Welcome to the ‘tute! This may be the most exciting start to an academic year that we’ve had at the IAA in 25 years. Why? In addition to welcoming two dozen new students, we are greeting five new faculty members and a new student services coordinator. Thirty new personalities bring an exhilarating energy to Jull Hall that will create strong learning communities and lead to academic success. I can’t wait to see education in action this fall.

That’s not to say learning ceased over the summer. Education in action abounded this summer from Alaska to Virginia as IAA students completed their internships. And, we’re ‘tuting their horns in the IAA’s Internship Photo Contest. Go to the IAA facebook page to vote for your favorite photo. The winner receives a $100 scholarship and a free lunch. Voting ends on September 15, so vote now—or finish reading this column; then click and vote.

The first two weeks are filled with many opportunities for you to meet new people and learn about campus. Most importantly, go to class—everyday.

Meet and get to know your instructors and classmates. Volunteer at the IAA “Green Dorm” plant give-away on September 5. Stay for the welcome back picnic. Go to AGNR’s Fall Bash and check out the First Look Fair.

The excitement doesn’t end there. The IAA has a reputation to uphold in the world of turfgrass. As you may know, we won two first-place titles in 2014 national competitions. We want a repeat in 2015. Dr. Mathias begins preparing the teams in the fall for the winter turf wars. Go Terps!

Yes, there’s a lot going on. Stay informed by reading our newsletters and emails, checking the IAA webpage and facebook page, and viewing the monitor screen in the student computer room (2109 Jull Hall). And as always, please stop in for a visit.

Cheers to a new year!

Alana D. Hyman
**TOP 10 REASONS TO JOIN STUDENT GROUPS IN COLLEGE**

**September 1**
- Campus closed: Labor Day Holiday

**September 2**
- First day of classes
- Late registration begins
- Voting opens for the Internship Photo Contest on Facebook

**September 4**
- PGMS- Branch meeting at 6 p.m.

**September 5**
- Plant give away in front of Jull Hall 1-4 p.m.
- Welcome Back Student Picnic in front of Jull Hall 4-6 p.m.
- IAA graduation applications due

**September 15**
- Last Day of schedule adjustments for Fall
- Votes close at 9 a.m. for the Internship Photo Contest on Facebook

**September 17**
- Fall Bash 4-6 p.m. ANSC Courtyard
- First Look Fair at the McKeldin Mall

**September 18**
- First Look Fair at the McKeldin Mall

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**Extra Curricular:** They look great on applications/resumes.

**Networking:** You will have the opportunity to meet and network with other people with similar interests.

**Promote Awareness:** They help promote education and awareness about the field/subject.

**Assistance:** They give you the opportunity to give or receive assistance in classes in the fields that you study.

**Volunteer:** For philanthropic reasons.

**Brotherhood/Sisterhood:** Being a member automatically gives you a feeling of closeness to other members, you share something that other people are not a part of.

**Enrichment:** Being part of a student ran club or organization is an enriching experience. You owe it to yourself to at least try them out.

**Exposure:** They expose you to real life experiences in the fields/subjects you are interested in.

**Growth:** Members in clubs/organizations will be encouraging and supportive of your personal growth.

**Social:** They are a great way to meet great people and have a lot of fun.

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** THERE ARE OVER 800 STUDENT GROUPS ON CAMPUS!**

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**GET INVOLVED**

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**Picture of a campus scene**
Join the student chapter of PGMS (Professional Grounds Management Society). For more information, attend one or all events listed below, or see the club advisor, Ken Ingram in Jull 2114.

**Sept. 4, 2014**
PGMS DC Branch Meeting
Ruppert Nursery
Gaithersburg, MD
Sponsor: Bartlett Tree Service

**Oct. 2, 2014**
PGMS DC Branch Meeting
UM Paint Branch Turfgrass Research Facility Site Tour/Talk Ken Ingram
College Park, MD

**Nov. 6, 2014**
PGMS DC Branch Meeting
Gaithersburg Equipment Tour/Talk and Branch Elections

**Garden Club**
All students welcome!
For more information contact Meredith Epstein at:
mbepste@umd.edu

Don’t forget like the UMD Public Health Garden on Facebook!

**Professional Grounds Management Society**

**Alpha Gamma Rho** is a professional and social agricultural fraternity.
www.marylandagr.com

Sigma Alpha Sorority is a professional agricultural sorority comprised of a group of women sharing the same interests in agriculture.
www.sigmaalphaumd.org/recruitment

**Don’t miss the First Look Fair, September 17 & 18!**
The festive atmosphere is the perfect place to gather resources, learn more about how to get involved, and connect with other students with similar interests.

For more information on agricultural clubs and organizations:
http://agnr.umd.edu/students/clubs-and-organizations
MEET OUR NEW FACULTY & STAFF

The IAA welcomed 5 new Oral Communications Lecturers and a new Student Services Coordinator to the team this summer!

Stop by their offices in Jull Hall to introduce yourself and say “hello”.

Read their biographies at:
https://iaa.umd.edu/about/faculty-staff
Sign-Up for UMD Alerts!
A notification system that allows the University of Maryland to inform students, faculty and staff of emergencies or other timely information that affects the campus. This system sends messages to your email (associated with your UMD registration) and a registered mobile device. UMD students, faculty and staff are automatically registered through your campus-assigned email address. Please take the time to add a mobile device to your profile. You may access the system by visiting alert.umd.edu.

Student Health Insurance
The University Health Center is required to ensure that students have access to health insurance. All newly admitted freshmen and transfer students are mandated to have health insurance.

Students who do not complete a waiver indicating coverage by another plan, will be automatically enrolled and billed for the United Healthcare insurance policy. For more information, go to: www.firststudent.com

Internship Photo Contest
Voting Open!
Don’t forget to vote for your favorite photo in Internship Photo Contest on Facebook!

Take Advantage of the Computer Room
The IAA computer room located in Jull 2109 is open to IAA students Monday-Friday. Please see Carole Dingess or an IAA faculty member for the key code to open the door.

Your Tuition Bill
Students will not receive a paper bill. To view and pay your bill, go to www.umd.edu/bursar and click on the red box. For more information call the bursar’s office at 301-314-9000.

UMD is a smoke-free campus.
Smoking on campus is prohibited.

To learn more about the policy, visit: uhr.umd.edu/smokefree/

Read The Weekly GYST
Every Monday, you will receive an email reminder of the weekly deadlines and important events.

Fall ELMS Support hours are Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. You may also visit elms.umd.edu to access online help and support.

Don’t forget to vote for your favorite photo in Internship Photo Contest on Facebook!