Featuring

THE INSTITUTE OF
APPLIED AGRICULTURE
always, I am happy to bring you greetings on behalf of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources as we begin a new calendar year, having taken time to review past accomplishments while setting new goals for 2013 and beyond. We have a great deal to be proud of!

It is appropriate that this issue focuses on AGNR’s two-year program, the Institute of Applied Agriculture (IAA), at this time of reflection and goal setting. The IAA has a rich history focusing on applied, hands-on education to meet the needs of the agricultural community since 1965, while embracing fast-paced, ever-evolving technology to insure that IAA classes are sound academically, while relevant and following industry protocols and standards. I was not familiar with this type of intensely hands-on instructional program when I started as dean, and have enjoyed getting to know the faculty, students, staff and leadership at the IAA.

In addition to the excellent courses taught on the College Park campus, IAA students have had extraordinary opportunities out of the classroom and we are proud to share their accomplishments routinely in this publication and on our website. The IAA has also responded to requests from the agricultural community to facilitate teacher training for agricultural science teachers by hosting the Curriculum for Agricultural Sciences Education (CASE) summer workshops and hosting “Teach Agriculture Day” on campus. IAA faculty are familiar faces at programs and conferences related to the golf course and turfgrass industries in Maryland and throughout the region. The IAA certificate is a highly regarded “credential of choice” in these industries. I think you will enjoy reading the feature stories, which only scratch the surface of all of the excellent activities and accomplishments of the IAA.

The fall semester saw an increase in AGNR undergraduate and graduate enrollment. We are excited to see our new students embrace all the opportunities offered through AGNR, on- and off-campus. Our Extension programs continue to meet the needs of Maryland’s citizens in areas as diverse as youth development, diabetes control, nutrient management and local food sources. AGNR faculty continue to be successful recipients of multi-discipline and multi-year research grants to discover new knowledge and solutions to the diverse challenges related to climate control, public health, safe food and economic stability for the agricultural community. I hope you will take some additional time, after you read this magazine, to check out our website http://agnr.umd.edu/ where we routinely post exciting information about our faculty, students, alumni and partners. Even I was overwhelmed when I read the end-of-year summary, http://agnr.umd.edu/news/banner-year-college-agnr, which is still only a glimpse of the excellent work being done by AGNR. I’ve enjoyed visiting with many of you at different events and programs described in the summary and many others.

We are very excited about the unveiling of preliminary plans for a major renovation of the Campus Farm – a signature facility on the College Park Campus and clearly a source of great pride for AGNR. I am impressed with the fine work that Blackburn Architects have done to expand opportunities for our students on the existing 4.3 acre footprint. I am proud and excited to be a part of this dynamic project that will greatly benefit future students. A brief summary can be found in the home page news story “Revitalizing our Roots, Raising the Bar - Creating the Campus Farm of the Future at the University of Maryland” posted after the December 5th launch of this project.

I hope that you enjoy learning more about the Institute of Applied Agriculture, and I look forward to visiting with you at upcoming events including the AGNR Alumni Celebration on April 16 followed by Maryland Day/Ag Day on April 27.
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A Rutgers University study released this past summer reported that looking at all college graduates since 2006, only 51 percent now have a full-time job — and that doesn’t factor whether it’s a graduate’s dream job, or one that was taken just to have employment.

The Institute of Applied Agriculture (IAA), a 60-credit academic certificate program in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Maryland at College Park, has been standing that dismal statistic on its head.

“Ninety-two percent of our students have jobs when they graduate,” said Glori Hyman, IAA’s director since 2011, after serving four years as acting director. She came to IAA in 1990.

The 92 percent employment rate for IAA graduates “has been that high” for the last 18 years, “even in this economy,” she said, recalling how a graduate last
December had the enviable task of trying to make up his mind after receiving six job offers.

“Part of it is that they’re well trained and they’re really good workers,” Hyman said.

Adam Newhart, who graduated from the Institute in 2002 and works as a project manager in charge of the urban forest and other landscaping for the city of Gaithersburg, believes the secret to IAA’s success is that, “They teach you what you need to know and get you out the door.”

Course work is condensed into two years and includes an eight-week internship, fulfilling the mission when IAA was started in 1965 of having a post-secondary, technical program that was more career-oriented and less time consuming than a bachelor’s degree program.

“We provide a program designed for career-oriented study — for those wanting to go into ag-related enterprises. We ignite careers, only we say ag-nite,” Hyman said with a chuckle.

IAA helps settle the quandary, for example, of students wondering: should I major in business or agricultural science? The Institute does both, whether you’re in golf course management, crop production or sustainable agriculture.

“We’re seeing a big movement in sustainable agriculture as a niche, where people are using smaller pieces of property that Maryland, being a smaller state, is suited for;” Hyman said. “Some

What’s next?

A program is only as good as what comes next and those associated with the Institute of Applied Agriculture had this to say about the future:

“I’m a farmer. We start early and work late. I’m going to continue getting my hands dirty” as well as look to offering workshops for others interested in growing their own food.
Deborah Dramby, IAA graduate

“I see sustainability continuing to grow, along with green industries. The LEED buildings with their energy efficient components will slowly trickle down to what’s outside the house as we look at plants that need less water, where rain water can be captured and reused so the landscape is equally as efficient as the home.” And right there teaching about these changes will be IAA.
Ken Ingram, IAA instructor

“I do see the program growing. I think we could be at 100 students — we can handle that. We want to grow so we can contribute more to the university” as well as extending out into the community with various educational opportunities online and in workshops.
Glori Hyman, IAA Director
operations have five to ten acres and are specializing in herbs and cut flowers. The buy local movement has also helped.”

**FROM PLANTS TO PERSONNEL**

The course listings run the gamut of turf grass management, crop production, irrigation and drainage, alternative agricultural enterprises, soil and fertilization, writing, math and business law.

“They are taught how to manage plants, manage personnel and manage business,” said Ken Ingram, who began teaching at the Institute after 30 years in turf, grounds and golf course management. Ingram is like many of his students, the ones he calls “career changers.”

“Tobacco farmers are doing other things,” he said and the same is true of people “who may have worked 20 years at a profession and are just dying to work with their hands outside.”

Students have run the age range of 17 to 72.

Ingram recalled a student who spent years at a computer compiling data and when she retired seized on her hobby as a backyard gardener, becoming a student and now working her next career at the campus arboretum.

Deborah Dramby is another example. A graduate this past spring in sustainable agricultural business management, she already had degrees in English and journalism and had worked for a newspaper and other publications.

“Media is really different these days,” she said, deciding to instead take a whole other career path. Food and farming are the next big thing and “I wanted to be a part of it.

Dramby had considered going back to school for a master’s, “but I didn’t see one that would have this much doing,” IAA “got right to the point of what I was looking for ... we had farm tours and they brought in farmers to speak to the class ...
it got me started and connected me to a budding life in farming beyond my wildest dreams.”

The woman who didn’t grow up with a farm background is working at Williford, a two-and-a-half-acre vegetable farm in Virginia that is part of a housing development, similar to how homes are grouped around a golf course.

“Even when it’s hard work you know you’re doing good for your body and for other peoples bodies,” Dramby said.

For Newhart, the landscaping graduate, that was a career he wanted “ever since I was little.” Prior to studying at IAA, he completed a two-year landscaping class at Frederick County’s career and technology school.

During his stint at Maryland, Newhart said he was impressed by the courses being “geared specifically to the technical aspects as well as how to run a business. You didn’t need to take Art 499 just to meet a requirement. Everything you took there was applied” to what is needed on the job.

**‘Like Family’**

The experience was also valued in that “fellow students and faculty were like family. It was like living in a small town where everybody knew everybody else. There were no lecture halls with hundreds of people.” Newhart said faculty was available to answer questions from class, as well as give career advice and tips on job contacts.

With current enrollment at 54 students, Hyman also touts the advantage of working with a small group.

“Another one of our strengths is that students get all the resources of a world class university and at the same time receive individual attention” from the five faculty members devoted to the IAA, she said.

Newhart took a direction opposite of the one Dramby followed, earning a bachelor’s degree in management after finishing at IAA by transferring to University of Maryland University College.

Hyman said that for students wishing to continue their education, IAA provides a gateway into degree programs. Many of the Institute courses are transferrable into AGNR majors and into a Management Studies major at UMUC.

In addition to the Institute’s five faculty members, there are also three who teach oral communication. The university has made oral communication a general education requirement and students outside of the Institute can take this IAA class.

“The university really liked the class” IAA was offering, Hyman said. “It was not just lectures,” instead students practice impromptu speaking, role-playing and the like.

This is not the only example of the program being a shining light to the university.

IAA was a leader in internships, Ingram said, and now most programs at Maryland require them. “It’s just amazing where our students end up — the Smithsonian, art museums, public gardens, Congressional Country Club … Internships can be life changing. I came to Washington on an internship 30 years ago and never left.”

Additionally, “we see a lot of entrepreneurship with our students. It was happening in IAA even before the rest of the university initiated it,” Ingram said.
Some of that entrepreneurship, Hyman said, includes students raising goats to produce cheese, raising free-range chickens and growing mushrooms. “We’re not trying to pigeon-hole students, rather we try and show them what’s out there. But you know, they’re probably going to come up with things we’ve never even thought of.”

Another bragging right is that IAA started the first-in-the-nation student chapter of the Professional Grounds Management Society (PGMS) that promotes networking and exchange of ideas in the industry. Newhart, who was involved in the student chapter, is currently serving as president of the D.C. branch.

The PGMS student chapter participates in service projects, which included moving plants from the grounds of the old president’s house when it was being demolished and transplanting them to another part of campus.

**BEYOND THE BUILDING**

The Institute is keen on going outside the classroom walls, scheduling field trips, as well as bringing outside speakers in. “We have close ties in the industry,” Hyman said, and often guest lecturers are alumni. “Whatever is new and happening out there we try and bring into the classroom.”

The biggest initiative to reaching out is the eight-week internship requirement, an experience that often leads to job offers as well as personal validation for students that they are pursuing the right career.

Brian Grace, one of the course superintendents at Woodmont Country Club in Rockville, said they have three to four interns a year at the 36-hole course that covers close to 500 acres, which is a lot of turf.

“With the golf course industry, so much of it is on-the-job training,” Grace said, but “we can see” how much the students already know when they get there. “Overall it’s been very good, a great success.”

In addition to Maryland interns, Grace said Woodmont also welcomes turf interns from around the country as well as hospitality interns from Europe. In addition to the work experience, being able to interact with those from different backgrounds is also a good lesson.

Hyman said it’s not unusual for an internship to turn into a permanent job, a move that adds to the amazing 92 percent employment rate enjoyed by the Institute.
Imagine standing at the 18th hole of one of the nation’s top golf courses. All you see for miles is perfectly planned and manicured rolling green grass. You think to yourself, “How do they make this place so magnificent?”

You might have a Terp to thank for all that perfection. The University of Maryland’s Institute of Applied Agriculture (IAA) is home to a turfgrass management program that prepares students for careers developing and maintaining turf for major landscapes such as golf courses and sports arenas. The program has gained the respect of local and national facilities for producing well-trained graduates and consistently placing high in major student competitions. This respect often earns scholarships and internships for students, not to mention excellent jobs after graduation.

The turfgrass management program has four separate concentrations—golf course management, general turf, sports turf and golf course construction, with the majority of students focusing on golf course management.

As an extracurricular activity, a
number of students compete in the various national competitions the IAA takes part in each year. Large competitions like the Collegiate Turf Bowl hosted by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) and sponsored by John Deere, draw dozens of schools from across the nation to compete each year. Since the annual competition began 18 years ago, IAA has participated in the last 14, placing within the top ten 13 times, including last year when its teams finished third and seventh place out of 87 teams. The proud IAA students also took home second place in the 2012 Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) Student Challenge, which involved 36 teams.

Consistently winning competitions has earned industry respect, which, in turn, benefits the students. “For the students who are competing and doing well in these competitions, it’s a resume-builder,” says Dr. Kevin Mathias, advisor and lecturer for turfgrass management majors.

“There’s a lot of interest in how the students do at the competitions. A number of industry people competed themselves maybe 15 years ago or so. So when they hire people, they know what that’s about,” Dr. Mathias said.

“Locally, within the Mid-Atlantic area, there’s that reputation that Maryland’s IAA students do well. Last year when we placed third at the Turf Bowl, there were a lot of people in the industry congratulating the students or calling to see how they did,” he said. “When we were at the STMA Student Challenge, industry representatives at both the national and local level were very impressed and congratulated the team on their performance. That adds to the prestige of the program and the students coming out of it.”
The turfgrass management program integrates management skills such as people management, budgeting and communication with a solid science background in plant science and pest management. For example, in the Capstone course INAg 215, students must develop fertility, labor and pest management programs within an operating budget format for a specific and unique sports turf or golf course facility.

Students are also required to obtain internships as part of the turfgrass program, which often lead to full-time jobs after graduation. In fact, according to Mathias, many students graduate with three or four job offers in tow, and out of the 180 to 190 golf courses in the state of Maryland, about half employ IAA graduates either as head or assistant superintendants. Recent graduates went to well-known facilities such as Congressional Country Club, Columbia Country Club, Woodmont Country Club, Cattail Creek Country Club and the Bidermann Golf Club.

Dr. Mathias credits much of the program’s continued success to a strong support system and a desire to give back. Not only do former students who currently work in turfgrass management look to the IAA when recruiting new interns and employees, but there is a desire throughout the industry to help the new generation grow and succeed.

“People in the industry are very supportive either by morally supporting students in competitions or through endowments,” he said. “They look at the program as a positive thing, and they always stay involved.”

John Strickland, who approached Dr. Mathias at a competition this past February, wanted to help and provided the school’s most recent endowment of $50,000 for student scholarships. Turf Equipment Supply, which employs a number of IAA graduates, established an endowment five years ago that now supports two scholarships annually.

The Institute also partners with the Shields family to hold the Shields Memorial Tournament, which raises money for IAA turfgrass student scholarships and provides funding to send students to national competitions. The tournament began in 1983, when former student John Shields wanted to give back to the program. Decades later, the tournament is still raising funds. As of 2012, the Shields Tournament has provided 92 scholarships totaling over $93,000 to deserving students. “If we didn’t have the support of the industry and the Shields Tournament, we wouldn’t be able to do what we do,” says Dr. Mathias.

The growing network of proficient, enthusiastic IAA turfgrass students, supportive alumni and philanthropic industry leaders is creating a cycle for success in both the university’s program and the trade as a whole. Thanks to the help of supportive alumni and industry players, IAA students will be present for both the 2013 GCSAA Collegiate Turf Bowl and the 2013 STMA Student Challenge this winter.
Michael Walsh will tell you that he’s a good example of finding out that the grass isn’t always greener on the other side of the fence. He’ll tell you that at one point in his life he put the cart before the horse. And he’ll tell you that it was his dad who got him to see that the Institute of Applied Agriculture (IAA) was the place for him to be.

Walsh, 26, of Silver Spring is part of the changing demographics that the IAA is attracting these days. “There’s a lot of people like me who went to work out of high school, started careers, some started families, some are doing career changes and have circled back to furthering their education,” Walsh said. “I fit right in with everyone else in my class. When I got out of high school I wasn’t developed enough to do the whole college thing, so like many others I worked, saved some money and here I am.”

Growing up in Leonardtown in Maryland’s southern-most county of St. Mary’s, Walsh worked on a tobacco and vegetable farm from 11 to 19 years old. His frustration grew after a five-year stint with a landscape management company in Northern Virginia. “It was hard to get any kind of job advancement there,” Walsh said.

That’s when he found out about the college’s Institute of Applied Agriculture from his dad, a Maryland graduate. He went to his first informational session, and from there began the two-year program in the Spring 2011. He will graduate this December in landscape management. Currently, Walsh works within the University system, taking care of and maintaining...
the Garden of Reflection and Remembrance at the chapel.

His educational path at IAA has prepared him for furthering his educational opportunities in landscape management in business law, personnel management and turf grass management, all the while focusing on soils, and plant, tree and shrub identification. He plans to pursue his bachelor’s in business, starting in the Fall 2013.

His plan is to own a landscape management company once he gets his education and additional experiences under his belt. “I want to get a grasp on things and then get into business,” he said.

An IAA internship requirement led Walsh to Bartlett Tree Company this past summer, giving him additional insight and experience. “I had never done any work like that and wanted to gain a better understanding of how they run things, and what services I may need to utilize down the road from a service provider like them,” he added. “It also showed me that tree service is not something I want to do the rest of my life!”

Serving as the Professional Grounds Management Society student chapter president, Walsh has realized that professional resources will help further his career. He’s been awarded numerous scholarships along the way -- Montgomery County Farm Bureau and the Maryland Nurserymen’s Association – and he values his association with PGMS.

“This has been a great group (PGMS) to be affiliated with,” he said, taking great pride in his student chapter’s performance of numerous landscape service projects on campus while executing what they’re being taught. “The industry connections and networking make it all worthwhile.”

Recently, Walsh proposed doing research work at the Institute, or the “Tute” as it’s affectionately known, to use cover crops in landscape applications to improve soils. Specifically, he said using Siberian Kale will kill nematodes as it decomposes and releases a toxin. Secondly, Walsh installed forage grass and winter rye in a research plot on campus to show how they break up and loosen soils.

“The good thing about this is that the current and incoming students will see and better understand how these applications can work in landscape management,” he said. “The students will be able to take soil samples and track them.”

Until next fall, Walsh is searching for employment, hoping to add to his experience levels before returning to the classroom.

“I can’t say enough about the IAA program at the university. If students are looking at this industry, then the Institute is the place to go ... it’s the best in the country,” he said. “Over 92 percent of the students leave here with a job before they graduate.

“All of the teachers are either in the industry, or they have been teaching all of their careers. They help the students learn. They help students apply what they learn. And they help with job placement.”
Ellen Polishuk likes to point out the lack of letters after her last name – the absence of a P, h or D tacked onto the end.
“It’s nice to be appreciated for having experience as opposed to having gone through X-amount of years of school,” said Polishuk, who teaches a new course called Introduction to Sustainable Agriculture offered through the Institute of Applied Agriculture (IAA) at the University of Maryland.

Despite her missing suffix, Polishuk certainly has plenty of knowledge to share with students on the increasingly popular subject of sustainability.

Before coming to teach for IAA, Polishuk owned and operated Potomac Vegetable Farms in Loudon County, Va., where she grew and sold vegetables, herbs and cut flowers using what she calls “ecoganic” practices. “Ecoganic” is a term Polishuk started using a few years ago after deciding not to go through the new and complicated federal certification program that qualifies farms and products as organic. Although Polishuk’s farm operates using environmentally-friendly practices, her products cannot be marketed as “organic” by law.

Teaching at a university isn’t something the environmentally conscious vegetable farmer ever thought would be in the cards, but a few years ago she decided it was time to hire someone to take over the day-to-day details of her farm. “I’m just worn out physically,” she explained.

When the IAA approached her about using her farming knowledge to teach a new course on sustainable agriculture, Polishuk welcomed the unexpected opportunity.

A Minor for Any Major

Polishuk’s course attracts an eclectic mix of students in part because it satisfies a requirement for the university’s new sustainability studies minor – a campus-wide minor created in January of 2012 and jointly sponsored by the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the School of Public Policy. The sustainability studies minor is designed to complement any major and “encourages critical thinking to creatively and positively address global challenges that affect future human populations and cultures and the environment,” according to the university’s Office of Sustainability.

Open to any student whether they have any gardening experience or not,
Polishuk’s class provides an overview of agriculture in general but always from a point of view of sustainability.

To determine whether an agricultural practice should be considered sustainable, Polishuk encourages her students to ask three questions:

- Is it economically viable?
- Is it ecologically sound?
- Is it socially just?

“I try to be kinda provocative in getting people to think about the big picture but then also what’s their part in it? Since we’re all eaters, we’re all participants in this system,” said Polishuk.

As part of the course, Polishuk required each of her students to take a fieldtrip to her farm in Virginia.

“I just wanted us to have one shared experience of a farm so that from that point forward we could all have the same reference when we talked about different practices or different ideas,” she said.

**Different Crop of Students**

Polishuk’s students, some of whom have spent little to no time on a farm, come to her course with vastly different backgrounds and motives for wanting to learn about sustainable agriculture.

For instance, Polishuk says her class roster contains a fair amount of “career changers,” like Lindsay Barranco of Severna Park, who was looking for a change of pace after working as an attorney for 20 years. “I was happy with it but it kind of ran its course for me,” Barranco said. “I wanted to do something where I could work outside.”

Barranco now has a dream of owning a small farm in Frederick County where she can grow vegetables and flowers, keep bees and raise sheep and chickens. Polishuk’s class is providing her with the knowledge base she needs to realize that dream and encouraging her to think about how certain practices will affect the environment.

“I’m kinda preparing for my future farmer life,” Barranco said.

Meanwhile, 18-year-old Corey Driever is enrolled in the IAA program and describes himself as an “ag nerd.” Since the age of 14, he’s been operating his own pasture poultry farm in Carroll County producing free range eggs and broilers. Still, he says he’s gained a lot from Polishuk.

“What I like about her most is that she’s an industry professional. She’s not telling you about what she’s read in a textbook, she’s actually been-there-done-that. You learn so much more that way,” Driever said.

**Overcoming Time and Space**

Polishuk would prefer to do most of her teaching using hands-on techniques outside the classroom walls. However, as any farmer will tell you, a lack of land and sunlight make it pretty difficult to get anything to grow. Similarly, teaching about growing is a challenge without those two key elements.

“Anytime you try to put a school calendar over top of a gardening calendar, there are a lot of places that don’t match up so well,” said Polishuk.

During the fall semester, for example, Polishuk teaches her course from 6 to 9 p.m. twice a week. The chance for any kind of outdoor instruction quickly whittles down to nothing by the end of October.

The waning light isn’t the only obstacle preventing her students from learning in an outdoor laboratory. In an urban campus setting, land and soil in which to plant are often in short supply.
How the Garden Grows

However, when the weather and light cooperate, Polishuk and her class can make use of a small teaching garden located at the top of what is known as the university’s Public Health Garden.

Nestled on a small tract of land with an extremely steep slope between the Eppley Recreation Center and the School of Public Health, the Public Health garden is the result of a long cooperative effort led by the IAA involving several departments on campus.

In the fall of 2010, the Institute applied for and received roughly $17,000 from the Office of Sustainability to develop a teaching garden.

“The idea was to have the garden be available to anyone in the community but allow IAA to use it for classes and oversee it,” explained IAA director Glori Hyman. “Finding a piece of property really was the sticking point.”

Eventually, Dr. Robert Gold, former Dean of the School of Public Health, suggested the oddly-shaped parcel of land located next to his building.

“It’s not a good piece of land,” laughed Hyman. “Nobody wanted it.”

Still, Hyman and other faculty members and students who believed in the project’s potential, rose to meet the challenge.

Dennis Nola, director of the landscape architecture program at the University of Maryland, tasked some of his students with putting together designs and proposals that would take into account the slope, sun exposure and water runoff problems associated with the lackluster land, and make the property wheel chair accessible. A panel of judges picked the winning proposal, kicking off a long journey of turning the grassy hill into a viable gardening space. The process included hiring a herd of goats from a company called “Eco-Goats” to clear weeds without the use of chemicals.

“I think the garden is just an excellent way to promote agriculture on campus,” Hyman said, adding that IAA is getting ready to apply for more funding to expand work in the Public Health Garden.

In the meantime, Polishuk and her class make as much use out of the three raised beds located at the top of the garden as they can. A warm evening in mid-October offered an opportunity for a mini-lesson on planting cover crops and garlic.

“Why would you plant a cover crop in the fall?” Polishuk asked the class as they raked the soil.

“Because it protects the soil and puts nutrients back in,” one female student answered, hardly missing a beat.

Nodding with a satisfied smile, Polishuk replied: “She’s got it.”
FILLING THE VOID

By Sara Gavin

For a program that doesn’t have an Extension appointment, the Institute of Applied Agriculture (IAA) sure finds plenty of ways to extend its expertise and services to citizens throughout the state of Maryland, as well as the country.

“We tend to step up to fill a lot of needs that aren’t being met,” said IAA Director Glori Hyman.

Inspiring Educators

The IAA is particularly involved with training and inspiring the next crop of agricultural educators. Three years ago, the Institute began hosting “Teach Ag Day” – a nationwide event designed to promote teaching as a career for high school students interested in agriculture. IAA contacts current agriculture teachers around the state asking for names of students who fit the profile and then invites them to campus in the spring “to be treated like VIPs for a day,” said Hyman. The high schoolers get a chance to meet with current University of Maryland students, tour the College Park campus and have lunch with the Dean at Adele’s, the upscale restaurant located within the Stamp Student Union.

“I think it’s important for us because we hire agriculture teachers and we want to make sure that we have a pool of resources down the road,” said Hyman. “We are the department that’s going to hire an agriculture teacher as opposed to a researcher so we want educators.”

Currently, the University of Maryland doesn’t have an agricultural education department, but it does offer an agriculture education major handled jointly by the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the College of Education. However, when the state
Department of Education was looking for a partner to get involved with a new national curriculum, it was the faculty at IAA who stepped up to the plate.

The program is called CASE, which stands for Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education, and is managed by the National Association of Agriculture Educators. Maryland was one of the original states to contribute money to the program and to start implementing the updated, heavily science-based curriculum in various public schools.

Roy Walls, a lecturer and advisor for IAA, became the university's affiliate professor for the CASE program in 2009 after attending a comprehensive training institute. Now, the IAA hosts its own training institute each summer for educators from around the country to become certified to teach courses developed by CASE.

“It’s very intense,” says Walls, who lends support to the instructors who travel to College Park as part of the program. Walls hopes the IAA’s involvement with CASE will help strengthen its relationship with agricultural educators in general.

“This is one element where I think we can bring teachers back in and give them some advanced training or updated curricula,” he said. “In the long run we’re hoping it becomes a feeder for us for students and for teachers.”

**Training the Industry**

Teachers aren’t the only professionals mining for knowledge held by IAA faculty.

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, otherwise known as Metro, contacted the Institute for help with training a group of landscape gardeners to maintain dozens of its surface properties.

“It was a good fit,” said IAA professor Ken Ingram. Ingram and fellow instructor Kevin Mathias taught the Metro employees the basics in plant identification, pruning techniques and pest control, among other subjects. “They’re honestly trying. They really want the system to be beautiful and functional and so that was a lot of fun,” said Ingram.

Meanwhile, the IAA also provides several industries with easier access to training necessary to complete their jobs. For instance, the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) requires anyone wanting to utilize pesticides to spend a year working under a licensed applicator. For many people, that just isn’t a viable option for their businesses, so the MDA allows people to substitute that year of experience for two courses related to pesticide use. For the past decade, workers have been able to take those courses through the IAA and they don’t even have to travel to campus to do it. Through web conferencing software Adobe Connect, IAA instructors can dually deliver their courses online and in the classroom.

“The thing with a lot of the industries is that it’s difficult for them to have the time to come during the middle of the day for a class so the online delivery of course material does open up some opportunities that weren’t being met before,” said Mathias, who teaches both turf management and insect control courses for IAA.

Mathias says utilizing the web-based technology makes it so that he doesn’t have to do any additional preparation to offer his course material to professional workers.

“When I teach my class on campus, I’m also networking out to the industry,” he says.

Additionally, Mathias has been putting together videos on the IAA’s YouTube channel on everything from landscape management to grass control and even alumni profiles. Some of the pieces have recorded thousands of views.

“It’s just another way to reach out and get the information out to people who need it,” Mathias said. Reaching out and stepping up to serve the campus, community, state and beyond: “It’s just the IAA way,” said Hyman.
Thanks to our ‘Tailgate’ Sponsors!

2012 Ag-toberfest
College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Alumni Chapter

Department of Animal & Avian Sciences
Dr. Tom Porter, Chair
Crystal Caldwell, Campus Farm Manager
Kimberly Montague-Smith, Victoria Lake
& all ANSC Faculty & Staff

Dr. Cheng-i Wei, Dean AGNR
Goat meat and lamb purchased at Maryland State Fair 4-H Livestock Sale for soup and make-your-own gyros (ye-ros)

J. Robert Morris ‘75—Lanco-Pennland Quality Milk Producers Cooperative
Cheese & crackers

Linda Brown ‘73 & ‘79 - Coordinator Easton High School Culinary Arts Program
Students — Easton High School Culinary Arts Program
Macaroni and cheese, vegetable platter & dip, fruit salad, desserts

Gary Seibel ’94
Baked Beans

Susan Bentz ’83
Couscous salad

Kendra ’75 & ’82 and John Wells ’76 & ’81
Games and recreation

Peter ’75 and Laura Downey ’84
AGNR kooies & Long time tailgate Chairman!

Carroll Shry ’65
Apple cider

Spots Pride Farm — The Yeiser Family
Canned beverages

Chris Cavey ’77, Alpha Gamma Rho Alumni Chapter President
Wine

Jessica Fritz Little ’00
Chips & dip

AGNR Alumni Board Members:
Patrick Thompson ’05 — Adrienne Wojciechowski ’01
Eric Almquist ’96 — Ray Bosman ’73 & ’83
Teresa Stevens ’87
Miscellaneous items, set up, break down

Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity Active Chapter
Burgers and hot dogs

Office of External Relations
Tent, tables, chairs, staff support

Frank Allinutt ’77 - Western Maryland Research & Education Center
Cooler, easels, compostable plates & cutlery

Special thanks to:

Chris Anderson, Maryland State 4-H Office
Recipes for soup & other preparation guidance

Becky Brashhear & Robert Fogle ’01
Guidance after State Fair

Leslie Hart
Washington County Economic Development

University of Maryland Alumni Association
The Institute of Applied Agriculture (IAA) is a unique and thriving program which the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources is extremely proud to count among its ranks.

Through its strong relationships and partnerships with industry groups and leaders, the IAA has developed an ongoing and steady support system of generous donors. For example, this issue of Momentum mentioned the Shields family and the Shields Memorial Golf Tournament which has raised nearly $100,000 of scholarship money for IAA students over the last two decades.

Past faculty members and alumni also continue to give back to the IAA by supporting its next crop of students. Dr. Cecil M. Massie, an IAA instructor for 21 years, established an endowment fund that awards an IAA student up to $500 each semester. Additionally, professional organizations like the Golf Course Superintendent’s Association of America, the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents and the Maryland Turfgrass Council all invest in the future of the IAA by awarding student scholarships.

These charitable contributions help the IAA continue to do what it does best: put students on the path to profitable careers. To add to these scholarship efforts or create your own, please contact Brian Magness at (301) 405-7733 or bmagness@umd.edu.

Thank you for your support of our College.

Brian
The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources welcomed a number of new faculty and staff to its ranks for the 2012-13 academic year.

Dr. Daniel Kugler has been appointed Acting Associate Dean and Acting Associate Director of University of Maryland Extension. Dr. Kugler has had a long and distinguished career with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) serving in numerous capacities. Most recently, he held a part-time position as senior research scholar at the University of Maryland in the Environmental Finance Center, National Center for Smart Growth.

Dr. Angus Murphy is the new chair of the Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture. Dr. Murphy comes to the University of Maryland from Purdue University where he served as a professor in the Horticulture and Landscape Architecture Department.

In September, April Brohawn became the new Assistant to the Dean for Recruitment. April works directly with prospective students and transfer students interested in AGNR programs and represents AGNR at open houses, college fairs and high school events. Sara Gavin joined the College of AGNR as the new Communications Coordinator in July. Sara’s primary responsibility is to promote the exciting and inspiring work of students, faculty and staff within the College, particularly for the newly redesigned AGNR website (www.agnr.umd.edu).
Dean Wei Inducted as Distinguished Faculty Member

Dean Cheng-i Wei from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources was inducted into the University of Maryland chapter of Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society as a distinguished faculty member.

Phi Kappa Phi bills itself as the oldest honor society in the country. It initiates juniors in the top 7.5 percent of their class and seniors in the top 10 percent of their class, as well as the top 10 percent of graduate students. Alumni, staff and faculty members who have achieved scholarly distinction, as in the case of Dean Wei, are also sometimes invited to join. Dean Wei and 159 other new members were inducted into the University of Maryland chapter during a ceremony at Memorial Chapel in early October.

Dean Wei joins numerous students, faculty, staff and alumni within the College of AGNR who are members of this prestigious society, including Dr. William Bowerman, chair of the Department of Environmental Science and Technology, who also serves as the chapter liaison to the National Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society and Phi Kappa Phi student president Katie Lantner.

Nerlove Earns High Economics Honor

Dr. Marc Nerlove, a professor with the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics (AREC) within the University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (AGNR), recently received one of the most prestigious awards available in his field. Dr. Nerlove was elected a Distinguished Fellow of the American Economic Association (AEA), a recognition bestowed upon a maximum of three outstanding American or Canadian economists each year. He becomes one of only 98 economists in history to earn this distinction since the AEA instituted the award of Distinguished Fellow in 1965.

Dr. Nerlove’s work in developing and applying statistical methods to analyze data has had an enduring impact on the field of agriculture and resource economics both in the U.S. and in developing countries by changing the way economists think about farmers’ responses to price.
Kimberly Monahan, Academic Advisor and Coordinator for Undergraduate Programs in the Department of Environmental Science and Technology, received the 2012 Provost’s Academic Advising Award. Monahan has served in her current role since 2008 and is also a graduate of the ENST program.

Dr. Frank Coale, Professor and Extension Specialist in the Department of Environmental Science & Technology, has been elected Fellow of the American Society of Agronomy. Only 17 of more than 8,000 members of this professional society were elected to the 2012 ASA class of Fellows.

Dr. Bill Bowerman, Chair of the Department of Environmental Science and Technology, was recognized as a 2012 Distinguished Alumni at Northern Michigan University.

Dr. Frank Coale

Ronald Ritter

Ronald Ritter, Professor Emeritus from the Department of Plant Science & Landscape Architecture, received the George M. Worrilow Award from the University of Delaware, which is presented annually to a graduate of the college who has exhibited outstanding service to agriculture.

Ritter named Distinguished Alumni

Dr. Bill Bowerman

Ronald Ritter

Dr. Prabhakar Tamboli, Adjunct Professor & Director of the International Training Program for the Department of Environmental Science and Technology, is pictured in New Delhi, India, in February where he traveled for the launch of a book he has written. According to Indian tradition, an honored guest is asked to light a lamp before any auspicious function takes place. Dr. Tamboli, right, is pictured with the Indian Minister of Agriculture, Harish Rawat.

Dr. Tamboli launches new book

Alumni award goes to Bowerman

Frank Coale elected Fellow
**Soil Judging Team makes Nationals**

The University of Maryland Soil Judging Team had a successful trip to the 2012 Northeast Regional Soil Judging contest, qualifying for the national competition by placing second overall. The students on the team are Ryan Adams, Isabel Enerson, Davinia Forgy, Leslie Gerhard, Laurence Gindi, Heather Hall, Steph Jamis, Peter Lynagh, Jessica Rupprecht, Mujen (Jack) Wang and Tyler Witkowski.

Steph Jamis won the individual portion of the competition. The team had two other finishers in the top 10, Davinia Forgy, third, and Heather Hall, ninth. All competing team members placed in the top 30 out of the 53 contestants.

The contest was hosted by Wilmington College. Penn State won the contest and the University of Rhode Island took third, rounding out the contingent of northeast teams heading to nationals, which will be hosted in the spring of 2013 by the University of Wisconsin at Platteville.

The team enjoyed seeing a diverse array of soils found in the glaciated geology of Clinton County, Ohio (in the southwest of the state) including fragipans, dense till, buried soils, wind-blown loess and a rare Fraglossaqualf. The team was coached by Brian Needelman from the Department of Environmental Science and Technology.

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**AGR Members**

Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity’s fall membership includes several new brothers. Two are students at the Institute of Applied Agriculture, two are majoring in Mechanical Engineering and work in AGNR’s ENST fabricating laboratory, three are animal and avian sciences majors and the final new member is majoring in political science with a minor in agricultural business.

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**LARC Students Design Waterfront Park**

Graduate landscape architecture students from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources are putting their skills to the test and working together to beautify a piece of waterfront property in Cambridge. A group of students from Dr. Victoria Chanse’s course hosted a two-day public workshop in October at Long Wharf Park & Marina to learn how Cambridge residents use the space and envision the future of the park.
AG-Mazing Students

Etiquette Dinner
The Alpha Gamma Rho Brothers hosted the third annual etiquette dinner in November with the Sisters of Sigma Alpha at the Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity House in College Park. AGR’s faculty/staff advisor Gail Yeiser presented information and then managed lively discussion regarding etiquette related to social and business situations.

State Fair Opportunity
Suzannah McLeod, AGNR Agriculture Science and Technology major in the agricultural education option, was interviewed at the Maryland State Fair’s U-Learn Farm educational area. Suzannah was an intern with the Maryland 4-H Foundation that coordinates U-Learn Farm in collaboration with AGNR, the Maryland State Fair and the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation. Maryland FFA state officers were involved with staffing the U-Learn Farm area in the Cow Palace. The Maryland Dairy Princess Association, Farm Bureau’s Miss Maryland Agriculture candidates and AGsploration 4-H mentors rotated through U-Learn Farm throughout the 11 best days of summer sharing agricultural education and information to those attending the fair.

Cel-AG-brations
More than 80 incoming University of Maryland freshmen spent one of their last remaining days of freedom before the fall semester lending a helping hand out on the farm, and researchers with the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (AGNR) were among those reaping the benefits of their hard work.

Scholars Service Day
As part of the annual College Park Scholars Service Day, students volunteered their time at the College of AGNR’s research facility in Upper Marlboro. Whether by extracting stink bugs from plants, pulling weeds, removing trees, measuring corn stalks or picking grapes from a vine, each student had a chance to get his or her hands dirty while communing with nature on a hot and humid August day.
Students were divided into small groups and paired up with AGNR researchers who have active projects at the Upper Marlboro site. It gave the researchers an opportunity to educate the young scholars about their work while enjoying the fruits of their free labor.
“The timing works out great,” said
Joe Fiola, an Extension specialist in small fruits and viticulture - the study of grape-growing. “They (the students) get a chance to see the grapes ripen. This is the ultimate time to be in the vineyard.”

“It’s relaxing,” said Skutch Montgomery, a freshman from Ellicott City, as he cut a plump cluster of Pinot Gris grapes from the vine. “It’s kinda cool to see this other side of the industry.”

For Scholars students from suburban and urban settings, the service day project might have marked their first trip to an actual farm. “While they know their food doesn’t come from Safeway, they’ve never had an opportunity to see (the process) first-hand,” said Becky Archer, director of the Environment, Technology & Economy Program for College Park Scholars. “All those connections are being made real here.”

This is the second year the University of Maryland College of AGNR has hosted a service day project at its Upper Marlboro facility, which is part of the Central Maryland Research and Education Center.
From teaching people how to start a table-top garden to birthing cows in front of a live audience, representatives from the University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (AGNR) were busy showcasing what the college has to offer during the Maryland State Fair in Timonium. Faculty, students and alumni dedicated their time during the 11 days of the state fair educating the public about the many programs and services offered through the College of AGNR and University of Maryland Extension (UME).
AGNR Open House

Where can you take a hayride, watch a chick hatch, feel inside a cow’s stomach, get gardening questions answered, pet a snake, pick a pumpkin, eat delicious food and get nutritious recipes all in one place and for FREE?? At the University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (AGNR) Open House, of course!

More than 2,600 people took advantage of this fun-filled day on the farm on October 6th at the College of AGNR’s research facility in Clarksville. “This is one of the most important days of the year for our College,” said Cheng-i Wei, Dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. “This is our chance to shine and showcase our wonderful programs.”

People flocked to the Howard County farm from all over the state to enjoy the multitude of interactive, family-friendly and educational activities.
AG-toberfest

Alumni, students, staff, faculty and friends of the University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (AGNR) proved their Terrapin pride during homecoming weekend at the annual “Ag-toberfest” tailgate.

Close to 200 members of the AGNR family came out to enjoy food, fun and fellowship at the campus farm prior to the homecoming football game. The event was hosted by the AGNR alumni chapter.

A special thanks to Dean Cheng-i Wei for providing meat for the menu by supporting the 4-H Livestock Sale at this year’s Maryland State Fair. Dean Wei purchased a goat raised by Charlie Sasscer of St. Mary’s County and a lamb raised by Miriam Harper of Frederick County.

Miriam is a freshman at Catoctin High School and has been involved with 4-H since the age of 5. She and her father Bryan attended the Ag-toberfest tailgate as special guests of the college. They are pictured with Dan Kugler, Acting Associate Dean and Associate Director for University of Maryland Extension (UME).

Maryland 4-H’ers Win National Engineering Challenge

The Maryland 4-H Engineering Team had a successful trip to Lafayette, Indiana, for the 62nd National 4-H Engineering Challenge in September. Maryland contestant Levi Lantz of Garrett County placed first in the tractor operator event in a group of nine contestants while Benjamin Wolf of Carroll County placed first in small engines. The Maryland Robotics Team narrowly missed first place in the final round during a double overtime session. The 11-member team from Maryland participated in individual and team events at the Engineering Challenge which included youth from nine states.
**Terrific Terps**

**AREC Alum Takes Dream to Chile**

Less than a year after graduating from the University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (AGNR), 23-year-old **Saheed Badmus ’11** is getting ready to launch a company he hopes will ease hunger by strengthening farming communities in some of the world’s poorest countries. The idea was born from a burning desire to help one country in particular – his mother’s homeland of Haiti.

Badmus grew up in Brentwood but visited Haiti periodically with his family and worked there as an intern for Caribbean Harvest Foundation, a social venture funded by the Clinton Global Initiative. His experiences in the small country led to the formation of a business he named Mache.A, which translates to “the market” in Haitian Creole. The basic concept is to create a web-based platform that will encourage farmers to partner with their neighbors in order to increase productivity and profits.

“One of the major problems the farmers have is that they produce such a small amount that retailers don’t want to buy from them,” said Badmus, who received his degree in Agricultural and Resource Economics (AREC).

What the budding entrepreneur will try to do is create a system utilizing the Internet, text messaging and Interactive Voice Recording that provides farmers with important information like weather reports and crop advice to help increase yields. The same system would then allow farmers to collectively market their products to potential buyers like supermarkets.

“We’re basically creating virtual cooperatives,” Badmus explained. Badmus was recently awarded seed money to kick-start his endeavors through Start-up Chile, a program created by the Chilean government that seeks to attract entrepreneurs to the country and give them a platform for expanding globally. In mid-October, Badmus traveled to Chile where he’ll stay for six months developing a pilot program for Mache A that he hopes to eventually implement in Haiti and other underprivileged nations.

**A Good Growing Idea**

University of Maryland alums and entrepreneurs **John-Randall Gorby** and **Philip-Michael Weiner** have developed a product they claim can turn any thumb green without actually dirtying any hands. It’s called the Nourishmat: a 6’ x 4’ polypropylene mat with pre-cut holes, labels and a grid telling would-be gardeners exactly what, where and how far apart to plant. Gorby’s and Weiner’s mission is to give everyone – regardless of age, income, location or gardening experience – the ability to easily produce their own fresh vegetables and herbs. As if the mat itself didn’t make that concept easy enough, the duo also manufactures seed balls

to accompany their product. The balls contain seeds, clay, natural earth worm castings, chili powder and other nutrients to prevent the seeds from drying out in the sun, getting eaten by birds or blowing away.

The best part: “There’s no digging. You just push the balls into the ground,” said Gorby, who earned a degree in Environmental Science and Technology in 2010 from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. For more information, visit www.nourishmatbeta.com.
J. Scott Angle ’75 and ’78 is serving as a member of the board of directors for the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU) and as a member of its Board on Agriculture Assembly. Dr. Angle has been Dean and Director of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at the University of Georgia since 2006.

Prior to joining the faculty at UGA, he was Interim Executive Associate Dean and Director of the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station, the Maryland Cooperative Extension Service at the University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. He has also served as acting Executive Director of the Northeast Research Association (NERA) which promotes regional cooperation in agricultural research and has been chair of both the national and Northeast Regional Organizations of Experiment Station Directors. A widely published researcher in the field of soil microbiology and biochemistry, Dr. Angle is an authority on phytoremediation, the use of sewage sludge to spur crop growth and the risks of genetically engineered organisms in agriculture.

Dr. Angle joined the faculty at the University of Maryland in 1981. He was recognized by the AGNR Alumni Chapter for Excellence in Research in 1994. He has been a Fulbright Scholar and is a fellow of the American Society of Agronomy and the Soil Science Society of America and received the agronomy society’s environmental research award in 1998 and the education award in 2003. He also received the University of Maryland Distinguished Teacher-Scholar Award in 2003.

Dr. Angle and his wife, Teresa ’75, have two grown children and reside in Athens, GA.

Terrific Terps

Roy Crow ’77 of Kennedyville, and co-owner of Crow Vineyard and Winery received the Maryland Governor’s Cup Bronze Medal for its Crow Vineyard & Winery 2011 Vidal Blanc Estate wine. This was the first award for the vineyard established in 2008. The farm was also a stop on the 15th annual Penn State Extension 15th annual Retail Farm Market Tour in 2011.

Decades ago, the Crow family’s land stood as the home to fields of vegetables and grains, along with dairy cows. Shifting the farm’s purpose considerably as time went on, Roy moved back to the main 1847 farmhouse on the property a few years ago. He and his wife, Judy, established a bed and breakfast at the main house on the property. The four-acre span of grapes in Vidal Blanc and Barbera varieties will eventually be expanded to 20 acres. Crow and his family were featured in Lancaster Farming. Details can be found at http://www.lancasterfarming.com/results/Something-to-Crow-About-#.UMsK3Hd5h0I and to learn more about the diversity at Crow Farm visit www.crowfarmmd.com.
Brian Schnebly ’99 was the associate judge for the International Brown Swiss Show held October 2 and 3, along with Montgomery County 4-H alumnus, Curtis Day who was the head judge. The two judges evaluated 350 animals in the prestigious event. Both the judge and his associate are products of Maryland’s 4-H dairy cattle judging programs under various mentors including family members, county 4-H leaders, as well as dairy Extension specialists, the late John L. Morris and the late J. Lee Majeskie.

Brian and his wife Heidi ’02, reside in Hagerstown and became parents November 28 when Grace Marie weighed in at 8 pounds 1 ounce and 21 1/2 inches long. Schnebly is program coordinator for the American Guernsey Association.

Curtis is the co-founder of Tri-Day Holstein, formerly of Damascus, MD. He and his wife, Ann, reside in Burnsville, MN, and have three grown children.

Two additional Maryland 4-H and university alums Jason ’73 and Donna (Garrett) ’74 Myers, owners of Windsor Manor Holsteins in New Windsor, received the McKown Master Breeder Award during the International Holstein Show. They became the fourth winners of the award named after Robert “Whitey” McKown of Sandy Creek, NY. McKown was on the National Holstein staff from 1956 until his death in 2009. He was highly regarded as he traveled nationally and internationally, reporting on shows, sales, meetings and other Holstein events.

Terrific Terps

Crow’s son R.J. graduated in December 2012 in Golf Course Management at the Institute of Applied Agriculture. The younger Crow will be an assistant superintendent at Congressional Country Club in Bethesda upon graduation. Both father and son are members of Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity. R.J. served as house manager for the past two years, including summers.

While Maryland is frequently acknowledged as a powerhouse for quality animals being exhibited at World Dairy Expo each fall in Madison, WI, this year AGNR and Maryland 4-H alumni made news in their own right.
He was also a presenter at the UM/USDA Symposium in October.

Woodward-Greene is with the Office of International Research Programs at the Agricultural Research Service in Beltsville while pursuing her Ph.D. at George Mason University. She traveled to Ethiopia and Kenya in early June to measure goats and sample their DNA as part of her work with the global hunger and food security program Feed the Future, with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service (ARS), as a part of her Ph.D. program in George Mason University’s Bioinformatics and Computational Biology Department.

“One of the main objectives is to work with the people in their own country to develop sustainable solutions to the problem of hunger, rather than only providing short-term aid,” according to Woodward-Greene. Researchers working with goats can learn a thing or two from experience with cows.
Jamie Wolf took the leap in the spring of 2012 and left her career at MidAtlantic Farm Credit to open Cornerstone Farm Market in a corner building along Hurlock’s Main Street on the Eastern Shore, just a few miles away from her family’s Cornerstone Farm. The grand opening was featured in the Delmarva Farmer. Wolfe established her business plan with the help of her mom, Terri Wolf-King who owns the farm which includes grain, poultry, strawberries and pumpkins with her husband, Jeff King. Jamie explained that the mother and daughter team “piggy-back” off each other, in that her mother can send folks to her store and the store provides another outlet to sell products from the farm. She is also selling antiques and other items on consignment to round out her inventory.

Wolfe, a Dorchester County 4-H alumnus, took time this summer to share her artistic talents with fresh photo boards for the U-Learn Farm area of the Cow Palace at the 2012 Maryland State Fair. You can follow the seasons and offerings at Cornerstone Farm Market via Facebook and the market was featured in a pre-Christmas series on WBOC TV 16 as a great alternative to mall shopping.

Welcome future Terps!
There seems to be a baby boom of future AGNR students, and we love all the news and updates giving us confidence that the next generations are well underway to keep our college and industries alive and well.

Haley Wyand returned to Maryland to visit campus with mom and dad, Jamie Wolf explained that the mother and daughter team “piggy-back” off each other, in that her mother can send folks to her store and the store provides another outlet to sell products from the farm. She is also selling antiques and other items on consignment to round out her inventory.

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Edwin R. Johnson ’39, son of the Hall of Fame pitcher from the Washington Senators, died on August 12, at his home, Breeze Hill Farm near Dickerson. He was 94 years old.

Edwin was born on September 7, 1917, in Washington, DC, when his father was playing for the Senators from 1907 to 1927. Eddie graduated from Bethesda Chevy-Chase High School. An agriculture major at the University of Maryland, he also served the campus as president of the student government association and was an all-conference basketball player and three-year starter at shortstop on the baseball team.

He played two years in the New York Yankees’ minor league system, and after a leg injury in 1940, he began working on his father’s dairy farm in Germantown. His father, Walter Johnson, died in 1946. Edwin sold real
Dr. Donald V. Schlimme, Jr. ’56, ’61 and ’64, professor emeritus of nutrition and food science and Extension food processing specialist, died July 24. He was born on November 24, 1933, and was a 1951 graduate of Dundalk High School near Towson. He earned his B.S. in horticulture (food processing); M.S. and Ph.D. also in horticulture (oleicuriculture) from the University of Maryland. He also completed the Can Technology Training Course offered by the Research and Development division of Continental Canning Company’s metal container division in 1965.

From 1956-59 he was a quality control chemist with Paul Jones & Company, a division of Seagram’s Distilleries in Baltimore. He moved to the Continental Can Company of New York and from 1964-1968, he was the customer research consultant providing technical assistance regarding metal packaging technology and was a liaison between the customer, sales, manufacturing and central research development parts of the company. In 1968, he joined the United Fruit Company (now United Brands, Inc.) of Boston as assistant director of corporate quality control. He initiated a program for the quality evaluation of fresh pineapple shipped to New York City from Central America and also a program for California grown lettuce to be brand marketed in the Eastern U.S. From 1970–78, he was with American Home Foods (AHF) based in Milton, PA. As manager for special projects at AHF he was the liaison with USDA-APHIS, USDA- FNS, FDA and NFPA regarding statistical studies, packaging evaluations, new package research, nutritional evaluation and nutritional labeling, and enzyme modified cheese utilization. For 3 years prior to joining the faculty at the University of Maryland in August of 1980, he was the technical director at the AHF Milton Plant and Manager of the Central Research Laboratory. Under his leadership, five new products and cost reduction programs exceeding $6M were implemented.

In 1984, Dr. Schlimme received a $77,000 grant from the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers, to conduct meat research in the 8-room refrigeration/frozen food laboratory located in Holzapfel Hall on the College Park campus. He also directed the University of Maryland’s Better Process Control Schools which serviced the East Coast from Key West to Maine and as far west as Missouri. He also taught the course in Jamaica, Ecuador and Uruguay. Over 2,220 students were reached including supervisors from canning companies as well as USDA food inspection professionals.

In 1986, Dr. Schlimme was appointed to the agriculture and life sciences coordinating council. He served on the seven-member council with Dr. James L. Heath III and Dr. Bruce L. Gardener representing agriculture. He was recognized by the AGNR alumni chapter with the Excellence in Teaching award and the 1998 Ag Day booklet was dedicated to him prior to his retirement that year. In the citation, students noted that “His constant encouragement and reminders to ‘just hang in there’ have been inspirational and motivating for many students throughout the years.” He also coached Little League and enjoyed camping, canoeing and served on the United Fund and School Board.

Survivors include his wife, Lois J.(Shook) Schlimme, son, Kurt R. Schlimme and daughter, Karen R. Palotta, and grandchildren, Karlye, Tyler, Morgan, Brook and Reagan. Memorial contributions may be made to the UMCP Foundation, reference Don Schlimme Scholarship Fund, c/o Brian Magness, 1221 Symons Hall, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742.

Garry Schnappinger ’65 and ’67 of Centreville died at the Queen Anne’s Hospice Center on Tuesday, September 11. He was 69. Born October 29, 1942, in Baltimore, he was the son of the late, Melvin G. Schnappinger Sr. and Anna Schnappinger. Following graduation from Catonsville High School in 1960, he earned a B.S. and M.S. in agronomy from the University of Maryland and a Ph.D. in 1970 in soil fertility from Virginia Tech.

He joined Geigy Agricultural Chemicals in 1970 as a field research representative conducting field trials and coordinating university research in crop protectants. After several mergers, the company came to be known as Geigy-Ciba, Novartis and now as Syngenta. He retired from Syngenta Crop Protection as a senior field research scientist in October 2001. He continued to work part-time as a consultant.

He was a member of the Queen Anne’s County Transition Team, Queen Anne’s County Economic Development Commission and chairman, vice chair and treasurer of the EDC Agricultural Task Force. He was a 4-H leader since 1979, a board member of the Queen Anne’s 4-H Park and served a year as
Mr. Fry was born in Washington, D.C., on February 8, 1924. He was the son of the late Edwin D. and Susan Clarkson Fry. The oldest of five children, Ed graduated from Gaithersburg High School in 1942 and operated the family farm in Laytonsville with his father and siblings. During his youth, he was an active 4-H member, receiving state and national recognition. He turned down a scholarship to the University of Maryland to remain on the farm during World War II. In 1945, Ed married Lorraine Miller, of Mount Vernon, NY.

As a young entrepreneur, Ed was an innovative leader in the agricultural industry. In addition to his dedication to FFA and recognition as an American Star Farmer, he helped establish the Montgomery County Agricultural Center, served as a director for the National Holstein Association, pioneered new technologies in partnership with the Maryland Cooperative Extension Service and promoted agriculture internationally with the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service. Ed and Lorraine moved Fair Hill Farm to Chestertown in 1960 with their four young children. He continued to mentor young agriculturalists, advanced farming practices and served his community as a Rotarian and active member of the Presbyterian Church of Chestertown. Ed later served as a longtime board member for both the Maryland State Fair and Chestertown Bank of Maryland.

Ed is survived by his wife of 67 years, Lorraine. He is predeceased by his siblings George Fry ’51 and Amy F. Leber ’52, and is survived by brother, Frederick, of Sudlersville; sister, Margery F. Grace ’52, of Trumansburg, NY; daughter Joan ’70 (University of Maryland, Baltimore) and husband Dr. Doug Cummings of Bay City, MI; and three sons, Edwin R. and wife Marian ’72; Dr. Robert Fry and Judy Gifford; and Kenneth and wife Bronwyn, all of Chestertown. “Pop Fry” found great joy in his nine grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Presbyterian Church of Chestertown, 905 Gateway Drive, Chestertown, MD 21620, or the Maryland 4-H Foundation Edwin C. Fry Memorial, 8020 Greenmead Drive, College Park, MD 20740.

Sympathy is extended to the family of Pamela Barben Magness, mother of AGNR’s development director Brian Magness, who died on October 31, after a long battle with pulmonary hypertension, cardiac disease and scleroderma. She was 65 years old. Born and raised near Havre de Grace, she attended Bel Air High School and Towson State University. She later lived in Bel Air, Reisterstown, New Windsor and Lothian. After raising two young children, she re-entered the work force as an executive secretary at Equitable Insurance and later became a partner at Assurance Associates, a Baltimore-area insurance firm. She retired as Vice President of Insurance Operations at Ferris Baker Watts, Inc. Her passions included painting, miniatures, birding and spending time with her grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her husband of 41 years, William C. Magness, in 2008. She is survived by her mother, Doris Barben, and siblings Linda Bilchak, Paula Moore, Cindy Givans, Becky Stout and Paul Barben; her son, Brian Magness of Lothian, daughter Mandy Blankenship of Littlestown, PA, daughter-in-law Melanie Magness; grandchildren Eleanor, Ben, Emma and Grace. Memorial contributions may be made to the Scleroderma Foundation at www.scleroderma.org.

Ed is survived by his wife of 67 years, Lorraine. He is predeceased by his siblings George Fry ’51 and Amy F. Leber ’52, and is survived by brother, Frederick, of Sudlersville; sister, Margery F. Grace ’52, of Trumansburg, NY; daughter Joan ’70 (University of Maryland, Baltimore) and husband Dr. Doug Cummings of Bay City, MI; and three sons, Edwin R. and wife Marian ’72; Dr. Robert Fry and Judy Gifford; and Kenneth and wife Bronwyn, all of Chestertown. “Pop Fry” found great joy in his nine grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Presbyterian Church of Chestertown, 905 Gateway Drive, Chestertown, MD 21620, or the Maryland 4-H Foundation Edwin C. Fry Memorial, 8020 Greenmead Drive, College Park, MD 20740.

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“Maryland Farmers: The Faces of the Land” – Twelve archival 20” by 30” photographic prints by Edwin H. Remsberg are on display in the second floor lobby of the Miller Senate Office Building in Annapolis. The exhibit highlights the diversity of people, places and practices involved with food production in Maryland and will be in place for the remainder of 2013.
UP COMING EVENTS, YOU CAN’T MISS!

Tuesday, April 16, 2013
– 46th Annual AGNR Alumni Celebration at the Samuel Riggs IV Alumni Center on campus. Join alumni, faculty, students and friends of AGNR in celebrating the class new alumni and recognizing the accomplishments of AGNR alumni and faculty. December 2012 and May 2013 graduates are free, but need to register. Ticket and additional information: 301-405-2434 or gyeiser@umd.edu

Saturday April 27, 2013 – Maryland Day/AG Day The 11th Annual EggCiting Start to AG Day Breakfast in collaboration with the Maryland Egg Council, Inc., will celebrate scholarship donors and honor past AGNR student council leadership and Campus Farm employees. Learn more about the Campus Farm renovation project: http://agnr.umd.edu/news/revitalizing-our-roots-raising-bar
Free. Registration required 301-405-2434 or gyeiser@umd.edu
Maryland Day/AG Day information can be found on our home page http://agnr.umd.edu/ and www.umd.edu as the spring rolls along.

Tuesday July 16, 2013 – Maryland Farm Bureau on Campus for Council of Presidents and regular board meeting in addition to information session on Campus Farm Revitalization Project. http://agnr.umd.edu/news/revitalizing-our-roots-raising-bar. For more information: gyeiser@umd.edu 301-405-2534

August 23-September 3, 2013 – Maryland State Fair - Join AGNR at the Maryland State Fair during the 11 Best Days of Summer!! Help us name the 2013 “fair calf” at the AGNR Dairy Cattle exhibit in the Cow Palace. The U-Learn Farm area next to the dairy cattle exhibit provides hands-on learning activities for children of all ages! AGNR students will be working with animals in the Birthing Center, also located in the Cow Palace. And all across the fair, Maryland’s premier youth development program, 4-H, will be showcasing projects that members have completed through the year. AGNR also exhibits with colleagues from the Maryland Department of Agriculture in the Farm and Garden Building. For a full schedule of events go to http://www.marylandstatefair.com/index.

AGNR will see you there!

Share your good news! gyeiser@umd.edu and check out details for upcoming events and news about AGNR Alumni and Friends on Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/University-of-Maryland-AGNR-Alumni-Chapter/115419941422