles W. Coale ‘59 & ’65 was recognized for “Distinguished Service to Virginia Agriculture” by Virginia Farm Bureau. The citation noted that while he officially retired more than a decade ago, Coale has continued to serve Virginia’s agriculture community. His early work at Virginia Tech featured research to help boost Virginia’s seafood industry and food safety. Other projects he worked on included agriculture diversification, direct marketing for farmers and agri-tourism. He spent a significant amount of time helping Virginia fruit and vegetable producers gain better access to retail and wholesale markets. He also worked extensively with the farm equipment industry.

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Alumnus Pat Patterson Establishes the First Endowment in Support of UMD’s Disability Support Services

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As we turned the calendar pages throughout the early months of 2014, AGRN and Maryland's agricultural community lost pioneering instructors and role models for current professionals and future leaders. While we are saddened at their passing, we are enriched and inspired by their stories that demonstrate their passion for their field of expertise and the spirit of collaboration that brought them to the table. It is our modest hope that those of us who continue their projects and careers honor to their legacy with the same commitment and enthusiasm.

Tony Evans, 30-year marketing specialist and public information officer at the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA), former newspaperman and energetic collaborator with AGRN faculty and staff, died January 20, 2014 after a two-year battle with chronic pulmonary disease. He was 76.

Evans had a career with United Press International and met his future wife when he turned her down for a reporter job. He left UPI for the Baltimore News-American in 1963 and covered the Maryland General Assembly and statewide stories for three years. He also worked on political campaigns.

His career at MDA began in 1973. He expanded and popularized the state’s farmers’ market program, grown from around 20 to over 130 markets. He collaborated with University of Maryland Extension communications specialists in a series of “Ag Week at the Mall” across the state teaching consumers about agriculture during winter months. His head was full of agricultural facts that he shared as emcee at the department’s annual open house and at any other venue when he was given a microphone. He was proud to call over 1,500 farmers by name as he’d recognize them at different events. He was also a fixture at the Maryland State Fair and coordinated exhibits and events for the department during the fair.

After his retirement in 2003 he was active in Arkansas politics and remained connected to the Maryland Agriculture Council, Inc. which coordinates the annual Maryland Agriculture Dinner as a signature outreach effort to the General Assembly. He was involved with Harris Orchard and was known as “Mr. Peach” by patrons and friends across the state.

In honor of Earth Day 2014 and in memory of Tony, colleagues at MDA planted a tree, selected and purchased with private donations to provide a space for shade and reflection for employees and visitors on the back lawn of the MDA headquarters building in Annapolis.

Tony is survived by his wife, Penny, son, Charles Evans III, daughter Abigail Evans, and his five grandchildren, Maia, Felix, Oliver, Aziza and Ebis.

Denise Elaine Frebertshauser ‘91 & ‘98 passed away peacefully on Wednesday, April 16, 2014, at the University of Maryland Medical Center, with family and friends by her side. She was 45.

Her infectious love of life and learn by doing spirit, through the 4-H program and ACA camping, gathered many wonderful friends who circled her with love and devotion throughout the years. Denise graduated from the University of Maryland, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, with a bachelor’s and master’s degree in Food Science. She had a three-year career of growing kids into competent caring and nurturing adults in the Baltimore County 4-H program with Adventures in Science and camping.

From 1997-2005, as an extension educator in the Carroll County 4-H program, Denise expanded her natural resource and teen leadership focus. Her mantra, “Get a child outside,” was frequently heard. She believed a supportive natural environment where adults and youth could interact developed a child’s heart, head, hands and health. Denise was committed to developing the Maryland Patuxent River 4-H Center into a thriving and safe place for urban youth to learn how to become environmental stewards while having fun with hands on educational experiences. Denise’s creative teaching approach was key for developing senior youth mentor partnerships with younger campers. Her respect and interest for the American Indian traditions were often taught. She loved collecting antiques and historical memorabilia.

Denise was currently the Extension Specialist in Environmental Science and Outdoor Education at the University of Maryland Extension 4-H Youth and Development Center. She continued to grow “kids” and adults through science and camping. Denise was a published faculty member with numerous awards for her creativity, teaching and program outreach. She was honored to receive the President’s Award by the Chesapeake Section of the National American Camping Association for her outstanding service. Denise was married for over 45 years to Jerold Peary (now deceased) in the lives of youth and adults. Her “never quit attitude” and “live in the moment” enthusiasm sparked much love and devotion from adults across Maryland. Death leaves a heartache no one can heal, but love leaves a memory no one can steal.

She is survived by her parents, Donald Frebertshauser and Rose Hahn Frebertshauser of her native Westminster, a brother, Drew Frebertshauser of Spring Grove, and friend, Holly Gilmer of Hanover, and niece, Danya Frebertshauser; aunts and uncles, David and Jill Frebertshauser, Alice and Jim Eckard, and Paula and Anna Hahn, Jr. of Westminster. She was an adhered “untie” to Jacob and Drew Bjerknes and Berlin Dunn. She was preceded in death by close friend, Bonnie Dunn in 2010.

A Memorial Celebration of Life was held April 23, 2014 at St. John’s (Leisters) Lutheran Church, Westminster, with the Rev. Kristin Dubsky officiating. Memorial donations may be made to the Maryland 4-H Foundation, Memorial Camping Fund, 4020 Greenmead Drive, College Park, MD 20740, or the Patuxent River 4-H Center Foundation, Inc., Denise Memo- rial, P.O. Box 342, Davidsonville, MD 21035.

Edward F. Mayne, Sr. ’51, Montgomery County realtor, broker, land developer, entrepreneur and local farmer passed away on May 14, 2014 at his home in Olney.

Born on November 16, 1925, in Washington, DC, to parents, Milt L. and Grace Mayne, he served in the U.S. Army as a Staff Sergeant in Europe during World War II. He graduated from the University of Maryland in 1951 with a B.S. degree in Agriculture and was an active member in the Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity. On June 21, 1951, he married Josephine L. Martin and the two were married for 62 years and had four children, Edward F. Mayne, Jr. of Mt. Airy, Gwendolyn Sandberg of Laytonsville, Nancy Marshall of Etchison and Martin Mayne of Mt. Pleasant.

Mr. Mayne attended Oakland Emory United Methodist Church for over 70 years. He served the Maryland Turf Grass Association, Laytonsville Lions Club (Charter Member), AGR Alumni Board, Montgomery County Youth for Christ (YFC) Board of Directors, American Legion and was a lifetime member of Montgomery County Agricultural Fair. In addition to his wife and children, Mr. Mayne is survived by ten grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and two brothers, Milt Jr. Mayne of Buckeystown and Kent C. Mayne of Laytonsville.

A funeral was held at Oakland Emory UMC in Olney on May 21, 2014. Inurnment arrangements were held later at Arlington National Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Oakland Emory UMC, 3425 Emory Church Rd. Olney, MD 20832 Att: Missions or Building Fund.
ried Francesca Bacani Gonden, a widow, and took on the role of father to her four children. He loved and cared for them as if they were his own. He was admired by his grandchildren. Anytime spent with Milt or Pop Pop, as his grandchildren called him, was always a pleasure and, usually, a lesson of some kind was learned.

He was an avid gardener, writer, and reader. He loved traveling and exploring and, after retirement, enjoyed his travels with his family. He also visited friends in Canada, Minnesota, California and Arizona. Francesca predeceased him in 2007.

Mr. Nelson was an honorary member of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Alumni Chapter and an honorary life member of the Maryland Association of County Agricultural Agents. One of his favorite assignments was at the State Fair where, for over 30 years, he played a key role in providing thorough news coverage of 4-H activities. He was proud to be included among the Ag Legends, an informal group of educators, news media and industry representatives. A longtime colleague, Allan Bandel, wrote, "He really had his heart in what he was doing and put a priority on getting the news out. Until near the end, folks often commented on how hard he tried to stay involved, to stay active in his profession. He was one of those in the family that I call Yeiser, also from the university, wrote, "He has been an outstanding member of the university and extended community" and "Alumni across the state and nation could count on Milt for up-to-date information about the college, and Maryland agricultural programs and issues." Milt was an active member of the Lutheran Church of the Living Word in Columbia and, later on, the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Bel Air where he was as active as his health permitted. He was honored by the Lutheran Church for his effort in cleaning and renovating the Amazing Grace Church in East Baltimore and estieving a backyard there. He helped organize the Craft and Living Gift Fair in Columbia, which turns gift-giving into donations of farm animals to impoverished people around the world. He served on several committees, received numerous recognitions and awards, and was continuously involved in interfaith and community projects. Mr. Nelson also gave to numerous charities and, in the spirit of giving, he donated his brain to The Johns Hopkins Parkinsons Research Center.

In addition to being predeceased by his wife, he was also predeceased by a son, James F. Gonden. He is survived by daughters, Kathleen V. Man- giapane, and her husband Leon- ard, Marleen E. Baumgardner and her husband John, Eileen P. Kaplan, Keith P. Kaplan, loving grandmother of Neil L. Kaplan, Chelsea K. Baumgardner, Chase A. Kaplan, Dylan C. Baumgardner, Chareen L. Gonden, and Brett C. Gonden; and caring brother of Marion Fjare and John Nelson and his wife Colleen. He is also survived by several nieces and nephews.

A graveside service was held on February 24th at Columbia Memorial Park and a celebration of his life was held March 22nd at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Bel Air.

**Craig Stanley Oliver**, a retired University of Maryland administrator, passed away suddenly on May 23 at Coastal Hospice by the Lake in Salisbury. The Berlin and Westminster resident was 80 years old.

Born in Brockton, MA to the late Helen Sabine and Stanley A. Kaplan, Dylan C. Baumgardner, Chase K. Baumgardner, Dylan C. Baumgardner, Chase K. Baumgardner, and was active as his health permitted. He was honored by the Lutheran Church for his effort in cleaning and renovating the Amazing Grace Church in East Baltimore and establishing a backyard there. He helped organize the Craft and Living Gift Fair in Columbia, which turns gift-giving into donations of farm animals to impoverished people around the world. He served on several committees, received numerous recognitions and awards, and was continuously involved in interfaith and community projects. Mr. Nelson also gave to numerous charities and, in the spirit of giving, he donated his brain to The Johns Hopkins Parkinsons Research Center.

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AGNR Open House
at the Central Maryland Research and Education Center Clarksville Facility, 4240 Folly Quarter Road, Ellicott City

This is a great opportunity for the general public to learn about all the components of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources – academics, research and outreach – through fun, family-oriented educational activities and exhibits. Farm tours, pumpkin painting and cutting edge research presentations round out the nearly 60 ongoing activities. Free and open to the public.

AGNR Alumni Invited to Penn State Animal Science Alumni Tailgate
Saturday, November 1, 2014
2 hours before kick-off
Snider Ag Arena - Penn State University
Reservations due October 12, 2014
Meal and ticket $80 Meal only $15 for Children under 10
More information gyieiser@umd.edu 301-405-2434

Homecoming
Ag-toberfest
AGNR Tailgate at the Campus Farm
Saturday, October 18, 2014
3 hours before kick-off

Watch AGNR’s Facebook page for details about the 2014 Ag-toberfest. Contact Gail Yeiser at gyieiser@umd.edu or 301-405-2434 for sponsorship opportunities.

http://www.facebook.com/pages/University-of-Maryland-AGNR-Alumni-Chapter/115419941422