Have you heard the phrase “teamwork makes the dream work”? I can attest to its truth. The phrase comes from the title of a 2002 book by John Maxwell. While I haven’t read the book, I have witnessed the results of first-rate teamwork.

Sports enthusiasts would agree that it takes a well-trained team working together to win a Super Bowl Championship, World Series, or NBA title, but I’m not talking about athletic teams. I’m referring to work teams. Whoa! I just heard a collective groan from all the students reading this right now.

Many of you have had group projects in your classes and for some of you the experience was positive while others would rather hand cut a 2-acre lawn with a pair of scissors than participate in another group project. However, teamwork is important because it is the foundation for productive companies. Note that I said teamwork, which is not the same thing as being a member of a team. Teamwork creates a synergy that empowers us to accomplish so much more than we can do single handedly. When everyone pulls together, great things are accomplished.

Granted, assembling competent, responsible, creative teams can be challenging. Successful teams must delegate power, determine strengths, and develop accountability as they work toward a common goal. And, I’m proud to say the IAA has demonstrated some pretty good teamwork this month. Under the leadership of Tony Pagnotti, we launched our inaugural “Impromptu in the Garden,” a fun public speaking event in the IAA’s Teaching Garden. Nearly every IAA faculty and staff member pitched in to help! The sense of achievement and camaraderie was fantastic. The same can be said for Maryland Day—another display of teamwork at its best. I hope all of you were able to enjoy it.

I also hope that when you graduate, you are fortunate enough to find a workplace like the IAA that recognizes and supports teamwork. It really does make the dream work.

Good luck on your final exams (which, by the way, are still an individual endeavor 😊).

Alisa D. Hyman
We know you’ve spent the winter scheming, planning, and preparing for the upcoming growing season, spending endless hours staring at spreadsheets. Now that you’ve read your seed catalogs cover to cover, it’s time to get outside and grow some food! You have lots of ideas about how to make this the best season yet, and the folks at Wheatland Vegetable Farm, Potomac Vegetable Farms, and Moutoux Orchard are here to help, with a day-long skills refresher to get you started off right.

**Topics include:**
* Tractor maintenance 101
* Your workshop: tools you need and how to use them
* Vegetable implement repair, maintenance...and when to call the experts. For implements such as discs, tillers, mowers, and cultivators
* Irrigation set up and troubleshooting
* Basic carpentry and on-farm projects such as framing, pole buildings, trusses, and shed-roofs
* Basic electrical work

**What:** Farm Skills Workshop

**When:** Thursday, May 7, 2015 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Where:** Purcellville, VA

**Cost:** $30 for FHCASA members and $60 for non-members

**RSVP on the Future Harvest website!**

http://www.futureharvestcasa.org/
Graduation is Approaching!

Graduation packets have been mailed to the home addresses we have on file. If you plan to graduate this spring and did not receive your packet, please see Carole (Jull 2123) immediately, or call her at 301-405-4685.

Graduation ceremonies will be held Friday, May 22 at 4 p.m. in the Reckord Armory. An IAA graduation ceremony will be held at the UMD Golf Course at 12:30 p.m.

A professional photographer will be taking each student’s graduation pictures and these will be offered shortly after commencement. If you have any questions or special needs, you should contact Carole.

Congressations, Graduates!

Timothy Burkhart
Golf Course Management

Jesse Dietsch
Sports Turf Management

Jacob Reeves
Golf Course Management

Brian Dearstine
Golf Course Management

Nicholas Harmer
General Ornamental Horticulture

Brian Hogan
Golf Course Management

Collin Plumley
Landscape Management

Internships

Your completed and signed Internship Agreement is due to your advisor by May 8.

Sign up for Summer Session 2

• Golf Course, Turfgrass, Sports Turf majors register for INAG 299A Section I201 (Mathias)

• Agricultural Business Management register for INAG 299A Section I202 (Epstein)

• Landscape, Ornamental Hort majors register for INAG 299A Section I203 (Ingram)

See your advisor if you have questions.

Exam Relief Room

As we end the spring semester and prepare for finals week, the IAA faculty and staff will like to help you survive the brain drain of finals. We will be providing snacks and brain food 2 days during finals week, May 18-19.

Stop by the conference room and help yourself.

As always, we wish you the best of luck on finals!

Course Evaluations

The CourseEvalUM system is now open for you to complete evaluations of your courses until May 14. For more information go to (www.CourseEvalUM.umd.edu)

Spring Open House

On Monday, May 4, from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., the IAA will host an Open House for prospective students and their families. Please welcome your prospective classmates to campus and assist them by answering any questions or providing directions.

IAA students are asked to help during the Open House. If you are available at 9:30 a.m. or between 10:15 and 10:45 p.m. on Monday the 4th and would like to greet our visitors and answer questions about student life at the IAA, please see Christina Lorenz in Jull 2123.

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

Reservations are required and can be made online.

Tips For Success

√ Keep up with your classes, go to class on time, turn your assignments in on time and try not to miss any classes.

√ Keep yourself organized with a calendar and make note of due dates and assignments.

√ Be respectful of your instructors. Sending text messages in class is NOT acceptable.

√ Clean up after yourself in the computer lab and conference room.

Reminders

Exam Relief Room

Stop by the conference room and help yourself.

Tips For Success

√ Keep up with your classes, go to class on time, turn your assignments in on time and try not to miss any classes.

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√ Be respectful of your instructors. Sending text messages in class is NOT acceptable.

√ Clean up after yourself in the computer lab and conference room.
Impromptu in the Garden

On Tuesday, April 21, the IAA hosted its first Impromptu in the Garden, an event that celebrated the University of Maryland’s Fearless Ideas theme and our fearless students taking INAG 110: Oral Communication. Fearlessness is nothing new for IAA faculty and students. As we like to say in IAA, “We take the fear out of public speaking.” So it was no surprise that the event sponsored by Colonial Farm Credit yielded a dozen contestants. Thank you to everyone who participated.

Check out the highlights on our youtube channel: youtube.com/user/IAAumd

AGNR Alumni Awards Banquet

Brian Hogan, a Golf Course Management major, was honored as the Outstanding IAA Student on April 16 at the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Alumni Chapter Awards Celebration.

The Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents received the Circle of Friends Award from the University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resource Alumni Association. IAA Alumni Mike Barrett (Golf Course Management 1995), MAAGCS Past President, accepted the award at the AGNR Alumni Banquet on April 16.

Maryland Day was a hit!

Have you ever watched lady beetles munch greedily on aphids? Or witnessed Bess Bugs scurrying on spindly legs in a battle for the Maryland Day gold? Hundreds of Fearless Gardeners did this year’s 16th annual Maryland Day. Moms, dads, students, and toddlers giggled, screamed and cheered as IAA faculty and students set up the much-loved Bess Bug races. In addition, we gave away thousands of herb plants grown by Ken Ingram and his students in the UMD greenhouses. We also had a separate booth to provide visitors with information about agriculture.

Thank you to the students who helped with Maryland Day: Bob Borkowski, Karlene Long and Holly Bowen.