I once read an article about a woman who resolved to spend a year saying yes. Yes to invitations, yes to extra work, yes to family favors, yes to street beggars. You get the idea. Within the first week, a homeless man asked her for a date. His teeth were rotten, clothes filthy, hair unkempt, and odor offensive. She nearly lost her resolve and said no! But, she would not permit herself to fail within one week.

She took the homeless man to a café for coffee and a pastry. At first, it was as horrible and uncomfortable as you might imagine. Café patrons gave her dirty looks and the man’s odor was unbearable. Nonetheless, she persisted on her positive path, and surprisingly the man turned out to be quite a lively conversationalist. No, he did not turn into prince charming; they did not get married and live happily ever after. She did, however, meet her future husband on a blind date that she would have previously refused to go on. She eventually finished her year of yes, wrote a book about it, became a published author and made the talk show circuit.

Her life changed, exciting things began to happen, and her career was launched because she took advantage of opportunities. Yes, it required her to step outside her comfort zone, and yes she encountered unpleasant situations, but if she hadn’t pushed herself to say yes to new things, she would still be sitting alone in her apartment facebooking friends.

The IAA and the university provide a perfect setting for you to say yes to opportunities. Plan to attend a PGMS or other professional meetings, volunteer in the garden, attend a seminar, apply for a scholarship, or visit our nation’s capital. Get involved!

Look at the IAA students who said yes to the Sports Turf Competition. They flew to Daytona, FL, and came home with a first-place trophy, a $4,000 check, and national recognition. In a couple of weeks, Dr. Mathias will be taking three teams to San Diego, CA, for the annual TurfBowl competition.

To get involve, check your email and second floor bulletin board in Jull for announcements, or ask IAA faculty and staff. Don’t worry; we don’t expect you to write a book about your experiences. We simply want you to AGnite your career.

Enjoy a YES! semester,

Alan D. Hyman

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If you plan to graduate from the IAA in Spring 2013, you must submit your graduation application form before Friday, February 1. You can get an application form from the IAA office, 2123 Jull Hall, or online at iaa.umd.edu. Click on current students.

Your advisor will review your record, and you will receive a preliminary clearance letter if you meet all graduation requirements.

IAA Graduation ceremonies will be held Monday, May 20 for December 2012 and May 2013 graduates. All graduates are encouraged to participate.

Plan to Graduate this Spring?

Now is the time to start looking for your internship. All IAA students are required to complete an internship for graduation. Typically, students intern during the summer between their first and second years. If you plan to do an internship this summer, contact your advisor now to discuss requirements and to locate an approved internship site. Supervising instructors are:

**Ag Business Management:** Ray Gless

**Ornamental Horticulture:** Ken Ingram

**Landscape Management:** Ken Ingram

**Golf Course Construction, Turfgrass, Golf Course and Sports Turf Management:** Kevin Mathias
Academic Integrity

The University of Maryland has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity that sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student you are responsible for upholding these standards. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism.

For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, please visit http://www.shc.umd.edu

Snow Days

1. If snow accumulates during the night, the campus’s status will be posted on the university home page http://www.umd.edu and on the “snow hot line” 301.405.SNOW (7669) by 6 a.m.

2. All local radio and television stations will be notified if we are closed or have a delayed opening. If campus is open, media will NOT be notified, but that information will be posted on the web site and the hot line.

3. If weather conditions deteriorate during a normal work day or are expected to deteriorate in evening hours, the campus’s status will be posted as quickly as possible using the same methods.

OIT Help Desk

If you need help with computer issues, go to the student help desk in room 1400 of the Computer and Space Sciences Building. Hours are 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Monday - Friday. The phone number for the help desk is 301-405-1400.

Accessing Grades

If you want to access your grades from previous semesters via Testudo, select “Unofficial Transcript.” You should be able to view your accumulated IAA record. The “View Grade” option is for the current semester only.

StampFest

StampFest 2013 takes place on Thursday, February 7, 10 a.m. to midnight in the Stamp, and features food, entertainment, discounts at building vendors, activities and information from University departments and student organizations. The Campus Resource Showcase is held from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on the main level of the Stamp. This event serves as an excellent way to introduce you to student clubs and campus resources. To learn more visit, http://thestamp.umd.edu/events/special_events_programs/events_programs/stampfest

NOTE FROM THE IAA OFFICE:

Please make sure that your contact information is correct in Testudo. Phone numbers, home and email addresses enable us to contact you regarding class cancellations and academic concerns.
Financial Aid

Apply for Financial Aid—you have nothing to lose. There is no set income bracket to be eligible for financial aid, and some scholarships that are not need-based use the FAFSA to make decisions. University’s priority deadline is February 15, so start gathering your documents. You need your social security number, driver’s license, income tax return, bank statements and investment records. Visit fafsa.gov to apply today!

A for-profit company with a similar Web address charges $80 to help complete the application. If you are being charged a fee, check the Web address and make sure it ends with ed.gov not .com.

The University’s school code is 002103. If you have questions, visit the University’s student financial center in 1135 Lee Building.

On February 5 beginning at 11:00 a.m., the IAA will be hosting a FAFSA lunch for IAA students at Jull 1123. The lunch is intended to help IAA students prepare for a successful FAFSA completion. RSVP with Diana by February 1.

Scholarships

Applications are being accepted for the Professional Grounds Management Society (PGMS) and are open to students pursuing green industry majors (Landscape Management, Turf/Golf/Sports Turf and Ornamental Horticulture). To learn more, go to http://pgms.org/

National FFA Collegiate Scholarship Program. Each year the National Future Farmers of America (FFA) Organization awards approximately $2 million in scholarships designed to fit the diversity of our applicants. Scholarships are given for a wide variety of experiences, career goals and higher education plans.

To download the scholarship application, go to www.ffa.org. Deadline is Feb. 15.

American Farms Publications Scholarship. This is a $1,000 scholarship for students pursuing majors in agriculture. The deadline is March 1, 2013. To learn more, visit http://agnr.umd.edu/students/scholarships/american-farm-publications-scholarship.

Counseling Center

For students who encounter personal, social, career, or academic issues throughout the semester, the Counseling Center provides free, confidential services. The Learning Assistance Service, the academic support unit of the Counseling Center, provides a range of services. All LAS services are free to UMCP students. You may meet with a counselor who will help you explore your academic strengths and needs, and help you develop a plan to meet your goals.

The Counseling Center is located in the Shoemaker Building, between the Memorial Chapel and LeFrak Hall. You can reach the Center by calling 301-314-7651, or visit the website www.counseling.umd.edu/

Calendar

January 23 First day of classes
January 30 UMD Community Garden Kick Off Potluck Lunch
February 1 Graduation applications due
February 5 Last day of Schedule Adjustment
February 5 FAFSA INFO Lunch 11-12 noon at Jull 1123
February 15 UMD FAFSA Priority Deadline
March 17-24 Spring Break--IAA offices will be closed 18-20
March 29 IAA Spring Open House
April 10 Last day to drop a course and receive a “W”
April 27 Maryland Day
April 30 IAA Spring Open House
May 9 Last day of classes
May 10 Reading day
May 11-17 Final Exams
May 20 Commencement/IAA Graduation Breakfast

SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENT PERIOD ENDS
Tuesday, February 5, 2013

Congratulations
Dean’s List*
Fall 2012

Brent Waite
Brian Knott
Tyler Brunk
Michael Walsh

*To make the Dean’s List, students must earn a full-time semester GPA of 3.5 or higher

New IAA students

Please take a minute or two and welcome the new students at the IAA:

Jon Boniface
Tim Burkhart
Jesse Dietsch
Daniele Duncan
James Halley
Marvin Martinez
Jack Reeves

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2013 Turf Bowl Competition

Good luck to the following students and coaches in the upcoming 2013 Turf Bowl Competition this month.

Bryan Shepherd (IAA)
Matthew Park (IAA)
Justin Patenaude (IAA)
Ryan Higgins (IAA)
Scott Hosier (IAA)
Joshua Malnik (IAA)
RJ Crow (IAA)
Stephen Brew (IAA)
Brian Hogan (IAA)
Brent Waite (IAA)
Virgil Profili (PLSA)
Brian Dearnstine (IAA)
Alex Steinman (Coach)
Dr. Kevin Mathias (Coach)

YOUR FEARLESS IDEA WILL CHANGE THE WORLD

The University of Maryland is accepting grant applications for student projects.

Your idea should address vital problems, questions, or needs of society. The project you propose should involve important service, leadership, inquiry, or social entrepreneurial goals. Projects may be local, national, or international in scope and impact. Projects should involve substantial work away from the Maryland campus, in surrounding communities, across the nation, or around the world. To learn more visit, http://www.scholarships.umd.edu/leadershipgrant.php


EMERGENCY NUMBERS: 911 from any phone, 301-405-3333 or #3333 (from mobile device)
UMDPS WEBSITE: www.umdps.umd.edu
UMD ALERTS: Register for emergency text alerts and crime warning emails at alert.umd.edu.

Happy New Year! We hope you enjoyed your holiday break. With the cold weather, we are dreaming about the start of spring and all the planning and preparation for the season. The UMD Garden Potluck invites all students who may be interested in volunteering or serving as a leader with UMD Garden clubs/organizations (Public Health Garden, Rooftop Gardens, etc)

When: Wed Jan 30, 11 am - 1 pm
Where: Arboretum Outreach Center (Apiary Building)
What: Semester Kick-Off and Potluck Lunch

IAA Directory

Glori Hynan, Director
Carole Dinges, Business Services Specialist
Ken Ingram, Landscape & Hort Coordinator
Ray Gless, Agricultural Business Management
Mike Grady, Business Law
Nina LaTassa, Oral Communications
Kevin Mathias, Golf & Turf Coordinator
Tony Pagnotti, Oral Communications
Ed Priola, Oral Communications
Dave Myers, Extension Educator
Ellen Polishuk, Sustainable Ag Coordinator
Diana Velasquez-munoz, Student Services
Roy Walls, Instructor & Coordinator of Computer