November 10-14 was “World Kindness Week,” and many pundits and bloggers were advocating for people to practice random acts of kindness during the week. Wouldn’t the world be a better place if no one practiced random acts of kindness? Huh? You read that right. No random acts of kindness.

Rather everyone should practice deliberate, purposeful kindnesses every day. Whoa! That could get expensive if we were to buy donuts for the office, send flowers to strangers, or treat our friends to lunch every day. That’s true, but I’m thinking of kindnesses that cost not a cent.

I set out to come up with a list of 25 cost-free kindnesses that IAA students could practice on a regular basis.

Here’s my list:

1. Practice good manners.
2. Clean up after yourself in the classroom, conference room and computer room.
3. Smile and say hello to others on campus.
4. Recycle.
5. Straighten the classroom and erase the board.
6. Form and/or participate in a study group.
7. See trash lying around? Pick it up and put it in a trash can.
8. Straighten the computer room and fill the printer with paper.
9. Share your class notes with a classmate who was absent.
10. Now that darkness comes earlier, walk someone to his/her car or dorm.
11. Volunteer—even if you don’t receive extra credit.
12. Thank your instructor for a good lesson, lecture, or lab.
13. Thank a friend, co-worker, roommate, or boss for anything.
15. Compliment a friend on a job well done.
17. Scrape the ice off the windshield of the car parked next to yours.
18. Allow a car to merge in front of you in traffic.
19. Be positive for an entire day, even while sitting in class. No complaining or negative comments.
20. Take time to give directions to a campus visitor who is lost.
21. Be on time and prepared for class. And put your phone away.
22. Silence the noise to allow others to study.
23. Found a useful idea, app, or website? Share it with your classmates and instructor.
24. Snap a cool shot of a classmate working on a lab project and send it to him/her.
25. Accompany a friend to an event, even if you don’t want to go.

I’m sure you can come up with more, and I welcome your ideas. Whether you choose to deliberately practice some of the suggestions I’ve listed above or create your own, kindness is a vital part of an engaged learning community. As we prepare for exams, it’s important to create the best possible environment to foster success.

Speaking of exams, environment and encouragement, please stop by the ER (exam relief) Room on Tuesday and Wednesday during exams for a treat and a mental break.

Thank you to everyone for a wonderful semester. The IAA faculty and staff wish you best of luck on exams and a happy, healthy, safe holiday season.
There are numerous events taking place over winter break!

See the calendar to the left and contact the appropriate advisor to attend.

December 6
TEDx University of Maryland

December 7-9
Maryland Farm Bureau Convention

December 12
Last day of classes

December 15-20
Final exams

December 16-17
Exam relief in the conference room! Stop by for treats!

December 25-January 1
Offices Closed

January 5-6
Turfgrass conference contact
Dr. Mathias if you want to attend
jkm@umd.edu

January 14-16
Mid-Atlantic Nursery Trade Show contact
Ken Ingram if you want to attend
kingram@umd.edu

January 15-17
Sports Turf Managers Association competition in Denver, CO

January 15-17
Future Harvest at UMUC contact
Meredith Epstein if you want to attend
mbepste@umd.edu

January 21
New Student Orientation

January 21-22
Food Tank at GWU contact

January 26
First day of the Spring semester

February 10
IAA Leadership Workshop at 1 p.m.
Things to remember as we end the semester...

1. Register for spring 2015 classes and clear any any blocks.

2. The final exam schedule is posted online at:
   http://www.registrar.umd.edu/current/registration/exam.html

3. Complete your course evaluations.

4. Final grades will not be mailed, students will need to login to Testudo to see grades.

5. Congratulations to our December graduates! Good luck!

Tim Burkhart
Brian Dearstine
Jesse Deitsch
Nick Harmer
Brian Hogan
Collin Plumley

UMD Snow Policy
Weather alerts and weather-related schedule updates will be announced on the University of Maryland homepage and the “snow phone line” (301.405.SNOW (7669), and reported to local radio and television stations.

Read more here: http://www.umd.edu/emergencypreparedness/weather_emer/
GOOD LUCK

to Dr. Mathias and the students competing in the Sports Turf Managers Association competition in Denver, Colorado Jan. 13-16.

This year’s competitors are Brian Hogan, Ryan Higgins, Jamie Franck and Scott Hebert.

THANK YOU

to Meredith Epstein, Roy Walls and Ken Ingram for organizing an outstanding learning opportunity for local 4-H members to explore the science of agriculture.

CONGRATULATIONS

to the second year students for winning the IAA’s Annual Turkey Bowl! Thank you to all who participated in the campus food drive as well.
HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2014

THE FIRST 3 PEOPLE TO EMAIL CLORENZ@UMD.EDU WITH THE CORRECT ANSWERS WILL RECEIVE AN IAA MUG!