Meeting with a student to discuss his grades, I inquired how he was doing in Business Law. “I’ve got a B in that class, knock on wood.” We use the expression “knock on wood” all the time so as not to tempt fate, hoping that a good thing will continue to occur even after we’ve boasted about it.

It’s a strange saying, though, and I wondered how it came to be. While I discovered several different origins, the derivation I liked most is associated with trees and the good spirits housed within. In old English folklore, people would go into the forest and knock on trees to wake up the spirits. Once awakened, these good spirits would go to work to produce favorable outcomes to requests.

I, along with our resident arborist Ken Ingram, like trees, so being able to tie the English language to trees and IAA courses is a true delight for me, especially in April when we celebrate Arbor Day. National Arbor Day is observed on the last Friday of April, and Maryland’s Arbor Day is the first Wednesday of the month. Campus will celebrate Maryland Arbor Day with a ceremonial tree planting on Wednesday, April 3. The University is one of only 25 universities and colleges to receive Tree Campus USA recognition.

Over 70 years ago Maryland designated the white oak (Quercus alba, for you Woodies students) as the official state tree. Ken and his students have been growing oak saplings in the greenhouse this semester and will be giving them away during Maryland Day on April 27. Some white oaks have been known to live for over 600 years, so give your mom one for Mother’s Day and let her know that many generations of future grandchildren will be able to enjoy the tree.

While on the subject of celebrations, April brings baseball. I hope everyone enjoyed a hot dog during Ray’s spring training study session. Next up is a PGMS tailgate party before the Maryland baseball game on Friday, April 12.

Knock on wood—we will have good weather for all our April events. And knock on wood that all of you will make the spring Dean’s List.
On Tuesday, April 30, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., the IAA will host an Open House for prospective students and their families.

IAA students are asked to help during the Open House. If you are available at 9:30 a.m. or between 10:30 and 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 30th and would like to greet our visitors and answer questions about student life at UMD as an IAA student, please see Diana Velasquez-munoz in 2123A Jull Hall.

If you have any friends, family or co-workers who are interested in attending the IAA and would like to visit, please stop by Diana’s office (Jull 2123A) to pick up an invitation, directions and schedule of events. Reservations are required.

Maryland Day student volunteers needed

This April 27, the University of Maryland will be hosting Maryland Day, UMD’s large scale Open House. The IAA will be putting together a couple of fun exhibits for visitors. One includes a bug race competition.

All Majors wanted! If you can volunteer an hour or more of your time to help let us know! To sign up as a volunteer email Diana Velasquez-munoz or sign up at the “Get Involved” Bulletin Board located on the second floor of Jull Hall.

To learn more about Maryland Day visit: marylandday.umd.edu

Shields Memorial Volunteers Needed

On Friday, May 10, the Shields Family will be hosting the Annual Shields Memorial Golf Tournament to raise funds for turf and golf scholarships.

Golf and Turf students are needed to help with golf course set up, greens and any other capacities. Interested students should email Dr. Mathias or sign up on the Bulletin Board located on the second floor of Jull Hall.

Register for Fall 2013

Classes fill up fast! Please be sure to register for your Fall 2013 courses. You will need to meet with your advisor and obtain an electronic stamp for registration approval. Do not wait until the last minute. If you have deficiency grades, you will need to meet with Glori first.

Dropping with a “W”

If you plan to drop a class, you must do so by Wednesday, April 10. If you drop by this date, you will receive a “W.” Check with your instructor and advisor before dropping a class.

Course Evaluations

Course EvalUM will open for student submissions April 23 and close on May 10 at 11:59 p.m. Please take a few minutes to provide feedback to your instructors.

Important Academic Info

Institute Items, the IAA’s informal monthly bulletin, provides information on IAA activities, announcements and deadlines. Visit the IAA website at http://iaa.umd.edu

Glori D. Hyman
Director
Diana Velasquez-munoz
Editor

UMD Garden News!

The UMD Garden Club needs your help! The club has set its Spring 2013 garden hours and is seeking volunteers. This is a great learning and leadership opportunity. The Public Health Garden is located between the Eppley Recreational Building and the Public Health Garden Building. To volunteer or be part of the club, simply show up during garden hours.

Spring 2013 Garden Hours:
Tuesday: 10:00-11:00 a.m.
Thursday: 3:30-5:00 p.m.
Friday 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Alumni Awards Dinner

If you are graduating this May, you will soon be an AGNR Alumni, so mark your calendar and plan to join us at the 46th annual AGNR Alumni Reunion and Awards program on Tuesday, April 16, at the Samuel Riggs IV Alumni Center, College Park.

The social hour and silent auction begin at 5:30 p.m. and dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. followed by the awards and recognition program. Silent auction proceeds help support AGNR student clubs/organizations and scholarships.

All August and December 2012 graduates and May 2013 candidates for graduation will be invited as guests of the AGNR Alumni Chapter and Dean Wei. You will be receiving a formal invitation in the mail.

More Scholarships

Maryland Nursery & Landscape Association Scholarship

The Maryland Nursery and Landscape Association (MNLA) announced their 2013 scholarship for students pursuing Horticulture and Landscape Management. May 1 deadline. Click here to access the application in PDF format.

Carville M. Akehurst Scholarship

MNLA also offers the Carville A. Akehurst Memorial Scholarship for students pursuing a Horticulture related major. May 31 deadline. Click here to learn more and download the application.

Sidney B. Meadows Scholarship

The Sidney B. Meadows Scholarship Endowment Fund was created in 1989 by the Southern Nursery Association to aid students from sixteen southeastern states seeking a career in horticulture. May 31 deadline. Click here to learn more and download application form.

The Maryland Grain Producers Scholarship

The Maryland Grain Producers Association will be offering eight scholarships to deserving students in the state of Maryland. June 1 deadline. Click here to view scholarship information.

AT&T National Volunteers needed

The 2013 AT&T National will be hosted at Congressional Country Club from June 23-June 30. The club is in need of volunteers. This is a great opportunity for networking and the field experience. Interested students should submit the volunteer form to Bonnie White as soon as possible.

Click here to download the volunteer application and view more details.

Financial Aid Tips for next year

If you applied for financial aid and completed your 2013-2014 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), be sure to:

- Double check all your submitted income related information. If you submitted estimates, return to your FAFSA and submit corrections.
- Contact the Office of Student Financial Aid and check your UMD Financial Aid status via Testudo.
- If you have been awarded a scholarship for the next academic school year, submit your award letter to the office of student financial aid so it may be processed in a timely matter. Also, make a copy for your records.
- Do not wait until the last minute to submit additional paperwork.

Seibel Scholarship

The Seibel Scholarship deadline is approaching! Have you applied yet?

This $1,000 scholarship, established by the family and friends of Dr. Seibel in recognition of his 26 years of service as Director of the Institute of Applied Agriculture at the University of Maryland, will be awarded to a student enrolled in a Maryland college agricultural program during the school year 2013-2014. Preference will be given to Maryland residents with an FFA background enrolled in the Institute of Applied Agriculture. Other eligible applicants are those attending a community college or four year institution leading to a degree in agriculture education.

Click here to apply.
Registration & Internship Information

Preregistration for Fall 2013 for IAA students has begun. To take advantage of the early registration, make sure you are eligible to register.

1. You should have already received an email concerning registration. The email will refer you to MyUM website (www.my.umd.edu) where you can get your registration date and information on any blocks you may have. Clear any debts you have with the university.

2. If you are blocked for immunization, you MUST go to the Campus Health Center to comply with the immunization requirements. The Health Center will remove the block once all requirements are met. Immunization forms were included in your Orientation packets. If you need additional forms, they are available online at www.health.umd.edu/sites/default/files/ImmunizationRecordForm.pdf

3. If you are blocked for financial reasons, you MUST go to the Bursar’s Office, Room 1135 in the Lee Building, to obtain clearance PRIOR to registration.

4. If you are earning a “D” or “F” in any course you must meet with Glori Hyman about your academic performance.

5. Meet with your advisor. Note that the “published” appointment schedule referenced in an email from the Registrar for advising does not apply to IAA advisors. You must contact your advisor directly to make an appointment. Your advisor will give you an electronic stamp after you meet so you will be able to register.

6. Students will be emailed their bill after early registration is completed.

The Fall 2013 schedule of classes are listed on Testudo. You will need to consult with your advisor; and while meeting with your advisor you may want to discuss your summer internships.

All students who graduate from the IAA must complete an internship at an approved site. The internship is divided into two separate courses, INAG 299A Internship I and INAG 299B Internship II. Internship I is the “work” component of the requirement, and summer is the usual time to complete INAG 299A.

If you sign up for INAG 299A this summer, you should register for INAG 299B this fall. Internship II is the report component of the series.

Summer Internships/Advisors

Remember to register for your summer internship for summer session II. Please see your Advisor. Find your section below:

Golf Course/Turfgrass/ Sports Turf: INAG 299A
Section I201
Agricultural Business Management: INAG 299A
Section I202
Landscape/Ornamental Horticulture: INAG 299A
Section I203 (Ken Ingram)

Final Exam Schedule

Please log in to your MyUM website to access your final exam schedule for the Spring 2013 semester and plan accordingly.

You may access MyUM via Testudo here or visit the MyUM site here.

PGMS News

April DC-PGMS Meeting
Thursday, April 4
Location: Catholic University
Washington, D.C.
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Sponsors: Turf & Dirt, Arbor Care Tree Specialists, and Aquarius Supply.

Tailgate Party
Friday, April 12

On Friday, April 12, we will be hosting a PGMS Tailgate meeting a la BBQ.

This is a yearly tradition that allows PGMS members to network with you while also enjoying fresh made burgers, and the other wonderful dishes. At the end of the BBQ attendees will be going together to watch a game of baseball. All IAA students are welcome to attend.

Interested in attending? We will start at 5:00 p.m. Reserve your spot today. Click here to RSVP for the Tailgate.