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Issue Five
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Maryland Agriculture Teachers Association

From *The* Nest

A Letter From The President

Diane Herndon

What a hectic, stressful, challenging and rewarding time it's been to be an ag teacher these past couple months! The MATA Board has been working to secure funding to provide additional professional development/programming opportunities for all ag teachers in Maryland and we hope you'll take advantage of at least one, hopefully more! Included in the professional development/programming opportunities are:

- * Workshops with Dr. Roger Hanagriff on better utilizing AET as a teacher and implementation for students.
- * Workshops with Dr. Melissa Welsh from UMD on implementing AR/VR technology in the classroom, SAE visits and more, and
- * Workshops with Dr. Roger Cleveland on Inclusion, Equity and Diversity
- * Revamping and Implementing the Mentor program

Look for more information to be shared on the listserve in the coming months pertaining to these training sessions.

I've always considered myself a juggler in my teaching career, colleagues in my building asking "How do you do so much?" I think it's important that we all remember that the most important balls we're juggling are glass. Take the time to take care of yourself over the coming weeks and months as we prepare to transition from virtual (or maybe already have), to some type of hybrid teaching schedule.

Thanks, Diane



“

I dropped the ball a few times last week, but a peer told me **it's important to know what balls are glass and what balls are rubber.** That's the type of advice I needed to hear.

—
BREANNA DANIELLE

edutopia

Anne Arundel County Fair Includes FFA Again

The Anne Arundel County Fair started in 1952 with pigs, sheep, beef and dairy cattle, chickens, farm produce, home good, rides, games, and education exhibits. As you can see from the photo on the Anne Arundel County Fair website, they proudly had FFA exhibitors at the second fair in 1953. In the years since then FFA faded away in Anne Arundel County and with it the ability for FFA members to show their animals alongside 4-H members at the Fair.



Anne Arundel County FFA was rejuvenated with the Chapter at Southern High School in Harwood, Maryland in 2013. Since then, the Chapter has been participating in many regional and state competitions. Through hard work from parents and volunteers, in 2015 FFA members were able to exhibit produce at the Fair. Navigating a way for FFA members to show livestock at the Fair was a much harder battle. The Fair was welcoming to FFA but rules needed to be changed to allow FFA members to show alongside their 4H counterparts. It was a 3 year process to get to a point where livestock could be tagged through FFA and members could show animals at the 2020 Anne Arundel County Fair. I am very proud that my market steer, which was my FFA Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) for 2019-2020, was the very first FFA steer registered to be shown at the Anne

Arundel County Fair in probably at least 20 years. We also had members register their goats and hogs through FFA. Unfortunately, because of COVID19, the Anne Arundel County Fair only had an Open Class show because FFA and 4-H were not permitted in person activities. It was great to have the opportunity to show for the first time and I still felt like I was proudly representing Southern FFA. The fact that it was not an FFA/4-H show this year does not diminish the progress we have made. I am counting on being part of the Fair showing as FFA this year and hope to see future generations doing it as well.

- Jacob Bjerknes, Southern FFA



SAE FOR ALL

Professional Learning for Teachers

Join **Dr. Melissa Welsh**, Assistant Clinical Professor of Agricultural Education, UMCP for two virtual workshops to strengthen your knowledge and skills working with students on their SAE. *Tuesday, November 17, 2020 3:30-5:00 pm: "Let's get started with SAE for ALL- How TO!"*

<https://umd.zoom.us/j/8546923017?pwd=WFloeVB5OWd4WnhKeC9JNk5rTW9NQOT09>



The AET

On Wednesday, October 21st twenty-five teachers joined AET guru Mr. Roger Hanagriff to learn the basics of the AET System. Teachers received instruction in setting up their Advisor Profile, guiding students to set up their student profiles and a high-level overview of the many functions of the AET record system. Be on the look out for another workshop with Roger in 2021 focusing on supporting students as they complete award and degree applications. If at anytime you need assistance with the AET system, please reach out to Terrie Shank for support.

FFA >>>

Fall Leadership Workshops for Students



The Maryland FFA State Officer Team will be offering leadership workshops for students on the following dates:

- Tuesday, November 10th
- Thursday, November 12th
- Friday, November 13th
- Thursday, November 19th
- Friday, November 20th

Students will participate in two 30-minute workshops focusing on "Developing the Leader in You" and "Leading in your Community." Students will also have time for sharing with the State Officer team and each other their chapter activities and goals for the year. Students only need to attend on one date.

-Maryland FFA Leadership Team and State Staff



Congratulations to Mr. Roy Walls!

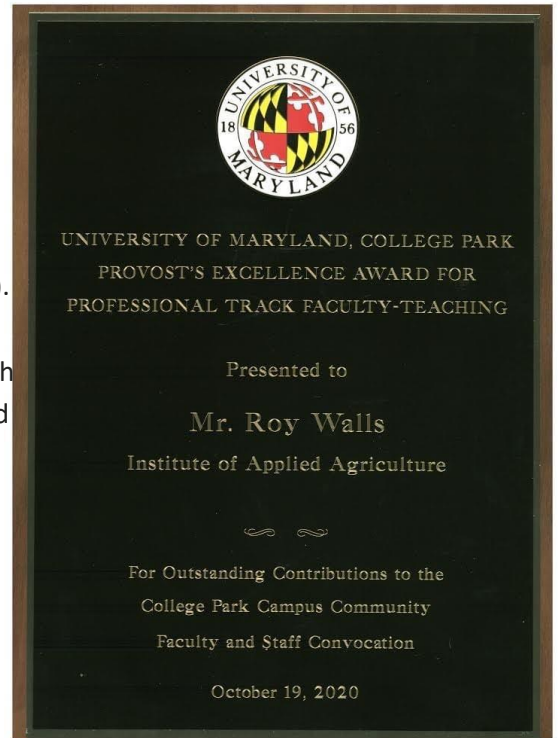
The best example of what living to serve truly means!

On Monday, October 19th, 2020, the University of Maryland, College Park held their Faculty and Staff Convocation. University President, Darryll Pines presented Mr. Walls with the University of Maryland College Park Provost's Excellence Award for Professional Track Faculty-Teaching "For Outstanding Contributions to the College Park Campus Community,"



The award presentation can be viewed at <https://umd.edu/convocation> (10:18 min).

We also send our Congratulations to Roy on his RETIREMENT from teaching! Roy has served the Agriculture Education family in Maryland for over 45 years as a high school Agriculture teacher/FFA Advisor, the Maryland FFA Executive Secretary and as the Power and Technology instructor in the Institute of Applied Agriculture, College Park. Roy has provided many opportunities for students and teachers to develop their knowledge and skills in Agricultural Mechanics. Roy was recognized in 2017 by the Maryland Agriculture Teachers Association and the National Association of Agriculture Educators (NAAE) with the Outstanding Service Award for his contributions to Agriculture Education. Roy continues to give of his time and talents serving as the Treasurer for the MATA and Maryland FFA Foundation. Roy has truly been a mentor to many and is a devoted friend to all.



A Unique Opportunity to Learn and Grow>>>

The Maryland Agriculture Teachers Association (MATA) in partnership with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation (MAEF) are pleased to host **Dr. Roger Cleveland**, Professor at Kentucky State University and Director of the Center for Research on the Eradication of Educational Disparities (CREED) program, for a series of workshops on **Developing Culturally Responsive Educators**. The three virtual workshops will be held on Wednesday nights in January and February. Dr. Cleveland is a transformational speaker, moderator and advisor. He has a unique vision that he is striving to spread across the entire country: We can be a more equitable and diverse society, free of the prejudices that divide us. He has a simple message: Diversity and equity is the key to unlocking the potential of every person, to moving them to critical consciousness". Dr. Cleveland spoke at the 2019 NAAE Convention and SAE For All National Summit in 2020. He is dynamic, thought provoking and will engage his audience in personal reflection and move you to action.

The workshops will be held virtually on Wednesday evenings from 5:30-7:00 p.

January 13, 2021-Session 1: Implicit Bias in the Classroom

January 20, 2021-Session 2: Cultural Humility: What's it all about?

February 3, 2021-Session 3: Culturally Responsive Teaching:

These virtual workshops are **FREE** to all teachers and staff. More information along with a registration form will be forthcoming. **This is an Opportunity you Won't**

want to Miss!



University Thoughts

Just a few updates and thoughts from our Land Grant and Flagship University, The University Of Maryland, with Dr. Melissa Welsh!



As the holiday season continues to inch closer in our mental calendars, it seems timely to point out the elephant in the slowly emptying room. The shortage of agricultural teachers across the county is not a new concern. The acquisition and retention of agricultural teachers faces numerous societal challenges. The K-12 school administrator is competing for applicants with the potential for higher paying wages of agricultural businesses interested in employing their own agricultural outreach educators. The educational system was dealing with employee satisfaction concerns long before the Covid-19 issues blindsided tense educators. In the latest edition of the Journal of Agricultural Education, the “Happy Spouse, Happy Greenhouse: Perceptions of the SBAE Teacher’s Spouse Regarding Agricultural Education as a Career” by N. Hopkins, T. Sorensen, M. Burrows & R. Lawver details perceptions by spouses of agricultural teachers in relation to job satisfaction, influences on the family and recognized conflicts leading to teacher turnover. The findings by A. McKim and T. Sorensen in the “Agricultural Educators and the Pandemic: An Evaluation of Work and Life Variables” (a paper presented at the AAEE North Central Regional 2020 conference) alluded to exacerbated effects on the quality of life for agricultural teachers under the additional pressure of Covid-19.

With all of these negative pressures mounting on agricultural teachers, why do any folks continue to be motivated to enter or continue in the agricultural education workforce? For as many articles you may find about the negative challenges of the job, those of you reading this article can likely name off the top of your head a half-dozen or so personally valued motivation aspects that continue to keep you at the head of your classroom. Likewise, the Ag Education journals also detail resiliency and motivational behaviors of enduring educators in the field. A sense of belonging with their surrounding community, advisory boards, and teaching peers have all shown to be conducive to teaching longevity. The opportunity for formal and informal mentoring moments throughout the individual’s career is noted by many as playing a pivotal role for enduring tough times. With the lack of in-person events this year to “check in” on your agricultural teaching family it becomes even more important to reach out for advice or extend the opportunity for others to know you are simply there; whether you are the second year teacher or the 20th year teacher. Agricultural educators are known as life-longer learners as the discipline continues to advance and the students grow more diverse each year. I welcome the opportunity for you to share your wisdom with our budding agricultural education students at the University of Maryland. Please check out the following link to share your expertise: go.umd.edu/mentorship

**Coming Soon >>>
In The Next Issue**

....Its 2020, it will be a surprise for us all... New ideas to come!



Have something fresh to share? Send a photo and a caption to be featured in the next Newsletter!

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-Dr. Melissa Leiden Welsh, Ph.D., CFCS, CPFFE