Wow! That’s all I can say. Just wow. Last month my word was welcome, and this month it’s wow because we had such a wonderful start to the semester. IAA students are the best; we accomplished so much in the first three weeks of school.

First, the student chapter of the PGMS kicked off the semester by joining the DC Branch for a garden tour of the Smithsonian Castle. The next day, the students held a cook out in front of Jull Hall and elected officers. Congratulations to President Collin Plumley and Vice President Brian Knott. We are glad to see first-year students getting involved in the club, and we hope to see the membership grow.

Next, we hosted an Honors Breakfast to recognize and celebrate the academic accomplishments of the six IAA students who were named to the Dean’s List for Spring 2013. We enjoyed a fun and relaxed, sit-down meal together. And, I’ll do the same for the students who make the Dean’s List this semester. I’m sending a challenge out to all of you to double the number of Dean’s List recipients. The goal is to have at least a dozen full-time IAA students earn a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher. I know you can do it.

Then, the students in Ken Ingram’s Plant Science class helped the Office of Sustainability by potting plants for distribution to offices throughout campus as part of the Green Office Program, a campus initiative that engages staff, faculty and students in taking steps toward reducing their environmental footprint. I’m proud to see IAA students helping the campus community while gaining hands-on learning.

Our oral communication course continues to grow in popularity with dozens of students on the waitlists hoping for a chance to take a course from one of the IAA instructors. In addition, the IAA sponsors the Speech and Debate Club and over 70 new students have expressed interest in joining the club. See Nina LaTassa if you are interested in joining the club. The IAA is hosting a speech contest in Jull Hall on October 10.

Finally, the IAA had a terrific showing at the Fall Bash; thank you to everyone to came out to join the fun. Let’s keep the momentum going and wow the prospective students and their families who come to our Open Houses this month.

At the ’tute

AG-toberfest

Being in the spirit of October, the University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources is hosting the AG-toberfest tailgate on October 26. All IAA students are invited and it is FREE.

The tailgate, hosted by the AGNR Alumni Chapter and AGNR Office of External Relations, will have fun, games, and food including a pig roast, before the Clemson vs. Maryland football game.

The tailgate will be held at the Campus Farm three hours before kick-off. Registration is required, so to do so, email gyeiser@umd.edu or call (301) 405-2434. We hope to see everyone there!

Now is the time to start planning your spring class schedule. Make an appointment to talk to your advisor.
**Early Warning Grades**

Your midterm grades will be available on Testudo by October 24, 2013. If you are receiving a “D” or “F” in any of your IAA courses, you will be notified by mail. If all your grades are satisfactory, you will not receive your grades in the mail; however, you may obtain your midterm grades through Testudo.

If you have a “D” or “F,” you are to meet with your advisor to discuss your options and solutions for success.

The last day to drop a course and receive a “W” is Monday, November 11, 2013.

**Last Drop Date**

The last day to drop a course and receive a “W” is Monday, November 11 at 4:30 p.m. After November 11, you are committed to receiving a grade.

A “W” is used to indicate withdrawal from a course which you were enrolled at the end of this Schedule Adjustment Period. This mark is not used in computation of GPA, but it is recorded in your permanent record.

If you are receiving financial aid, carefully check your financial aid award package and agreement. Dropping a course may cause you to fall below the required credit load, in which case your financial aid will be canceled and you will be required to pay the university. Contact the Financial Aid Office at (301) 314-8313 to verify your required course load.

**Mailing Address**

Deficiency grades will be mailed to the current address that you have listed on Testudo. Please make sure your mailing address is accurate.

You must go into Testudo to update your information. IAA staff cannot do it for you.

Silence your cell phone before entering the classroom. Wait to check messages and respond to texts until class is over. It’s a courtesy to your instructors and your classmates.

Keep the IAA computer room clean. Food and drinks are permitted in this room. We ask that you put all your trash in the hallway trash cans, wipe up any crumbs or spills. Close the door behind you if you are the last one to leave the IAA computer room. The computer room is for IAA student use only.

Scholarships and Job announcements are posted online. Go to iaa.umd.edu/resources to view all opportunities.

Visit: [gardencentersymposium.com/scholarship-program-2/](http://gardencentersymposium.com/scholarship-program-2/)

**IAA Reminders**

**Garden Center Scholarship**

$1,000 + free admission to Symposium

The Garden Center Symposium (www.gardencentersymposium.com) is offering one (1) scholarship to students studying horticulture or a related subject area. The scholarship recipient will receive a $1,000 unrestricted scholarship along with complimentary registration for the 2014 Garden Center Symposium, January 22-23, 2014 in Wisconsin. The completed application must be received (electronic is preferred) by the scholarship committee by November 22, 2013.

**Requirements:**

- Recipient should be majoring or minoring in horticulture or a related field.
- Recipient should have at least one quarter or semester remaining following Spring 2014. Recipient should have a minimum 3.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.
- An interest in a career in the garden center industry is preferred.
- Applications must be received by November 22, 2013.

**Institute Items, the IAA’s informal monthly bulletin, provides information about IAA students, faculty, activities, events, and deadlines.**

Glori Hyman
Director

Diana Velasquez-munoz
Editor
http://iaa.umd.edu
Invite your friends and colleagues an **IAA Fall Open House**. If you know someone who is interested in the IAA, this is their chance to visit campus, meet students and faculty and ask questions. We will be hosting three Open Houses this Fall 2013:

**Monday, October 14, 2013**  
**Friday, October 25, 2013**  
**Monday, November 11, 2013**  
9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Pick up an invitation from Carole Dingess or Diana Velasquez-munoz in the IAA Office (Jull 2123), or give us your friend’s name and address and we’ll mail the invitation.

The prospective students and their families are invited to visit IAA classes and ask questions about campus life and courses. Please make our guests feel welcome and let them know what a great place the IAA is!

### Honor Pledge

The Honor Pledge, which is used throughout the University, is a statement students should be asked to write by hand and sign on examinations, papers, or other academic assignments not specifically exempted by the instructor. The Pledge reads:

I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this assignment/examination.

To view The Code of Academic Integrity, go to the Student Honor Council website at [www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu/code.html](http://www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu/code.html)

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**October:**

**October 2**
- Arboretum and Botanical Garden Tour: Honeybee Hives on Campus from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Meet at 251 North Dining Rooftop.

**October 3**
- DC-PGMS Meeting at Raemelton Farm beginning at 6 p.m.
- The Terrapin Leadership Institute (TLI) at the Stamp Student Union Benjamin Banneker Room from 7-8:30 p.m. Dinner is provided.

**October 5**
- College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Open House in Clarksville, MD from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

**October 8**
- HungerU arrives to UMD. HungerU’s mobile education classroom will be outside of Cole Field House from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

**October 9**
- Arboretum and Botanical Garden Talk: Meadow Fruiting Orchards from 12-12:45 p.m. in the Public Health Garden.
- HungerU arrives to UMD. HungerU’s mobile education classroom will be outside of Cole Field House from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

**October 10**
- Speech Competition focused on Diversity Awareness beginning at 5 p.m. Jull Hall 1105 and Jull Hall 1123. Refreshments will be served. Cash prizes of $100, $75, and $50 will be awarded. Students will choose to speak about any issue related to diversity.

**October 14**
- IAA Open House from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. in Jull Hall 1123.

**October 16**
- Arboretum and Botanical Garden Talk: Gorgeous Georgia Gardens from 12-12:45 p.m. in the Arboretum Outreach Center.

**October 23**
- Arboretum and Botanical Garden Tour: Chef’s Garden and Green Tidings Truck

**October 24**
- Warning grades will be posted on Testudo

**October 25**
- IAA Open House from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. in Jull Hall 1123.

**October 26**
- Ag-tober Fest Tailgate hosted by AGNR Alumni.

### Farmers Market

Are you interested in getting fresh veggies, a gourmet lunch, baked goods and fruits? Visit the UMD Farmers Market on Wednesdays from 11-2 p.m. in front of Cole Fieldhouse. Also, you will be able to catch the Green Tidings Food Truck too!

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*October reminder:* Registration for Spring 2014 courses will commence! Meet with your academic advisor to plan your Spring 2014 schedule.