After a record breaking winter of snow, including many days of campus and work closures across the state, we are all glad to see the summer sun!

In addition to the many family photos being taken at the floral “M” in front of Symons Hall, AGNR’s spring activities are noted throughout this issue of Momentum. And as we look to our summer activities, I hope to see many of you as I travel throughout our state attending great fairs, conferences and other events that are part of our agriculture and natural resources community.

You will notice some changes in Momentum this spring as the flagship publication of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources enters a new era. After a great deal of deliberation, we decided that outsourcing the production of this important magazine would allow the College to communicate with our AGNR alumni and friends more effectively and efficiently. We have developed a strategic editorial plan for future issues that will allow us to feature the diverse, yet interconnected departments within AGNR while continuing to share current news and stories across departmental lines in a timely fashion. In this issue, we are featuring our newest department, Environmental Science and Technology. We welcome your comments and I hope that you will continue to send your news to our Momentum staff.

Congratulations and best wishes to the class of 2010! We know that our newest alumni will represent the College proudly with success in many different fields of endeavor. Research grants are being awarded to AGNR faculty in a wide variety of academic disciplines that touch our daily lives. Across campus, among institutions and local, state and federal agencies, and throughout business and industry, partnerships continue to provide opportunities for the best minds to work together to resolve food safety, alternative energy, food production and environmental challenges, to name just a few. AGNR’s Extension faculty and staff continue to deliver programs that anticipate and meet the needs of our citizens of all ages and career paths, and I learn something new every day from these dedicated University of Maryland Extension colleagues.

Congratulations as well to our AGNR faculty, staff and students who are being recognized for their accomplishments and service, both on and off campus. I am tremendously proud of the high regard in which our AGNR community is held across campus, throughout Maryland, across the country and around the world. And I remain very proud to serve as dean of this excellent college!
Momentum is published by the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Maryland, College Park, for alumni, friends, faculty and staff. Comments should be addressed to Office of External Relations, University of Maryland, 1296 Symons Hall, College Park, MD 20742 or by email at bmagness@umd.edu.

Alumni notes are also welcome. Please send them to Gail Yeiser, University of Maryland, 1104 Symons Hall, College Park, MD 20742 or by email at gyeiser@umd.edu.

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Green Wall Plants and Structures Studied for Energy Savings

Ivy-strewn brick walls are a familiar sight on many college campuses. But four plant-covered façades growing in College Park’s Research Greenhouse Complex this spring stood out for the mix of vegetation and the potential impact of these particular leaves on the “green” building movement.

Dr. David Tilley, associate professor of environmental science and technology, is studying green walls and how they might reduce energy consumption and, in turn, provide cost-savings in the real world. His is the only such research in the U.S. supported by Green Roofs for Healthy Cities. The not-for-profit industry association issued a joint $50,000 grant to Tilley and colleagues at the British Columbia Institute of Technology to study the thermodynamics of green walls and their possible effect on storm water runoff.

Tilley’s three-year project compares green wall prototypes to see which structures and plants yield the best energy-conserving results.

“I’ve always been interested in ecosystems and how they can be used to address human problems,” says Tilley, who heads the college’s ecosystem engineering design lab. “When you don’t know what the answer is, that’s the most fun.”

Commercial green wall products aren’t novel, but much of the science behind them has been done in Europe. Tilley’s research will quantify their effects for North American consumers, and it may help the industry promote the walls’ money-saving qualities as well as their aesthetic appeal. Eventually, his findings could be used to determine...
credits toward environmental building certifications such as LEED or Sustainable Sites.

“A green façade’s utility to builders has up to now been based largely on empirical and aesthetic values from traditional, vernacular applications,” says Reuben Freed, chair of the green walls group for Green Roofs for Healthy Cities and director of research and project manager for greenscreen®, the predominant supplier of green façades in North America. “In the last decade, parallel with the growth in importance of the sustainable building and landscape movement and evaluation systems, metrics of the benefits of vegetated green walls and systems have become mandatory for the growth of our industry.”

Tilley comes to the green building movement as an ecological engineer who previously spent years constructing wetlands and studying them using satellite imaging. In 2004, he began working with graduate student Laura Schumann on a concept Tilley called a green cloak.

While green roofs were gaining popularity for their ability to curb storm water run off, Tilley found that they were heavy and usually only appropriate for new construction specifically designed to bear their weight. He wanted to explore what could be done differently to create similar environmental benefits in smaller or existing buildings.

Instead of growing plants directly on the roof, they sought out climbing vegetation that could be suspended over a building’s top without weighing it down. The cloak experiment, completed in 2007, found that a building with a full overhead canopy was 11 degrees cooler inside during peak summer temperatures. Scaling the findings to a one-story, 2,000 square-foot home in the Mid-Atlantic region, they found that energy consumption would drop by 18 percent in the summer, with a cash savings of $100 to $200.

Tilley’s current research will determine what happens when the vines grow up a vertical wall, instead of across a flat roof. The plants don’t attach directly to a building, but to a self-supporting structure placed less than a foot away from an exterior wall.
In January, environmental science and technology masters student Jeff Price ’10 planted eight varieties of grapevines and native plants at the base of 12, 4-by-8-foot panels. They include three types of commercial trellis products already on the market: a rigid, recycled steel panel; a stainless steel cable lattice system; and a stainless steel flexible net. A fourth type, Tilley’s creation, uses thick, vertical manila rope.

Over the coming months, the team will determine how well the plants attach to the various panels to see if there is a clear difference between species that use tendrils, like grape, and ones that twine, like honeysuckle. “The question is, ‘How do they compete?’” Tilley says. “The trick is getting the diversity right.”

In the meantime, Price is already collecting data from four larger prototypes with more selective vegetation. Two of the 8-by-8-foot experimental buildings at the Central Maryland Research and Education Center in Clarksville are controls and have no cover. The other two each have their southern walls draped in grapevines.

Because vegetation can theoretically cool the buildings by reflecting solar radiance or turning it into water vapor, each building is covered with dozens of sensors. A pyranometer measures the solar radiation. Two dozen thermistors measure temperature from

Next year, Dr. David Tilley’s students plan to build a green wall inspired by his research in the nation’s capital. The wall will be part of a house built on the National Mall for the U.S. Department of Energy’s 2011 Solar Decathlon.

Tilley is one of several faculty members helping students prepare the University of Maryland’s entry, which will feature a green wall as part of an integrated living system that helps save water and uses it on site to create edible and medicinal products, clean water and a beautiful look.

Every two years, the energy department chooses 20 college teams from around the world to design, build and operate solar-powered houses. They are judged on 10 factors, including affordability, design, energy efficiency and attractiveness. The contest is open to the public and seeks to teach visitors how they can use energy-saving features in their own homes.

“We hope to inspire as many people as we can when they visit our house on the Nation’s Mall in October 2011,” Tilley says.

The contest also provides students and faculty real-world experience. Mentors, including Tilley and members of Maryland’s architecture and engineering programs, developed courses in which students design, prototype, construct and implement details of the Solar Decathlon house, called WaterShed.

This spring, Tilley taught 15 students interested in living systems and how they could make a home use water and energy more efficiently. Next fall, Tilley will lead capstone projects for environmental science and technology students, where they will build and test specific types of living systems, including a constructed wetland that will be a part of WaterShed.

LEAFHouse, Maryland’s 2007 entry, took second place in the international contest. More than 250 agriculture and natural resources, engineering and architecture students will work on the WaterShed entry. For more details on the contest, visit www.solardecathlon.org.
inside to outside across a wall of each building. And because even a slight breeze may cool the building, two anemometers measure wind speed.

Data are collected every 10 minutes using a computerized system run by car battery, but Price says the most vital information will come “in the dead of summer” and will be used to measure peak benefits.

“We’re trying to take the numbers we have from our buildings and scale them up to a full-size house using mathematical modeling,” says Price, whose thesis will be based on the current research. “I’m really focused on tangible numbers for everyday people.”

Though the findings are too premature to share, Price says that even without complete coverage on the walls last year, there was “definitely an effect.”

Tilley is excited about the heat-reducing possibilities, and he’s also seeking further funding to measure storm water benefits. He has applied for a Pioneer Grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust that would support new testing equipment and on-going research.

“We’d need to measure the rate of runoff and the total quantity of rainfall to understand how much water the plant canopy can hold and for how long,” says Tilley, adding that 10 to 15 percent of rain evaporates from a forest before it hits the ground. “I’d hope we’d see something in that range.”

Freed, whose company’s product is one of the three commercial trellis systems being tested, says if proven, heat reduction and storm water control benefits could make green walls a key tool in climate change mitigation.

“Green roofs, vegetated walls and the integration of sustainable landscape practices remain our best tools in affecting the rate of climate change,” he says. “The maximum, public benefits are gained in large scale applications, but local benefits, as part of an overall energy and water conservation ethos, are certainly possible right now.”

WHAT GROWS WELL ON WALLS?
Species being used in the green wall research include:

Vine
Crossvine (Bignonia capreolata)
Trumpet honeysuckle (Lonicera sempervirens)
Carolina jessamine (Gelsemium sempervirens)
Maypop or purple passionflower (Passiflora incarnata)
American wisteria (Wisteria frutescens)
American bittersweet (Celastrus scandens)

Commercial grapes
Richter 110 (Vitis berlandieri X V. rupestris)
Dog ridge (Vitis champinii)
Paulsen 1103 (Vitis berlandieri X V. rupestris)
Riparia gloire (Vitis riparia)
Everyone loves a good mystery. Dr. Raymond Weil is no exception. However, this detective isn’t looking for “who dunnit” but rather how it can be done better.

Weil, a professor of soil science at the University of Maryland, is finding ways to feed the hungry internationally not by handing out relief packages but by creating an environment where food sources can thrive.

As a young college student Weil wanted to become a doctor but decided he was better suited to help people in another way. Joining the Peace Corps where he spent time in Ethiopia, Weil found the passion to end hunger. Today he has been working to do so village by village in Africa and using soil science to accomplish his goal.

“We have a goal to end extreme poverty. To do that we are putting all the things we know work and integrating them,” Weil said from his office inside H.J. Patterson.

In 2009 Weil teamed up with Millennium Villages, a project aimed at sustainable solutions to end extreme poverty. For Weil the project provides the opportunity to use what he knows about soil science and sustainability to find better ways for communities to lead their own development.

The program works at 14 sites in 10 African countries in an effort to help lift themselves out of poverty by enhancing farm productivity, health, education, business development and access to markets. Weil worked in Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia, Malawi, Uganda and Senegal.

“I am like the dirt doctor,” Weil said. Instead of a black doctor bag, Weil carries his orange dirt doctor case filled with equipment used to test, monitor and examine soil samples.

Weil encountered problems in each of the villages ranging from too much rainfall and too high population density to wrong fertilizer applications.

“The trick is knowing it when you see it and identifying the problem in the field,” said Weil who had the help of translators as he met with village farmers to talk about their crop issues.

In a Tanzanian village Weil was able to increase crop yields and correct a protein deficiency in the food. A wrong mix of fertilizer was another culprit limiting crop viability. Weil and his team were able to correct the problem by teaching the farmers to apply two types of fertilizers separately so the one wouldn’t counteract the other. The simple solution saved the program about $1 million.

“The answers to these soil mysteries are quite surprising,” Weil said of his work.

Weil has twice been awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to support his work in developing countries.

“Once we can show what the problem is the people can carry on to institute change. I really feel we are making an impact,” Weil said. “The trick is to keep it sustainable.”
This July, Weil is scheduled to spend another six months on a research contract with Millennium Village traveling to six countries within the project he hasn’t yet visited. This time he will also be helping the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Global Health Program. Because health is tied to nutrition and nutrition to agriculture, Weil’s job will be to help with agricultural analysis but also aid in developing a graduate program in Tanzania to promote sustainable agriculture.

And who better to help promote sustainable agriculture than one of the first people to coin the phrase? Weil is world-renown for his work since 1995 on the most widely read and cited textbook in the field, *The Nature of Properties of Soils* by Brady and Weil. The book will be translated into French so his Tanzanian students can use it.

Decades ago when green was just merely a color, Weil was talking about sustainability and even defined it for the U.S. Congress to use in the 1980 Farm Aid bill. Weil then described sustainability as something that had to be economically feasible, socially acceptable and environmentally possible.

With the explosion of green jobs, Weil said he is seeing his role as an educator change. He is teaching students about improving soil organic matter, alternating crops to maximize soil efficiency and cover crops as a cost savings measure.

“When I used to teach I was not allowed to use the word sustainability,” he said. “Now we have a whole department that is just about sustainability.”

As sustainability is the new buzzword among the trendy and hip, Weil said it only took a few decades for his work to be cool.

“It has been rewarding. I have an optimistic view that people can make changes. Live a little and you can see them. Changes take decade to decade,” he said.
When it comes to turning waste into renewable energy, look no further than Dr. Stephanie Lansing, an assistant professor in the Department of Environmental Science and Technology. Dr. Lansing recently designed an anaerobic digestion waste treatment system that utilizes local wastewater to produce renewable energy for Partners...
in Heath (PIH), a rural hospital complex in earthquake devastated Cange, Haiti.

“I am turning waste into a resource: renewable energy,” says Lansing. She has been involved in the PIH project since 2008 and is currently collaborating with a group of U.S. engineers, as well as students and professors from Clemson University, to redesign struggling water distribution systems.

**BENEFITS OF BIODIGESTERS**

“A biodigester provides an anaerobic (without oxygen) environment for microorganisms to breakdown the waste material and produce methane biogas as a by-product of these metabolic processes,” explains Lansing, who has over ten years of experience on low-cost digestion systems with research sites in Costa Rica, Sierra Leone and Maryland.

The biogas has about 60 to 70 percent methane, which can be used as a natural gas substitute because of its high concentrations of methane. In fact, “the produced biogas can be used for cooking, eliminating the need for propane, charcoal or cooking fuel,” adds Lansing.

After the waste is broken down in the biodigester, the outflow contains 90 to 99 percent less pathogens, organic pollutants and odor. “But it still has high concentrations of nutrients,” she says, and “therefore can be used as a fertilizer for orchards and agricultural fields.”

**HAITI: THE MOST WATER-INSECURE NATION IN WORLD**

The village of Cange was established in 1956 by farming families displaced when the Artibonite River valley was flooded by a hydroelectric dam. The village of 8,000 is situated about 40 miles northeast of Port-au-Prince. In the early 1980s the only available drinking water for the village was from a spring situated well below the village, requiring a dangerous two-mile hike over a footpath that drops 800 vertical feet. A life-sustaining water project was built in 1984 by the Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina, creating an oasis that
allowed for the creation of Zanmi Lasante, which means Partners in Health in Haitian Creole.

Cange has been overpopulated since the earthquake. “This rapid increase in population strains the already struggling 30-year-old water system and intensified their wastewater problems,” explains Lansing. “A crisis of clean water is the biggest issue in Haiti.”

One year before the quake, Haiti was declared the most “water insecure nation in the hemisphere.” Moreover, initial wastewater problems had been exacerbated by the large influx of internal refugees and large increases in patient populations.

“This newly built low-cost biodigester will help treat the increased volume of wastewater coming from the hospital complex, while providing energy that will be used by the complex to meet their cooking needs,” explains Lansing. Currently, the hospital provides a hot meal to over 3,000 people a day, which means they have a great need for energy resources. “The biodigester closes the ecological loop, by taking a troubling wastewater problem and turning it into an energy and fertilizer resource,” she says.

According to Lansing, low-cost biodigesters are relatively inexpensive to build and utilize. To build the biodigester for the external clinic at the hospital complex will cost $10,000 to $15,000.

THE RESEARCH CONTINUES

Lansing not only has research on digesters in Haiti, but also is conducting research on turning cow manure into energy for Marylanders. In 2007, Maryland had 663 dairy farm operations, with over 90 percent in the small to medium range with less than 200 cows. “In Maryland, the majority of dairy farmers use liquid or daily spread for manure management,” explains Lansing. As concerns over water quality and environmental factors increase, “alternative methods for manure treatment are being adapted, one of which is anaerobic digestion.”

Together with her team, Lansing has designed an innovative, low-cost anaerobic digestion system for use in moderate climates like Maryland. “This system is a modification of Taiwanese plug-flow digester designs, which are utilized widely for organic wastes in southeastern Asia and Latin America,” she says.

Worldwide, there are more than 40 million small scale anaerobic digesters, mainly in China and India, and over 20,000 medium to large scale livestock operations treating their manure waste, with the majority located in China and Europe.

Lansing hopes that other countries will look at Haiti as a model for sustainability and adapt some of its benefits. “I believe digesters can be a central component to sustainability all over the world,” she says. Instead of using energy to treat waste, “we should be producing renewable energy through your waste source, and using the treated as a free agricultural fertilizer.”
Newcomer to the Department of Environmental Science and Technology and a native of New Zealand, Dr. Paul Leisnham brings his latest research on mosquitoes and human health from ‘down under’ to Maryland. Human-induced environmental changes, such as land use modification and climate change, have been linked to the reemergence of major diseases carried by mosquitoes. These offer classic examples of how disrupted ecosystems adversely affect human health.

WHY MOSQUITOES?

“I became interested in mosquitoes because ... they bite me!” says Leisnham, an assistant professor, whose research is centered on the ecology of native and invasive mosquitoes in water-filled containers, wetlands and drainage systems. “Aside from being a nuisance and health threat, mosquitoes became a fascination to me when I better understood their lifecycle.”
The mosquito lifecycle is complex from eggs to aquatic larvae to flying adults. Each stage has different interactions with their environment, explains Leisnham, and by studying these interactions one can better understand how they affect human health. From over 2500 mosquito species throughout the world, of which 150 reside in the U.S., Leisnham’s favorite is the Aedes tormentor. Aedes was originally found in tropical and subtropical zones, but has spread by human activity everywhere except Antarctica. The name comes from the Greek meaning “unpleasant” or “odious,” so called because of the diseases this type of mosquito transmits, including dengue fever and yellow fever.

**MOSQUITOES AND HUMAN HEALTH**

Mosquitoes transmit some of the most serious diseases worldwide including malaria, dengue and West Nile virus, which cause millions of deaths, drive cycles of poverty and contribute to dramatic socio-economic disruption. Additionally, many diseases that are transmitted by mosquitoes are becoming more intense due to environmental changes, urbanization and the invasion of exotic pests. “Diseases that are spread by mosquitoes are among human’s deadliest foes and have changed human history,” says Leisnham. He has explored these ecological, social and economic mechanisms by which invasive mosquitoes can swarm new areas and expose human populations to an increased risk of disease.

**AVOID HUMANS INFECTION BY MOSQUITOES**

Females of most mosquito species have to bite animals to get protein so that they can develop eggs. Many pathogens have evolved to happily hitch a ride with mosquitoes in order to spread and reproduce. “When a female mosquito bites you after biting an animal or another human that is infected with these pathogens, there is a chance you could be infected,” explains Leisnham. “Humans are quite easy targets for many mosquitoes because they don’t have feathers or thick fur. The best way to avoid getting bitten by mosquitoes is to wear long pants, long-sleeved shirts and a hat when outdoors, and minimize time outside at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.”

**STUDYING EXOTIC MOSQUITOES IN MARYLAND?**

Leisnham is currently studying the interactive effects of climate change, land use and invasive species on mosquito communities in Maryland. He contends that human-induced land use and climate changes often erode natural ecological processes that prevent the invasion of exotic mosquitoes and that can lead to increased mosquitoes. Leisnham’s research of mosquitoes among urban forests and residential yards is shedding light on the effects of land cover changes and the spread of invasive mosquito pests, and Maryland is an ideal location to do it.

“The Eastern United States has experienced successful invasions of exotic mosquito species that transmit a range of human and animal diseases, including West Nile virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis,” explains Leisnham. Moreover, Maryland consists of a patchwork of different land uses and will experience considerable climate change in the coming years. Leisnham’s research will seek to understand how native and exotic biodiversity affect the invasion success or failure of exotic species across environmental conditions that change with land use and climate and food resources.
Hanna, an environmental science and policy major, evaluated the impact of integrated grazing livestock to a cropping system in her essay titled “Ruminant Grazing of Cover Crops: Effects on Soil Properties and Agricultural Production.” Cover crops are grown to protect soils from erosion, increase soil organic matter and aid in weed control. One way to increase utility of soils is to allow animals to graze cover crops. “My paper addresses the impact of grazing cover crops on soil properties and crop production,” says Hanna. She picked this topic because this is an emerging practice. “However, the soil effects of grazing cover crops are not well known,” says Hanna. After graduating from ENST, Hanna plans to attend graduate school and work on soil conservation and soil fertility issues.

Two environmental science undergraduate students, Brian Campbell and Hanna Poffenbarger, have won the national student essay contest sponsored by Students of Agronomy, Soils and Environmental Sciences (SASES), the undergraduate student program of the American Society of Agronomy (ASA) and Soil Science Society of America (SSSA). They were awarded second and third place, respectively. Both students will get an opportunity to publish their essays in the Journal of Natural Resources & Life Science Education, which covers life sciences, natural resources and agriculture disciplines.

Brian, who studies soil science, wrote his essay about the benefits of applying organic matter to the soil of tomato plants in order to remediate the phytotoxic amounts of copper found there. Titled “Organic Matter Application Can Reduce Copper Toxicity in Tomato Plants,” the essay focuses on tomato diseases, the resulting copper toxicity due to the treatment of the diseases and the different chelating agents that can be used to effectively reduce the subsequent copper toxicity. One such common tomato disease is Septoria leaf spot, which is characterized by brown spotting on the leaf of plants with lighter colored centers, which inhibits tomato growth. “I chose this topic because I wanted to write about a soil chemistry perspective,” says Brian. “And, to be perfectly honest, I love tomatoes.”

Hanna, an environmental science and policy major, evaluated the impact of integrated grazing livestock to a cropping system in her essay titled “Ruminant Grazing of Cover Crops: Effects on Soil Properties and Agricultural Production.” Cover crops are grown to protect soils from erosion, increase soil organic matter and aid in weed control. One way to increase utility of soils is to allow animals to graze cover crops. “My paper addresses the impact of grazing cover crops on soil properties and crop production,” says Hanna. She picked this topic because this is an emerging practice. “However, the soil effects of grazing cover crops are not well known,” says Hanna. After graduating from ENST, Hanna plans to attend graduate school and work on soil conservation and soil fertility issues.
PLANTING THE GOVERNOR’S GARDEN

In April, Dr. Cheng-i Wei was part of the unveiling of the second annual Governor’s Kitchen Garden at Government House in Annapolis. From left, are, First Lady Katie O’Malley, Dr. Wei, Maryland Deputy Secretary Mary Ellen Setting and master gardener Mike Ensor. Kinder Farm Park preschoolers were also on hand to assist. Master gardeners from University of Maryland Extension have volunteered to work with the preschool program and their families for three years as they plant and maintain kitchen gardens for their families. April was also “Grow It, Eat It” Month in Maryland.

CONTINUING INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

The Good Aquacultural Practices (GAqPs) Training Program is a Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (JIFSAN) project involving faculty from University of Maryland, FDA and Virginia Tech. The program has been conducted in Thailand and Indonesia and will be replicated in Bangladesh. Attending the agreement signing in front from left, are, Md Shafiqul Islam, Commercial Counselor, Bangladesh Embassy; Mohammed Shamsul Kibria, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries & Livestock, Bangladesh; Cheng-i Wei, Dean, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources; Sayed Mahmudul Huq, Chairman, Bangladesh Shrimp and Fish Foundation; Jianghong Meng, Director, JIFSAN; Kaniz Shireen, Consumer Safety Officer, FDA; Mahmudul Karim, Executive Director, Bangladesh Shrimp and Fish Foundation. In back from left, are Stan Serfling, Consumer Safety Officer, FDA; Brett Koonse, Consumer Safety Officer, FDA; Paul Mazzocchi, Associate Director, JIFSAN.
THE FACULTY AND STAFF HONORED BY STUDENT COUNCIL

AGNR Student Council members selected members of the staff and faculty to honor during its annual banquet. President Malora Cahall presented awards to Gail Yeiser, Outstanding AGNR staff member; Dr. Scott Updike, Outstanding AGNR faculty member; Nicole Fiorellino, Outstanding AGNR teaching assistant; and Amanda Clougherty, Outstanding Club advisor.

FACULTY PROMOTED

Congratulations to AGNR Faculty promoted during the 2010 Promotion and Tenure cycle.

Dr. Bonnie Braun, University of Maryland Extension and Department of Family Science
Promoted to Professor (first time for joint appointment promotion to full professor)

Dr. Amy Burk, Department of Animal & Avian Sciences
Promoted to Associate Professor with tenure

Dr. David Clement, University of Maryland Extension
Promoted to Principal Agent

Dr. Andreas Lange, Department of Agricultural & Resource Economics
Promoted to Associate Professor with tenure

Mr. Donald Webster, University of Maryland Extension
Promoted to Senior Agent with tenure

AGNR’s success record reflects not only the excellent teaching, research and outreach accomplishments of our candidates, but also the excellent mentoring being done at the departmental level and the work of the First Level APT Committees. Dean Wei extends his sincere thanks to those first level reviewers and to the members of the College APT Committee: Erik Lichtenberg (Chair), Joe Fiola, Denise Frebertshauser, Reggie Harrell, Richard Kohn, Jianghong Meng, Ron Ritter, Bob Tjaden, Doug Tregoning and Xiaoping Zhu.

LEADERS NOMINATED FOR MENTOR AWARD

The Graduate School established a campus wide Graduate Faculty Mentor of the Year Award to recognize excellent mentoring provided by individual faculty and to remind the university community of the importance of strong mentoring.

Frank Siewerdt, Anna Alberini, Robert Chambers, Ken Leonard, Kenneth McConnell and Liangli Yu were nominated for the honor for the 2009-10 academic year. Nominations were made by graduate students and selection was made by a campus-wide committee of faculty and students.

SARA KAO IS TOP ADVISOR

Nutrition and Food Science program coordinator Sara Kao is this year’s recipient of the Gamma Sigma Delta UM-DC Chapter’s Achievement in Academic Advising Award. Gamma Sigma Delta is a nationwide honor society in agriculture.
CHALLENGE CUP 2010

What started as a friendly competition between the University of Maryland and Virginia Tech 10 years ago has turned into a two-day golf and education event. In 2000, turfgrass program advisors from the two schools challenged each other to a golf match. Students joined the competition and the annual Mid-Atlantic Challenge Cup Golf Tournament was born.

The schools take turns hosting the tournament and this year’s event was held at Woodmont Country Club in Rockville on April 8 and 9. Between rounds, students scouted for turf diseases and noted differences in the two fairway grasses.

Maryland won this year’s match 7-2, making the overall score Maryland 7, Virginia Tech 3.

Maryland’s Challenge Cup Team members in front from left, are Matt Zipper, Adam Schilpp and Pat Fischer. In back from left, are, Sean Whitson, Jared Foran and Tommy Hutson. Matt Jolly was missing from photo.

Arbor Day Celebration

In honor of Arbor Day, students and faculty planted a Willow Oak on the mall. From left, are Landscape Manager Karen Petroff, students Avishek Saha and Clark DeLong, IAA Instructor Ken Ingram, Associate Vice President for Facilities Maintenance J. Frank Brewer and President C. D. Mote.

Institute of Applied Agriculture (IAA) faculty and students celebrated Maryland Arbor Day on April 7th with a ceremonial tree planting and brief walking tour of campus trees. University of Maryland President C. Dan Mote led the campus celebration which was organized by Karen Petroff, manager of Landscape Services.
IAA Advisor and Certified Arborist Ken Ingram helped plant a Maryland-grown Willow Oak in front of Woods Hall directly across the mall from another Willow Oak that Dr. Mote pointed out as being the tallest tree on campus. The College Park campus has been designated as an Arboretum by the American Public Garden Association.

Arbor Day dates back to 1872 and is the legacy of James Sterling Morton, a Nebraska farmer who believed trees would improve Nebraska’s landscape and economy. He started planting orchards, windbreaks and shade trees on his own farm. The tradition took hold and today millions of trees have been planted as a result. Morton served on Nebraska’s State Board of Agriculture and later was Secretary of Agriculture for President Grover Cleveland.

LANDSCAPE TEAM FINISHES IN TOP 5

The 2010 University of Maryland Landscape Team from the Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture (PSLA) placed fifth among 70 teams competing in the 34th annual Student Career Days sponsored by the Professional LandCare Network (PLANET). The event was hosted by the Chattahoochee Technical College in Atlanta, Ga., and was attended by over 900 student competitors from colleges and universities across the U.S., and from Canada and Great Britain.

There were 28 events ranging from business management to landscape installation. Competitions test the academic and technical skills of the team members. The 5th place win marks the first time the University of Maryland team has placed in the top ten in this national competition. Top ten winners are known as an elite group which has demonstrated excellence among their peer institutions.

The 17-member University of Maryland team placed over larger teams from Michigan State and Penn State, who had 30 team members each. Eight Maryland members placed in the top three in their respective events, as well as in the top 10 percent of the 900 competitors. The outstanding performance is attributed to their academic and technical knowledge and the mentorship they received from their coach, Dr. Steven Cohan, coordinator of the PSLA Landscape Manage-
ment program; PSLA faculty colleagues; and dedicated landscape professionals.

The PSLA Landscape Management program recently achieved national accreditation from the Professional LandCare Network. PLANET’s accreditation program recognizes landscaping curricula that meet the needs of the landscape industry and also serves to recognize four-year Bachelor of Science and two-year Associate of Science degree programs. Currently, 27 schools have programs that are PLANET-accredited.

Individual Top-Three Placements in Events

- Sales – 1st, Mark Gonzalez
- Interior Identification – 1st, Todd Colvin
- Construction Estimating – 1st, Adam Chaitin (100% score)
- Paver Installation – 2nd, Vinnie D’Accolti and Josh Long
- Pest Management – 2nd, Sarah Zastrow
- Computer Design – 3rd, Josh Burwell
- Maintenance Estimating – 3rd, Dan Grenier
- Business Management – 3rd, Chad Stern
New officers for the 2010-2011 AGNR Student Council were introduced during the group’s annual banquet. From left, are, Victoria Lake, president; Brittany Gaban, vice president; Mike Amoss, treasurer; and Chad Clark, Ag Day chairperson. Missing from the photo is Lake McDonald, secretary.

The brothers of Alpha Gamma Rho recently held their annual scholarship dinner and were joined by members of the Alumni Board and guests. Nobel Ruler Jason Kramek, center, congratulated graduates from left, Daniel Pearlman, Robert Goldberg, Nicholas Tomaszewski and Jared Foran. Other AGR graduates not pictured are Jason Goldberg, Daniel Sharkey and Bruce Karner.
ARE YOU a high school student looking for an exciting course of study?
ARE YOU planning to transfer to the University of Maryland?
DO YOU WANT hands on experience while earning your college degree?
WE HAVE EXACTLY what you are looking for in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources!

OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN AND GROW!
• Agriculture and Resource Economics
• Animal and Avian Sciences
• Environmental Science and Technology
• Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine
• Nutrition, Food Science & Dietetics
• Plant Science & Landscape Architecture
• Institute of Applied Agriculture
• Agriculture Education
• Environmental Science & Policy

"This college helped to turn a huge, bustling campus into a supportive community. I’ve met wonderful teachers, students, and staff, gotten a high-quality education in a field that interests me, and had a lot of fun!"

-Margaret Lilly
2010 Graduation Speaker

If you have any questions, please call Elizabeth Weiss at 301.314.7222
The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources has a strong tradition and international reputation for generously supporting our students for the 156 years that the University of Maryland has been in existence.

As development director, it is always a pleasure for me to work with donors to establish new scholarships that support our ever-changing agricultural industry. Many scholarships are established in memory of former faculty, staff and students; the opportunity to leave such a legacy is comforting to families and creates an everlasting and valuable tribute. Many are established when a faculty member reaches the milestone of retirement, but others are created in honor of parents or family members. This creates a special opportunity for the family to enjoy meeting the recipients and know that their investment in the future of AGNR students will have a long-lasting and profound impact. Our College is fortunate to have dedicated alumni that established scholarships early in their careers and encouraged the culture of “giving back” to their fellow young alumni.

The annual Silent Auction at the AGNR Alumni Chapter’s Reunion and Awards Celebration generates funds to support AGNR’s student clubs and the AGNR Alumni Association. Last fall, the chapter presented a check for $2,500 to the fund in honor of retiring Scholarship Coordinator, Sheila A. Brown. This year, nearly $1,700 was raised at the Alumni Dinner. This money will be divided between grants for AGNR student clubs and support for the College Alumni Scholarship Fund.

Regardless of the source or reason for establishing a scholarship, the end result of helping young people reach their educational goals is rewarding for all of us within the AGNR Family.

How many students are helped each year? What is the average award? How many scholarships does AGNR handle at the college level? These are common questions from students, parents and donors. Tim Lapanne, AGNR’s new Scholarship Coordinator, prepared the following statistics to answer these questions. Tim started with AGNR in August 2009 and has already met many donors and had the opportunity to see the bond between donor and recipient – a bond that will continue for a lifetime. The AGNR Scholarship Program is alive and well and would like you to help us keep growing to serve even more students!

- At the college level, AGNR manages 65 scholarship accounts and coordinates over 120 Individual Awards*
- $324,750 awarded in 2009-2010
- $352,500 offered for 2010-2011 academic year
- 10% of AGNR students receive college based scholarships each year*
- Since 2004, $1.67M in scholarship support has been awarded to 663 students
  * AGNR Departments manage and award scholarships at the departmental level.

Brian W. Magness
Director of Development
bmagness@umd.edu • 301-405-7733
Dr. Cheng-i Wei, Dean and Director, Agricultural Experiment Station and University of Maryland Extension, welcomed faculty, staff and guests to the College’s Annual Awards Convocation on May 6, in the Stamp Student Union.

After a morning of reports from Academic Programs and AGNR Research and Agricultural Experiment Station, service awards were presented. Honored for 40 years of service was Thelma Robinson and marking their 35th year was Martha Cannon, Michael Kelley and Barbara South. Thirty-year honors went to James Lynch, Patricia Nitowitz, Dennis Nola and Linda Smith.

Honored for 25 years of service were Mary Jo Dosh, John English, Michael Godfrey, Sheryl Grey, Mary Grimley, Kevin Morgan, Mary Pandian, Jody Parrish, Dan Ramia and Doris Sabur. Twenty-year honorees were Theresa Almario, Portia Campbell, Loretta Carstens, Sherry Corbin, Margaret Gezelle, Katheryn Kinsman and Ann LaVigna.

The 15-year honors were given to Bonnie Boyden, Clare Capotosto, Diana Huertas-Miranda, Barbara South, left, was congratulated by Dean Cheng-i Wei for her 35 years of service to the College. Others marking their 35th year but not present were Michael Kelley and Martha Cannon.

Dean Cheng-i Wei, right, honored Dennis Nola, left, and Patricia Nitowitz, center, for their 30 years of service. Other 30-year honorees not present were James Lynch and Linda Smith.
Margarita Morales, Cindy Morris and Jeannine Shriver. Serving the college for 10 years were Rhonda Barnhart, David Funk, Carolyn Kulp, Christine Lothen-Kline, Phyllis McShane, Kathleen Porcella, Wendi Potter, Douglas Price, Tammy Pryor and Nan Stenzel. Five-year honorees were Susan Burk, Pamela Chollet, Shaun Faulkner, Deborah Frey, Rebecca Forbes, Timothy Hammond, Brian Ikenberry, Kimberly Montague-Smith and Jorge Ovando.

Following lunch, faculty and staff excellence awards were presented. They included:

Kay Riall ~ Off-Campus Staff Excellence Award
As an administrative assistant in Wicomico County for nearly 25 years, Kay has been an integral part of the University of Maryland Extension. She has gone above and beyond her basic responsibilities to take on more roles, including budget management, personnel relations and office support.

Sherry Corbin ~ Off-Campus Staff Excellence Award
Sherry has been a dedicated employee for more than 21 years. She began at the Worcester County Extension Office but is now the business manager for the Lower Eastern Shore Research and Education Center. Her primary responsibility is fiscal management but her exceptional knowledge leads her into many more team projects.

Brad Paleg ~ On-Campus Staff Excellence Award
Brad is a learning technologist in the Office of Information and Education Technology. With over 25 years of experience, he has advanced the College by developing and implementing technology-based solutions for effective outreach, teaching and research. His rare combination of expertise and teaching ability makes him a valuable asset.

Chris Aubry ~ On-Campus Staff Excellence Award
As the AGNR Research Coordinator, Chris tracks and organizes proposal submissions. He plays a key role in the College and serves as the primary liaison between AGNR and the Office of Research Administration and Advancement. His knowledge and expertise has increased the number of successful awards and grants for the College.

Heather Hutchison ~ Non Tenure-Track Faculty Excellence Award
Heather is a state-wide nutrient management specialist and has been instrumental in developing the successful Farmer Training and Certification program. She created the award-winning “Newtrient News” newsletter and was instrumental in standardizing training for nutrient management advisors across the state.

“Somewhere in the state there is a frustrated teenager about to join in some gang-related activity. Somewhere in the state there is a family about to have their home foreclosed. Somewhere in the state there is a high school junior in need of guidance to know if AGNR would be a good fit. Somewhere in the state there is a farmer trying to determine how and where to find customers for his produce.

These Maryland citizens and a whole lot more deserve a College of Agriculture and Natural Resources with organization-wide excellence. Each one of us should be committing ourselves to search for excellence in our individual and collaborative contributions.”

-Brad Paleg, On-Campus Staff Excellence Award Winner
Daniel Fisher ~ Non Tenure-Track Faculty Excellence Award
For the past 20 years, Dr. Fisher has been a research scientist at the Wye Research and Education Center. His expertise in aquatic toxicological testing is recognized internationally. In 2007, he received a co-appointment on the faculty of ENST, shaping the department and its undergraduate curriculum while becoming a popular instructor as well.

Joshua McGrath ~ On-Campus Junior Faculty Award
As an assistant professor and Extension specialist in the Department of Environmental Science and Technology, Dr. McGrath has focused on comprehensive adaptive agricultural nutrient management. He has developed a field-based research program that is providing practical solutions in an aggressive and timely fashion.

Nia Fields ~ Off-Campus Junior Faculty Award
Nia is the 4-H Youth Development Educator for Baltimore County. She uses workshops, camps, organized clubs, after-school programs and special interest groups to involve youth in the county. She has expanded and diversified the program through networking and innovative approaches with outside organizations.

Daniel Perez ~ Faculty Research Award
As an associate professor in the Department of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Perez’s work on protein-protein interactions of the polymerase subunits of PB1 and PA of influenza has led other groups to crystallize the domains of this interaction and target it for development of flu antivirals. His recent H1N1 influenza virus research won accolades from the National Institutes of Health.

Loretta Lynch ~ Integrated Research and Extension Excellence Award
Dr. Lynch has developed outstanding research and Extension programs in land-use issues as a member of the AREC faculty. Working with stakeholders, she identified key issues, focused her applied research skills, developed educational programs and brought her results to the policy table to make a difference. She was recently appointed to the BayStat program scientific advisory panel.

Manami Brown ~ UME Extension Excellence Award
As the 4-H Youth Development Educator and Baltimore City Extension Director, Manami has developed cutting edge 4-H programs to create a youth movement toward community change. She strives for youth leadership development while balancing her role as a supervisor of faculty and staff and has won national honors for her community approach to Extension programming in an urban setting.

Robert Chambers ~ The Paul R. Poffenberger Excellence in Teaching and Advising Award
Dr. Chambers is a professor in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics and has made significant contributions to the department’s undergraduate and graduate curricula. He has proven to be a superb instructor at every level, exemplifying the virtues of hard work and integrity. He has an outstanding list of well-placed doctoral students to his credit.

Peter Dernoeden ~ The Dean Gordon Cairns Award for Distinguished Creative Work and Teaching in Agriculture
As a professor within the Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture, Dr. Dernoeden is among the national and international leaders in the field of integrated pest management of turfgrasses. His research has significantly advanced the understanding of the epidemiology and biology of turfgrass pathogens and he has taught and mentored hundreds of students along the way.

At the conclusion of the program, Dr. Nick Place announced a special award given by the Civil Rights Advisory
Committee of the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) of Maryland to recognize someone across all the USDA-related agencies in Maryland who typifies exceptional work related to diversity in the workplace and working with diverse audiences. Mary Ellen Waltemire, Principal Agent and Regional Extension Director, West Region, was the inaugural honoree of this prestigious award.

**AG DAY DRAWS THOUSANDS**

SHEEP SHOWMANSHIP

Stephanie Paultre, an AGNR international student from Haiti, tries to impress the judges during her sheep showmanship class.

**HOPKINS SCHOLARSHIP**

Dr. H. Palmer Hopkins, center, presented a scholarship established in his name by former student Dr. Charles Coale, right, to Olivia Alpha Smith during the Ag Day breakfast.

**TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTED**

Dr. John Moore, center, congratulates Katelynne Connelly, left, and Paul Drummond, on the right during the Ag Day breakfast. Both were the recipients of the John and Marjorie Moore International Agriculture and Natural Resources Student Travel Scholarship.
COME AND GET IT
Members of the Food Science Club encouraged Ag Day attendees to visit their display.

MOSQUITO BUSINESS
ENST counterparts Andy Baldwin and Paul Leisnham discuss mosquito research while waiting for visitors at Ag Day.

DADDY’S FOOTSTEPS
Former AGNR Alumni Chapter President Dan Williams introduced his son and future Terrapin, Daniel, to Gail Yeiser of AGNR Alumni Relations during Ag Day festivities.

GRILLING IT UP
Brothers from Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity fired up the grills for a fundraiser during Ag Day. Cory Wyland takes his turn flipping burgers.

SPREADING GOOD INFORMATION
Ellen Nibali, horticulture consultant with the Home and Garden Information Center, chats about invasive plants with Ag Day attendees.
CIRCLE OF FRIENDS DESIGNEE
Representatives from the Maryland Egg Council accepted one of two Circle of Friends honors during the 43rd Annual Alumni Chapter Reunion and Awards Celebration. From left, are Dr. Cheng-i Wei, Tom Meredith, John Doerr, Carole Dingess and Delegate Paul Stull.

MARYLAND STATE FAIR RECOGNIZED
Maryland State Fair President F. Grove Miller, center, accepts the Circle of Friends award from Dr. Cheng-i Wei, left, and Delegate Paul Stull during the AGNR Alumni Awards Dinner.

STUDENTS AND FACULTY HONORED
Outstanding student and faculty awards were presented during the AGNR Alumni Dinner. In front from left, are Carin Celebuski, Outstanding Graduating Student of the Institute of Applied Agriculture; Amanda Johnson and Wei Zheng, both Outstanding Graduating Seniors; and Sachin Kumar, Outstanding Graduate Student. In back from left, are Dr. Cheng-i Wei, Stanton Gill, Excellence in Research; John Lea-Cox, Excellence in Extension; Robert Chambers, Excellence in Instruction; Rami Dalloiu, Outstanding Alumnus - Early Career; and Delegate Paul Stull.

HALL OF FAMERS
Two AGNR representatives, Lester Brown and Mylo Downey, will be inducted into the prestigious University of Maryland Alumni Hall of Fame during festivities in June. Dr. Cheng-i Wei, left, and Delegate Paul Stull, right, congratulated, from left, Lester Brown and Bob and Ed Downey, sons of Mylo Downey, during the AGNR Alumni Awards Celebration.
James Cecil Smith, Jr. 
‘56 agricultural education, ’59 animal sciences and ’64 nutrition biochemistry, is a retired nutritional biochemist currently residing in Glenn Dale. Dr. Smith worked with National Institutes of Health, Veterans Medical Center and USDA Beltsville. He retired as a lab research leader. His current volunteer roles include church, science fairs and writing the history of nutrition work at USDA Beltsville. He is still active in many retired agricultural and science related organizations.

He and his wife, Kay Plummer Smith ’61 home economics education, MA ’76 education, have three grown children, Deborah Brown, PhD Cornell ’96; Michelle Smith, MD Medical College of Virginia ’98 and Sgt James C. Smith III, serving for 14 years in the U.S. Air Force. There are five grandchildren.

Charles ’65 and Judy ’66 Iager of Fulton were inducted into the Maryland Dairy Shrine in February, 2010. The Iagers operate Maple Lawn Farm along with their youngest son, Mark and his wife, Elisha. Maple Lawn Farm was established as a 108-acre parcel purchased in 1839 by Henry Iager. Today it encompasses over 1,000 acres in Howard County. While they specialize in dairy cattle, hogs, chickens, field crops and “ShoNuf” oven-ready fresh turkeys, an extensive milk bottle collection is also at home there. The Iagers have graciously shared their collection at AGNR Homecoming and Ag Day events and donated a representation of University of Maryland milk bottles and cartons to Dean Wei, which is on display in Symons Hall.

Maple Lawn Farm and the Iagers have always been supportive of 4-H youth development. They have hosted dairy judging practices and Charles is currently serving as vice president of the Maryland 4-H Foundation Board of Directors.

The Iagers have established the National Dairy Shrine Iager Scholarship for a second year college student in a two-year agricultural college majoring in dairy or animal science and have established a scholarship in the Department of Animal and Avian Sciences at College Park.

Charles and Judy have served on the AGNR Alumni Board and the Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity Alumni Board. They frequently organize Founder’s Day and homecoming activities for AGR. In 2009, Maple Lawn Farm was the first recipient of the AGNR Alumni Chapter Circle of Friends Award. They have supported the Samuel Riggs IV Alumni Center, rallying support for Alpha Gamma Rho Pillar at Moxley Gardens and donating the Maryland State Flag Pole.

Middle son, Matt, is a graduate of the Virginia Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, is a partner with Mid-Maryland Veterinary and resides with his wife, Laura and their children in Boonsboro. The Iager’s oldest son, Mike, operates Bulldog Holsteins in Frederick County with his wife Heather and their children.

The Maryland National Capi-
tal Park & Planning Commission purchased the King family farm in the late 1960s, in preparation for a proposed regional park. The dairy farm continued to operate until 1998, when changes in the park’s master plan called for all farmstead buildings, including the dairy barn, to be demolished. Community members worked hard to save the farmstead, and the effort resulted in saving the King dairy barn.

In 1999, knowing the dairy barn would remain standing, a descendent of the King family organized a volunteer committee to develop a dairy museum later named the MOOseum. Planning, design and permits took nearly ten years, until construction crews began work in October, 2009. Construction modifications to the King dairy barn will bring the structure up to fire and safety standards for convenient access to public groups.

Educational features are planned for all ages, including a life-size milking Holstein cow, a scale model replica of the historic King farmhouse, as well as exhibits and tours related to the production, processing and marketing of milk and milk products.

The MOOseum will display collections of milk coolers, cream separators, milk bottles and cans, butter churns, milkers and other dairy industry artifacts. A media-area/library is planned to include oral histories of producers and industry veterans, videos and dairy-related publications.

Robert F. “Bobby” Stahl Jr. ’87 was named the new chair of the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) Board in December, 2009. An active farmer who can trace his heritage back to Southern Maryland tobacco farming in 1717, Bobby owns and operates Jameson Manor Farm, where he and his family currently raise 75 head of Black Angus cattle, grain and hay.

Bobby is currently Director of Operations for the Town of La Plata. Through his work with municipalities, he is a true believer in “Smart Growth” and says the challenge is trying to balance land preservation with making sure development occurs where we want it. He has been actively involved with agricultural land issues for the past 20 years. In addition to farming, Bobby was one of the original appointees to the Maryland Rural Legacy Advisory Board and served for 10 years. He served on the Charles County Agricultural Land Preservation Committee and managed land programs for Chaney Enterprises for more than 10 years each.

He earned a master’s degree in general administration, bachelor’s in agricultural land and
Amanda Dell ‘06 received the 2009 Sheriff’s Services Civilian of the Year from Sheriff Kenneth Tregoning as part of the Carroll County Sheriff’s Office Law Enforcement and Correctional Employees of the Year ceremonies.

A lifelong resident of Carroll County, Dell is a human resources assistant. She was hired in October of 2007 shortly after graduating from the University of Maryland, College Park with a Bachelor of Science degree in general agricultural sciences and technology.

“Ms. Dell is resolute in her recruitment of exceptional candidates and has used her creativity and drive to not only fully staff the agency, but also maintain a readily available pool of viable applicants. She is the consummate human resources professional who serves with integrity, loyalty and dedication.”

Dr. Michael Watts ‘97 has been elected President of the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine (VMRCVM) Alumni Society. Dr. Watts is the first Terrapin to lead the group that includes over 2,200 graduates of the college’s Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program.

The VMRCVM is a regional professional school operated through a unique cooperation between two of the nation’s leading land-grant universities: University of Maryland and Virginia Tech. The College operates three campuses, including the Blacksburg campus at Virginia Tech, the Avrum Gudelsky Veterinary Center in College Park and the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center in Leesburg, Va.

Dr. Watts is a 1997 graduate of the University of Maryland College of Agriculture combined degree pre-veterinary option offered by the Department of Animal and Avian Sciences. The accelerated program allows students to begin veterinary school after their junior year and earn both Bachelor of Science and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degrees in seven years of study. He hopes his presidency will help inspire other Maryland students to take advantage of the opportunities available through the university’s affiliation with the VMRCVM.

is the first Terrapin to lead the group that includes over 2,200 graduates of the college’s Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program.

Bobby and his wife Alicia have been married for 21 years and have two children, Lizzie and Bobby, who are both involved with agriculture.
The LEAD Maryland Foundation, Inc. is accepting applications for its next class of LEAD Fellows. Applications can be found at www.leadmaryland.org or by requesting a form at leadmd@umd.edu or calling (410) 827-8056.

The LEAD Maryland Foundation Inc., is a partnership 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to identifying and developing leadership for Maryland agriculture, natural resources and rural communities.

Fellows are selected through an application and interview process from a pool of identified emerging leaders from all regions of the state and representative of a diversity of backgrounds, work, education and other experiences. The new class will be “Class VII (2011-2012)” and will join 136 others who have participated as LEAD Fellows since the first training seminar was held in 1999. Each class has 20 to 25 participants and there are no age restrictions.

Applications are due October 1, 2010. Class members will be selected in November 2010, and the new class will begin meeting in February 2011. During 2011 and 2012, Fellows will complete a series of 10 multi-day seminars at various locations in Maryland and Washington, D.C. They will also take a study tour to Vietnam and Taiwan in January 2011.

Jessica J. Hernandez ’08 began serving as the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Dairy Princess & Promotion Services Inc. in January 2010. She completed her master’s degree in contemporary communications from the College of Notre Dame of Maryland in December 2009. Jessica was active in AGNR Student Council and worked part time for the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation Inc. on the agricultural showcase trailer while in graduate school. All of her activities have focused on educating the public and promoting the dairy industry. She is a past Maryland Dairy Princess and 4-H club member. She continues to be a UME 4-H volunteer and is active in Baltimore County Farm Bureau’s Young Farmer group.

She is recently engaged to Jason Armacost of Parkton and an August wedding is planned.

Let us hear from you...

AGNR Alumni Chapter c/o Gail Yeiser
1104 Symons Hall, University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742
301-405-2434 • FAX 301-314-9146
gyeiser@umd.edu

Facebook: University of Maryland AGNR Alumni Chapter

Please include your name, maiden name if different name at time of graduation; degrees – years and majors; current professional specialty; current volunteer roles; home address, email, facebook, phone numbers; employer, job title and responsibilities. And always feel free to send photographs and include other information that you would like to share with others – children, grandchildren, awards received, other alums you’ve seen.
William Glisan Baker ’50 of Thurmont died Nov. 16, 2009. He was 86 years old and was the husband of Marguerite L. “Weetie” Baker for 62 years.

Bill’s college career at the University of Maryland was interrupted by Pearl Harbor and his enlistment in the Army. After four years in the service he
Dr. A. Morris Decker ’53 died on October 26, 2009, in Jacksonville Beach, Fla., where he and his wife of 66 years, Beth Marie, had lived for two years. He was 91.

Dr. Decker earned his doctorate from the University of Maryland in 1953 and taught at the University of Maryland for more than 40 years prior to his retirement, starting as an instructor in 1952 and attaining the rank of associate professor in 1958. Throughout his career, Dr. Decker’s research dealt with a wide variety of topics, including forage establishment, forage crop improvement, forage systems for livestock programs and

Memorial contributions may be made to the William G. Baker Scholarship Fund, c/o William E. Baker, 5793 Sunset View Lane, Frederick, MD 21703.

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**Memorable Marylanders**

**Dr. A. Morris Decker ’53**

Henry H. Carter ’38 died December 5, 2009, in Mooresville, N.C., at the age of 91. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Genevieve Griffith Carter.

Henry owned and operated his family’s dairy farm in Rockville in the 1970s. He began working at the farm after graduating in 1938 from the University of Maryland’s agriculture school. He was a founder of the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair. In 1972, he traveled with his wife to Europe as part of a People to People educational exchange for Maryland agricultural leaders.

Mr. Carter moved from Rockville to West Virginia in 1988 and most recently had been living in North Carolina.

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**Dr. A. Morris Decker ’53**

returned to the university. He worked as a herdsman at the University of Maryland Dairy Barns while finishing his undergraduate degree. He began teaching vocational agriculture at Thurmont and Emmitsburg High Schools in February 1950. He taught agriculture until 1973, when he became the work study coordinator at Catoctin High School. Along with teaching, he had successful dairy and beef herds. He was an independent auctioneer for many years in Frederick County.

He was a member of the Agriculture Alumni Association of the University of Maryland, where he served as president and vice president and he attended Maryland legislative hearings regarding University of Maryland autonomy and reorganization. Bill received the Meritorious Service to Agriculture Award from the AGNR Alumni Chapter in 1981.

Bill was a member of Maryland Vocational Agriculture Teachers’ Association, where he was past president and was a member of National Vocational Agriculture Teachers’ Association. He served as chairman and co-chairman of the Thurmont-Emmitsburg Community Show for 25 years.

Memorial contributions may be made to either Derbyshire Baptist Church, 8800 Derbyshire Road, Richmond, VA 23229; to Staples Mill Road Baptist Church, 10101 Staples Mill Road, Glen Allen, VA 23060; or to Winfree Memorial Baptist Church, 13617 Midlothian Turnpike, Midlothian, VA 23113. Note Bob’s name on your donation.

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**Dr. A. Morris Decker ’53**

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**Dr. A. Morris Decker ’53**

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Throughout his career, Dr. Decker’s research dealt with a wide variety of topics, including forage establishment, forage crop improvement, forage systems for livestock programs and
Charles Mayer Shriver Jr. ’51 of Westminster died January 10, 2010. He was the husband of Ruth Dischinger Shriver for 32 years.

Charles was a graduate of Gilman School and the University of Maryland School of Agriculture. He was a lifelong dairy farmer and was one of the last Carroll County farmers to actively farm with draft horses. He was

Wiley graduated from Gaithersburg High School and studied agricultural science at the University of Maryland on an FFA sheep scholarship. For more than 75 years, he was a well-known, knowledgeable and successful crop and livestock farmer in the Derwood-Laytonsville area. He also had farms in Pennsylvania. He was a longtime member of the Upper Montgomery County Farmers’ Club.

Wiley lived his entire 95 years in the Laytonsville-Derwood area. He wanted to be a farmer from the time he was a boy. He handcrafted his own carts and wagons that were pulled by his beagle through his family garden and the town of Laytonsville.

Memorial contributions may be sent to Laytonsville Lions Club Foundation, P.O. Box 5111, Laytonsville, MD 20882 or Goshen Cemetery Association, 10519 Bethesda Church Road, Damascus, MD 20872.

Bonnie A. Dunn ’98 (UMUC) died April 21, 2010, at her home in Harwood. She was 64. Her husband of 31 years, Earl Dunn, died in 1998.

Bonnie was the manager of the Patuxent River 4-H Center in Upper Marlboro. In 1987, she helped establish the center, a 74-acre environmental education and youth facility along the banks of the Patuxent. She was the facility manager and naturalist from 1987 until her death.

Bonnie grew up along the Patuxent in the area now known as the Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary. In 1998, she received a bachelor’s degree in business management from University of Maryland University College. Before founding the center, Bonnie was a horticulturist at Robin Hill Farm Nursery in Clinton. She was involved with 4-H clubs as a child and volunteered from the mid-1960s until the mid-1980s at a 4-H club in Mitchellville. She was a board member for the Patuxent River 4-H Center Foundation and what is now known as the American Camp Association.

Memorial contributions may be made to Patuxent River 4-H Foundation, 18405 Queen Anne Road, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774.

Wiley Gaither Griffith, 95, died April 4, 2010. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Carrie Allnutt Griffith.

Dr. Decker graduated from Gaithersburg High School and studied agricultural science at the University of Maryland on an FFA sheep scholarship. For more than 75 years, he was a well-known, knowledgeable and successful crop and livestock farmer in the Derwood-Laytonsville area. He also had farms in Pennsylvania. He was a longtime member of the Upper Montgomery County Farmers’ Club.

Wiley lived his entire 95 years in the Laytonsville-Derwood area. He wanted to be a farmer from the time he was a boy. He handcrafted his own carts and wagons that were pulled by his beagle through his family garden and the town of Laytonsville.

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Charles was a graduate of Gilman School and the University of Maryland School of Agriculture. He was a lifelong dairy farmer and was one of the last Carroll County farmers to actively farm with draft horses. He was
a member of the Land O’ Lakes Cooperative, the Maryland Draft Horse Association and the alumni association of the University of Maryland.

Memorial contributions may be made to Union Mills Homestead, 3311 Littlestown Pike, Westminster, MD 21158; or Maryland School for the Blind, 3501 Taylor Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21236.

Judith Burdette ‘Judy’ Shry, 67, of Woodsboro died February 7, 2010. She was the wife of Carroll Lee Shry Jr. ’65. Judy married Carroll Lee the day following his graduation from the University of Maryland. Carroll is a past member of the AGNR Alumni Board of Directors and received the Meritorious Service to Agriculture and Natural Resources Award from the chapter in 1995.

Judy is fondly remembered by professors of agricultural education at West Virginia University, Ideal Farms Dairy and the Woodsboro Livestock Auction. She entertained many at Common Glory, the family farm, riding the horses, wagons and tractors. She also supported youth who were involved in 4-H, the FFA and the many activities at The Great Frederick Fair.

Memorial contributions may be sent to Forest Grove United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 15, Tuscarora, MD 21790.
"WINDOW WALK" • EDWIN REMSBERG
AGNR will see you there!

Homecoming and “Ag-tober Fest”

Saturday, October 30, 2010
3 hours prior to kick off - Campus Farm
To register, call: 301-405-2434 or 301-405-2128
www.agnr.umd.edu
Facebook - University of Maryland AGNR Alumni

AGNR goes to the Maryland State Fair
for the 11 Best Days of Summer
August 27 – September 6, 2010

- AGNR Dairy Cattle on exhibit in the Cow Palace
- AGNR students assisting with Birthing Center
- U-Learn Farm in the Cow Palace
  (Next to the Birthing Center and across from AGNR Dairy Exhibit)
- AGNR, Maryland 4-H Foundation, Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation and MD State Fair collaborative activity center for young and old
- AGNR joins Maryland Department of Agriculture in the Farm & Garden Building near York Road
- University of Maryland Extension & AGNR’s Turfgrass programs featured in Farm & Garden Building
- Showcase for 4-H Youth Development Programs and Projects in the 4-H Exhibit Building, Cow Palace, Livestock Pavilion and Animal World
- Dean’s Awards for Excellence in 4-H Showmanship – for all species on exhibit

- See horses, cows, calves and turtles
- Watch the insect races and beautiful butterflies
- Take a hay wagon farm tour
- Visit educational and interactive displays
- Participate in hands-on activities for the whole family

http://www.agnropenhouse.umd.edu/