They finally did it! The beavers. They felled the tree.

Since September, I had been watching the beaver’s progress as I walked along the Gunpowder River. I never actually witnessed a beaver chomping on the trunk, but I saw the evidence in the growing pile of wood chips and the dwindling tree circumference.

One day in early December, the tree seemed ready to fall; it was precariously balanced on a wood sliver that resembled chopstick more than a tree trunk. So I thought I'd help those nocturnal little buggers by pushing over the tree. Ok, yes, I admit it, I was curious and a little impatient with the beaver’s slow progress, but I thought it would help the beavers, too. I pushed on the tree and although the core holding the tree upright was not more than two inches in diameter, the tree would not budge. It did not topple like I had expected. Heck, the tree didn’t even sway. Instead of gaining the satisfaction of yelling “TIMBER,” I acquired a husband laughing hysterically at my feeble effort to help the river rodents. And that’s the way it should be.

The beavers needed to finish the job at their own pace. Could you imagine working diligently on a project for four months, then some big lug comes along, claims to finish the job, takes the credit, and is proud of herself for helping you? That would be terrible. The industrious beavers didn’t need or want my help. They were just fine on their own. After all, they are busy beavers.

We’ve been busy around the IAA, too, welcoming our new students, organizing classes, formulating our strategic plan and preparing winning teams for the Sports Turf and Turf Bowl competitions. And now that the semester has begun, it’s time for you to start your projects, look for internships, apply for scholarships, study for exams, and—well—become busy as beavers.

Welcome back and enjoy your semester. I look forward to watching your progress for the next four months.

At the ‘tute

Alane D. Hyman
GRADUATION APPLICATIONS
If you plan on graduating this spring, you must submit your application by February 3, 2015.

Applications can be found on the IAA Website:
http://iaa.umd.edu/current-students/graduation-information

SUMMER INTERNSHIPS
Internship opportunities are being posted. Pay attention to deadlines and watch your email and the GYST to find out about internships.

Internships and jobs are also posted on the IAA website.

http://iaa.umd.edu/resources/opportunities

SCHOLARSHIPS
There are numerous scholarship deadlines coming approaching in the next few months!

Watch your email and read the GYST to find out about scholarship opportunities.

Visit the IAA website for more scholarships.
http://iaa.umd.edu/prospective-students/scholarships

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.

http://www.umd.edu/emergencypreparedness/weather_emer/

PARTICIPATE IN RECYCLEMANIA
RecycleMania is an annual competition between hundreds of colleges and universities in the United States and Canada. Recycle all of your paper, cardboard, cans, bottles, and food service organics! Waste less! Recycle more!
For more info, please visit Recyclemania.umd.edu or our Facebook page: facbook.com/terpsrecycle.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

February 1
RecycleMania begins!

February 3
Graduation Applications Are Due!

February 4
Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents Educational Conference

February 5
PGMS, DC Branch Meeting at Bartlett Tree Experts in Gaithersburg. Free event, transportation provided, leave Jull Hall at 5 p.m.

February 12
Mid Atlantic Women in Agriculture Conference in Denton, Delaware

February 13
Valentine’s Day plant give away at Jull Hall. Volunteers needed!  See Ken Ingram.

Mid-Atlantic Women in Agriculture Conference in Denton, Delaware

February 15
FAFSA Deadline

February 23-26
GCSAA Collegiate Turf Bowl

March 10
Ag Leadership Workshop 1:30-4:30

March 11
Internship Workshop 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Jull 2123

APPLY FOR FAFSA
The IAA is looking for students, alumni, faculty and supporters to show their SWAG! Use #IAASWAG when you post photos on social media to show the diverse areas of study and career options that the IAA offers its students.

A series of events will follow this launch, so stay tuned!

JOIN THE GARDEN CLUB
The garden club is a great way to meet people and gain gardening experience.

Work days for the spring semester are to be announced. Contact Meredith Epstein for more information!

LOOKING FOR HOUSING?
Alpha Gamma Rho is accepting new members and there is currently space to live in the house!
If interested, contact Joe Crank: jcrank1@terpmail.umd.edu or 443-235-8341
http://www.marylandagr.com/

JOIN THE IAA’S NEW FOOD CLUB
Join the IAA’s New Food Club!
At the IAA, we are agriculture. We are farmers, gardeners, athletes, technicians, teachers, and business managers. And we all have to eat! Join the IAA’s newest club, where we will break bread together and get personal with food. From restaurant outings to cooking classes to special tours, let’s get to know each other and the food we share.

Meet on Tuesday, February 3rd at 2:00 PM in the Jull Hall conference room if you have an interest in joining the food club.
At the meeting we will:
• Choose a club name
• Elect club leaders
• Set a meeting schedule for the spring semester
• Brainstorm ideas for club activities

WELCOME, NEW STUDENTS!
Meg Smolinski, Ian Fisher, Sarah Chesney, James Rainard, Jonathan Hollingsworth, Adam Killian, Jacob Kilmon and Tyler Barnhart!
CONGRATS, STMA!
We’d like to give a HUGE CONGRATULATIONS to our students who competed in the Sports Turf Manager’s Association Collegiate Turf Bowl over the break! They won 1st place for the third year in a row!

From left to right are Alex Steinmen, Brian Hogan, Scott Hebert, Ryan Higgins, and Dr. Mathias. Go Terps!

GOOD LUCK, GCSAA TURF BOWL TEAM!
Dr. Mathias’ students are at it again! The team will be competing in the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Collegiate Turf Bowl in San Antonio, Texas!

The event is February 23-26 and you can score us spirit points by cheering them on through social media! Just use the hashtag below.

#UMD_TurfBowl

IAA INSTRUCTORS RECEIVE MVP AWARDS
Each year, Maryland student athletes nominate their Most Valuable Professors (MVP’s).

Dr. JoEllen Barnhart (left) was recognized in the fall by the women’s field hockey team as “an outstanding professor at the University of Maryland.” And, Ms. Amy Fisher (right) earned the same recognition from the Maryland Wrestling team at its match on Sunday, January 25 against Ohio State.