Notes from 1202 Symons

by Dan Kugler

Newsl ine September 2013 (nearly in Tweets)

First, a 'shout out' to everyone in UME for your service to and at county fairs and the State Fair. Simply awesome and so appreciated.

Look in this Newsline for Patsy Ezell’s article about the CV briefing scheduled for Admin Monday, October 28, 2013.

On Admin Monday August 26 Jeff Howard presented an excellent update on the IEPs and how they tie-in to the UME Strategic Plan, Impact Areas and Teams, etc. Look in UME Answers for the recording.

Remember to always brand with the formatted "University of Maryland Extension, Solutions in your community" logo. It is found on UME Answers. Then it's okay to co-brand.

At the State Fair, on behalf of UME administration, I had the winning bid for the Grand Champion broiler chicken at the livestock auction. Enjoyed a day with the robotics competition.

As of August 1, Andy Lazur is the acting Program Leader for Natural and Aquatic Resources (working title) and Dave Myers is the acting Program Leader for Agriculture Programs.

University of Maryland's FY 2013 Operating Budget is $1.736 billion. Largest three components are 27% from tuition & fees, 24% state appropriations, and 18% Federal grants & contracts.

The Agricultural Law Education Project is a collaboration among College Park, UMES, and UMB School of Law. Recently awarded second year funding by MPower, ALEP is prioritizing needs expressed by farmers and farm organizations.

The 2014-2019 Strategic Plan Steering Committee is nearing completion of the data gathering phase. Analyses begin in September which will lead to drafting the actual plan during winter.

The 2014 all-UME Conference is set on March 26-27 at Loews Hotel in Annapolis. Sonny Ramaswamy, NIFA's Director, has agreed to be featured in celebration of Smith-Lever’s 100th anniversary.

HILI, Health Insurance Literacy Initiative, is rapidly rolling up to help people make Smart Choices in selecting coverage, regardless of the providers, including upcoming Affordable Care Act options.

Look for a major revision of the UME Plan of Operations (PoO) to come your way soon for reaction and input. The current, 2009 PoO is on UME Answers. A vote will go out later this year.

September's Puzzler: A woman rides into town on Friday. She stays three nights and leaves on Friday. How can this be? Send your answer by email to dkugler@umd.edu. A fabulous prize awaits the winner.
New Issue of Journal of Extension (JOE) now available.

by Lacie Ashby, JOE Liaison


This issue has 35 great articles related to Diversity Inclusion in 4-H Programs, Effectiveness of Distance Education, Using Automated Blogging, Agroforestry, Using iPads for Data Collection, Seafood Safety, and many more.

I encourage you to check out these articles and the many other articles in this issue of the Journal of Extension (JOE).

The Journal of Extension (JOE) is the official refereed journal of the U.S. Cooperative Extension System. JOE expands and updates the research and knowledge base for Extension professionals and other adult educators to improve their effectiveness. JOE is written, reviewed, and edited by Extension professionals, sharing with their colleagues successful educational applications, original and applied research findings, scholarly opinions, educational resources, and challenges on issues of critical importance to Extension educators. For more information on JOE, visit http://www.joe.org/.

Have you marked your calendar yet?

UME Conference will be held on March 26-27, 2014 in Annapolis, MD.

Check out this Article by UME and School of Public Health faculty!

by Patsy A. Ezell

As a result of the work on the USDA Rural Health Grant, the following article was written, providing great information and insights for anyone considering utilizing clicker technology. It is published in the current issue of Journal of Extension at www.joe.org Using Clicker Technology with Rural, Low-Income Mothers: Collecting Sensitive Data Anonymously

Ginter, Amanda C.; Maring, Elisabeth F.; Paleg, Brad; Valluri, Swetha

As part of a multi-state, USDA-funded study on health message development, a group of family researchers, Extension faculty, and a learning technologist used audience-response systems, or "clickers," to display and record focus group participants' responses to questions. This article describes how the authors used clicker technology in focus group settings, clicker training for facilitators, and lessons learned. The clicker technique is useful to collect local and personal data anonymously in group settings for program evaluation purposes. Implications for future research and Extension education are discussed.

Http://www.joe.org/joe/2013august/a3.php

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EMPLOYEE NEWS

A BIG UME Welcome to:

Welcome to Kate Manchisi as new Faculty Research Assistant!

University of Maryland Extension welcomes Kate Manchisi to our ranks as the newest Family and Consumer Sciences Faculty Research Assistant! Kate will be working with us to provide continued leadership for our Healthy Homes programming, plus assist HealthSmart Impact Team members with other relevant programs and activities. Her appointment became official on August 12, 2013.

More specifically Kate will assume responsibility for coordination of HealthSmart Impact Team's Healthy Homes program for UME, including:

- Coordinate Healthy Homes training, educational materials, and resources
- Work with Extension Educators to develop and submit Healthy Homes-related journal articles as well as develop educational materials
- Provide support for the Healthy Homes website
- Support and enhance connections between the Healthy Homes program and Extension Educators' connections/local needs-Department of Family Science-Additional relevant UMD programs and departments-

Kate received her BS degree from Rochester Institute of Technology in Environmental Management; the MS from University of Rochester in Education, Teaching and Curriculum Design; and is ABD with the University of Delaware in Public Policy, expected to graduate in summer of 2014. Her dissertation topic will focus on evaluation of environmental health programming.

Kate resides in the Baltimore area, and is looking forward to continuing her work with UME after fulfilling a short term contract earlier this year.

Kate’s office is located in the School of Public Health in the Dept. of Family Science. She can be reached at manchisi@umd.edu or via her cell at 585-576-5532.

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Welcome to Kim Dixon as new 4-H Educator!

Kim Dixon kdixon12@umd.edu joined University of Maryland Extension as the 4-HYD Educator in the Northern Cluster on August 12th. Kim received her undergraduate degree in Zoology from the College of Life Sciences at the University of Maryland. She received her Master’s degree in Zoology with a concentration in Inquiry Education from Miami University of Ohio. Before joining Baltimore
County Essex Campus. Extension, Kim spent the last 7 years working as the education manager at the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore and taught Earth Science at the Community College of Baltimore County Essex campus.

She has a long history of volunteering on a local, state and national level. In her spare time, Kim can be found SCUBA diving, working with the Sports Car Club of America or hiding somewhere reading a good book.

Alliance for a Healthier Generation Recognizes Deborah Archer

by Dee Dee Allen

Deborah Archer, a project leader and nutrition educator with the University of Maryland Extension Food Supplement Nutrition Education (FSNE) program was selected as a Healthy Schools Program Ambassador by the Alliance for a Healthier Generation.

Founded by the American Heart Association and Clinton Foundation, the Alliance’s mission is to empower communities to make a difference in children’s health. Ambassadors serve as model experts on improving access to healthy foods and physical activity in the school community. Deborah was selected as one of nineteen advocates for school health and wellness to serve as representatives of the Healthy Schools Program to work collaboratively to decrease the prevalence of childhood obesity and chronic diseases.

Using multiple FSNE curricula, Ms. Archer has worked with hundreds of educators in Prince George’s County to integrate nutrition education into content areas. Over the past four years, thousands of students have learned about agriculture and gardening through her 10 FSNE sponsored school garden projects and Growing Healthy Habits curriculum. One of the after-school gardening clubs was recognized last year by Maryland’s Out of School Time Network (MOST) as one of the most effective in the state. With the use of health literacy instruction through storybooks and the debut of the ReFresh curriculum at her sites, the number of educators providing nutrition education instruction, healthy food tastings, and integrating physical activity into lessons is expected to increase during the 2013-14 school year.

Ms. Archer also serves as president-elect of Maryland Healthy Eating Active Lifestyle (MD-HEAL) Coalition. The current board will work in partnership to develop methods for all Marylanders to maintain or improve their health and wellness through healthy eating and engaging in physical activity.

News and updates from EFNEP

by Mira Mehta

The EFNEP program is very proud that Dr. Virginie Zoumenou, LN, RD., 1890 Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) & Family Consumer Science Program Leader, has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in the Department of Human Ecology at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. As a faculty member since 2006, she has received many awards that have resulted from her accomplishments in the classroom and in the field.

Dr. Zoumenou has been named the recipient of the prestigious 2013 Robert F. Allen Symbol of
**H.O.P.E. Award**, which is awarded annually by the American Journal of Health Promotion to an individual who makes outstanding contributions to serving the health promotion needs of underserved populations, or to promoting cultural diversity within health promotion. In addition, Winrock International has awarded her the **2012 President’s Volunteer Service Award**, the second of its kind, for her role in Ghana in 2012. Her work in Ghana involved the development of nutritional strategies for practical interventions to strengthen the contribution of the soybean value chain to better health and improve nutrition in the northern region of the country.

*by Denise Benoit Moctezuma*

It is "bittersweet" to announce that Ms. Constance Toh, *EFNEP Educator in Prince George’s County*, has accepted a new position as an eighth grade Biology teacher at Dwight D. Eisenhower Middle School in Laurel, Maryland (Prince George’s County Public Schools). Constance primarily worked with refugee and faith-based communities in the Riverdale/Hyattsville and surrounding areas of Prince George’s County during her tenure at UME.

Constance was a very effective and dedicated educator who generously reached out to her program participants, as well as co-workers. Although she will be missed, we are proud of her and wish her the very best in her new endeavors at Dwight D. Eisenhower Middle School.

**A farewell to Derrick Bender**

“Derrick Bender, CRED Educator in Western Maryland, has accepted a position with DuPont Pioneer. The change is effective as of September 16. Derrick would like to thank the UME family for their support. He has enjoyed his time with UME. Especially since accepting the CRED position in Western Maryland that allowed him to focus on energy research and education. Although somewhat saddened that he is leaving friends and a job he enjoys at UME, Derrick is excited about the career change.”

**Paying for College**

*by Jinhee Kim*

Starting college marks an exciting season of life, but paying for college education has become more difficult than before. The rising prices of tuition, board, and other expenses along with stagnant or declining household incomes have resulted in increased student loan borrowing. The role of grants has decreased as the current financial aid system relies on loans as a socially acceptable way to finance college.

Whereas 20% of all undergraduate students took out a loan in the 1992-1993 school-year, by 2011 60% of college graduates reported having borrowed to fund their education, with an average of $26,600 in student loan debt. The cost of public college education increased by 42% while average borrowing by full-time students increased by 49% in the past decade after being adjusted for inflation. In 2011, total student loan debt reached $1 trillion dollars. One piece of good news for borrowers came in August 2013, when Congress agreed to lower interest rates on certain subsidized federal loans from 6.8% to 3.86%. However, burdens of student loans are expected to grow in the future.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, a federal agency whose mission is to make consumer financial products and services work for Americans, provides an interactive web tool to help student loan borrowers compare options and make smart choices to pay for college.
The page recommends the following six steps for students and their parents:

(1) Research schools and apply for college (http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/).

(2) Filling out a FAFSA (http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/) is next step if you want to apply for federal and state financial aid. Many colleges and universities require the FAFSA. If you do not submit the FAFSA form, you may miss out on free money and reduced-rate loans for school. You want to do it even if you think you do not need it. Check the deadline and submit it early every year.

(3) The next step is choosing a student loan (http://www.consumerfinance.gov/paying-for-college/choose-a-student-loan/#01). Two-thirds of college graduates borrowed to fund their college education. Student loans can help you afford a college education and related expenses but these loans are expected to be repaid with interest. Search for grants and scholarships. When you exhaust these options as well as personal income/savings, family contributions, and other means of cutting expenses, you may need to obtain student loans. Federal loans are almost always less expensive than private loans, so take advantage of federal options first. Often grants and federal loans are not enough to cover the costs. However, private loans are expensive and offer less protection for consumers. Unlike other debts, student loans are very difficult to discharge if you get into financial trouble and seek bankruptcy. Talk to your financial aid office first. Private student loans are just like any other loans. Shop around for the best options and consider interest rates, flexibility, and other factors.

(4) The fourth step is to compare each school’s financial aid offers and costs. The Financial Aid Shopping Guide (http://collegecost.ed.gov/shopping_sheet.pdf) is one tool to help students and their parents understand risks, compare financial aid offers from schools based on their financial situations, and make wise choices. Financial aid offers generally include federal and non-federal options. Also find out how long it would take to pay off the debt.

(5) When you attend college, manage your money carefully. Be cautious about taking out additional loans.

(6) Repaying student debt is something you need to think about before you graduate from college. Know your repayment options. Failing to pay your student loan on time will cost you a lot of money and damage your credit.

College education is a valuable investment that provides economic and other important lifelong benefits. Planning and paying for college wisely is critical to the successful launch of adulthood.

Two new Drupal classes scheduled for this month.

by Patricia Ann Moore

We are pleased to announce 2 classes coming up this month for training in Drupal with Valerie Hoy.

See below for descriptions of the courses as well as the link to register.

Drupal Basics

This remote training session will cover the basics of contributing to AGNR's websites using our Drupal content management system. It is best suited for
those who have never attended a Drupal training before, or need a refresher course.

The first portion of the training (approximately 45 minutes) is an introduction to Drupal and the AGNR websites in general. In it, you will learn how to:
• Log in
• Edit existing content
• Decide which type of content is best for your needs
• Create new content
• Add links in menus
• Find and manage content you have created

After the first portion, the training will continue with a more in-depth look at some features that are unique to the Extension website. In this portion, you will learn about:
• Educational Articles and how to make the most of this unique type of content
• Sections (County Offices and Programs) and how to associate content with them

Presenter: Valerie Hoy
When: Sept. 17 2013 - 10:00am
Where: Online Webinar (More details to follow)

Using Webforms

AGNR's websites have the option to create Webforms. Webforms allow you to create custom forms to collect data from visitors. Common uses of Webforms include contact forms, registration forms, and surveys.

This training will go over the process of creating and collecting results of a Webform on AGNR's websites. In it, you will learn
• How to create a new Webform
• How to add fields
• How to decide what type of components (fields) to use
• How to make your Webform send emails

This training is geared toward advanced users who already have experience contributing to the AGNR websites.

Presenter: Valerie Hoy
When: Sept. 19 2013 - 10:00am
Where: Online Webinar (More details to follow)

https://agnrgroups.umd.edu/events/faculty-staff/using-webforms

2014 CV Workshop Set for Monday, October 28, 2013

by Patsy A. Ezell

Mark Monday, October 28 on your calendar NOW for this year’s CV Workshop. This session will be conducted live and in person at the Maryland 4-H Center for those who can attend in person. It will also be shared via Adobe Connect for those unable to make it to College Park. We also plan to record the session for future reference for us all.

The goal for this year’s CV Workshop is to provide the information and resources needed to support each faculty member in developing the strongest CV possible, one that truly reflects the quality and quantity of his/her work.

Please note that Oct. 28th is Admin Monday and following Dr. Kugler's update (9:00-10:00am) @ 10:00 am -12 Noon the CV workshop will be held at the MD-4-H Center

Here is a brief overview of this year’s CV workshop.
Strategies for constructing your CV using the most recent University Template as the foundation, with an additional section for your Major Extension programs. This workshop is designed for everyone who is required to submit an annual CV for AFR purposes. It is especially important for new faculty, experienced faculty serving as Mentors and/or serving on APT committees, and others who ever give advice or review CVs for other faculty. That means everyone needs to attend this session! If you have questions concerning the CV Workshop, please contact me at pezell@umd.edu

12:30pm-4:30 pm—Prepping for P & T Process workshop—all Educators on Tenure track, regardless of year should attend in person if at all possible. Please see Ben Beale's article also for additional information.

Promotion and Tenure workshop at the 4-H Center on October 28th from 12:30-4:30.

by Benjamin Beale

If you are a tenure track faculty member, you probably have a lot of questions about the P&T process and the preparation of your dossier. For example, “what qualifications are preferred for external reviewers?” or “how long is too long for my CV?” You will find answers to these and other common questions at the Promotion and Tenure Workshop.

Target Audience: Tenure-track faculty members at the agent level. Anyone who wants to learn more about the P&T process and current expectations is encouraged to attend.

Planned Topics:
- The P&T timeline
- Tips for preparing a successful package
- External reviewers
- Selecting sample scholarship pieces
- Planning for program impacts
- Your personal statement
- Peer and clientele evaluation data

Ground Breaking Health Insurance Literacy Review of Literature Published

by Bonnie Braun

Jinhee Kim, Bonnie Braun and graduate student, Andrew Williams, Department of Family Science, conducted a review of literature to support the new Smart Choice for Health Insurance curriculum. Smart Choice is a product of the Health Smart and Money Smart teams. This ground breaking article provides a research and curriculum baseline for current and future consumer education on health insurance. Understanding Health Insurance Literacy: A Literature Review was published in the September issue of the Family and Consumer Research Journal. It is available at:

Ask an Expert – How to Set your Location

by Ann LaVigna

When a question comes in from the Ask an Expert button on the UME website, it is routed to the best expert based on Location and Expertise.

This works best if Faculty and Staff keep the Location setting in their Ask an Expert profile up-to-date. Update yours here:

https://ask.extension.org/expert/settings/location

If it has been a while since you last signed in, you will be prompted to sign in first with a page that looks like this:

Then, you will be able to update your Location(s) with a page that looks like this:

You can specify that you would like to answer questions from one or several county locations, or you can specify the whole state as your location. Thank you for making the Ask an Expert system work smoothly in Maryland!

Contact Ann LaVigna at alavigna@umd.edu if you have questions about Ask an Expert.