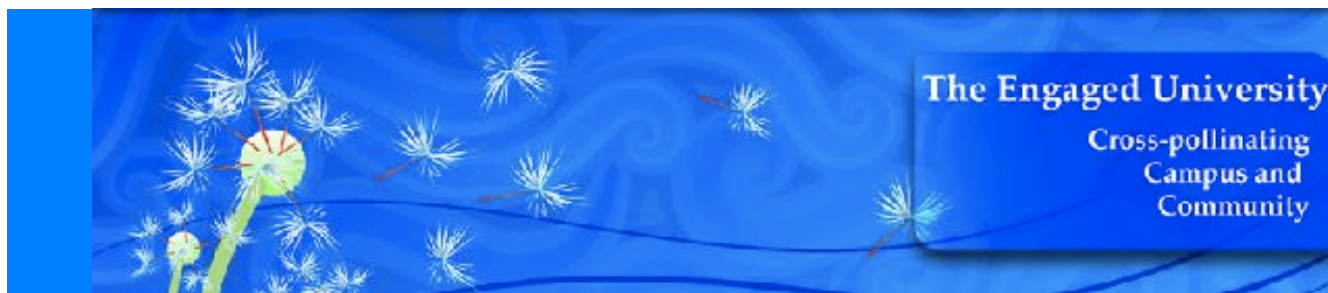


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Engaged University Newsletter

February 2008



The Engaged University is a unit of [Maryland Cooperative Extension](#)

Contact Us

Address:

The Engaged University
Center for Educational Partnership
University of Maryland
6200 Sheridan Street
Room 0135
Riverdale, MD 20737

Phone: 301-405-0660

Fax: 301-314-9551

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Email: euinfo@umd.edu
<http://engagedu.umd.edu>

Editor:
Genevieve Villamora

Assistant Editor:
Ramya Punnoose

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The Engaged University in the News!

The Engaged University was honored to have been featured in the University of Maryland's new faculty and staff newsletter, *Between the Columns*. Click [here](#) to view the article.

[Garden News](#)



Creating a CommUniversity: Local Middle School and UMCP Students Build Community Together...Literally

By: [Sonia Keiner Flynn, Community Schools Coordinator](#)



"A generation that acquires knowledge without ever understanding how that knowledge can benefit the community is a generation that is not learning what it means to be citizens in a democracy".

- Elizabeth L. Hollander,
Executive Director of Campus Compact

Those involved in the engaged university movement across the U.S recognize that knowledge and experience cannot be separated and theory and practice must constantly inform the other. A truly engaged campus understands its role as a knowledge producer for purposes of enhancing democratic practices, advancing social progress, and championing equality and equity in education and society.

This week, College Park Scholars Public Leadership (PL) students and students from three local middle schools embarked upon a series of community development projects that promise to be engaging, educational and fun. They will practice citizenship while connecting ideas to process and action. They will dig in gardens, float down the Anacostia River, and map the community on bikes. They will think critically, laugh and bond with each other. By struggling with complex ideas and new experiences, they will recognize their strengths and weaknesses as emerging leaders and their power to create positive social change. As they build

You Can Use!

Get ready for the growing season by checking out the new [Master Peace Community Garden News](#) page at our website.

Upcoming Events

The Club Stage Door

February 29
8pm
Publick Playhouse
5445 Landover Rd.
Cheverly, MD 20784

Montpelier Jazz Series

Michael Thomas Quintet
March 7
8pm
Montpelier Arts Center
9652 Muirkirk Rd.
Laurel, MD 20708

University of Maryland Concert Band 2008

March 10
8pm
Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center
University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742

Jazz Lab Band & University Jazz Band

March 11
7:30pm
Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center
University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742

2008 Prince George's County Annual Spelling Bee

March 14
7pm
Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center
University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742

R&B Concert: The Legendary Escorts

March 15
8pm
Harmony Hall Regional Center
10701 Livingston Rd.
Ft. Washington, MD 20744

social capital, they will learn what it takes to make their community more sustainable and self-sufficient.

Four teams of 20 students each will work on the following four projects after school once a week for the next 10 weeks.

William Wirt Middle School & PL Students

- * Master Peace Community & Youth Garden Enhancement at the Center for Educational Partnership in Riverdale
- * Safe Routes to School Mapping Project with the Renaissance Community Bike Shop at the Center for Educational Partnership in Riverdale

Charles Carroll Middle School & PL Students

- * Schoolyard greening and environmental stewardship project with our new partner, The Anacostia Watershed Society in New Carrollton

Nicholas Orem Middle School & PL Students

- * Garden development, nutrition, and healthy cooking in Hyattsville

Ari Schwartz, a sophomore interning with the

Engaged University for course credit, shared his thoughts and excitement about the projects:

"Building on a semester of leadership development within a framework of self-discovery and team development, this semester's projects will deepen those relationships formed amongst students as they engage in the community around them. While dissecting societal ills, all students are simultaneously empowered by each other and their capacity to make positive change.

Every student, no matter their age, should feel as though they have a stake in the health of our shared community. Ensuring that our college and public school students are receiving high quality, cross-cultural community-based-learning experiences is a first step towards producing real positive systemic change in our communities, our country, and our world."



A Garden in Winter

By: [Vinnie Bevivino, FSNE Garden Educator](#)

Winter is still here. There's frost on the morning grass. We're still wearing thick jackets, and the thought of ripe tomatoes and corn on the cob still seems as much a distant memory as it is a far flung hope. Nonetheless, farmers throughout Maryland and the staff of the Master Peace Community Garden have begun to set in motion the first steps of a bountiful growing season. We might not have trowels in the earth, but we're well on our way.

Getting an early start on the



growing season is never a chore. We've already transitioned from cooking, our main activity with middle school students throughout the winter, to gardening and starting seeds in our little greenhouse. Just last week we started the beginnings of our lettuce crop to go along with the spinach, kale, and Swiss chard that we started the week before. These poor seeds and seedlings live in constant flux with near morning frosts and balmy afternoons, sitting in the unheated greenhouse under the clear February skies. But we've seen the first of our seedlings push through the potting soil, the true beginning of the 2008 gardening season.



In the weeks to come we'll be busy ordering seeds and starting our full-fledged gardening programs, both at the Master Peace Community Garden and at other school gardens in communities surrounding College Park. But with the frost still preventing us from putting seeds in our garden's soil, we are happy to warm ourselves in the greenhouse, teaching students the correct depth to plant a lettuce seed and bringing them back the next week to prove to them that, yes, in fact, there's life in those little things. We'll be more than happy to show them that lettuce in May, when we eat it.

→ **Campus Profile: Dr. Nick Place, PhD.**
Visiting Associate Professor, Associate Director - University of Maryland Cooperative Extension, & Associate Dean - College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Interview by: Genevieve Villamora, Assistant Director

Q. Tell me a little bit about yourself.

I grew up on a dairy farm in Pennsylvania, and I deeply value rural communities and the rural way of life. It brings out a lot of character, instills strong moral values, and respect for the environment. I have had a long career in Extension and got my start in Pennsylvania as a dairy agent doing multi-county work.



When I was a faculty member at the University of Florida, I taught in the Department of Agricultural Education and Communication and mentored graduate students who were new to Extension. The grad students I worked with then are now teaching at land-grant universities and research universities all over the world.

As the Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural

Resources and Associate Director of University of Maryland Cooperative Extension (MCE), I want to apply the range of my experiences as an Extension agent and an academic faculty member to this position to bring a comprehensive approach to the role I have now.

Q. For readers of ours who are not familiar, please describe the mission and work of University of Maryland Cooperative Extension (MCE).

I see Extension as the means to "extend" the land-grant university. Here in Maryland we have two land-grant institutions - the College Park campus and the Eastern Shore campus. At these institutions, we have so much important research that been conducted in a variety of disciplines - in agriculture, family science, and nutrition, for example - and our job is to share that knowledge with the public in communities across Maryland. We do that through our faculty in the academic departments and in the field across the state.

Our goal is to bring about impact through our educational programs: positive changes in behavior, improvement in quality of life, improving water quality, increasing farm productivity, and other indicators.

Q. Can you give some examples of the range of different programs offered by MCE?

A lot of what we do in Extension is train and equip individuals to then go out and help other people. That allows us to have a much greater impact on communities across the state.

We work with agricultural producers - from large farms to small organic farms - helping people get into the farming business, training them in farm management, animal and plant management. We also offer entrepreneurial training for agricultural producers or home-based businesses.

In the discipline of family and consumer science, we are doing community education work with a focus on health, nutrition, obesity and wellness.

Another one of MCE's areas is finance, including a whole range of programs that educate people about personal budgeting, buying your first home, and other financial literacy issues.

Our 4-H Youth Development program teaches life skills and the development of citizenship and leadership. 4-H gives entire families an opportunity to get involved and makes use of adult and youth partnerships.

Q. What do you think are the most exciting trends or developments in Extension work today?

When Extension first started started, 85% of the population was involved in agriculture. Now it's less than 2% of the population.

Extension has had to change as the demographics have changed. I think that's exciting. We need to be proactive about thinking about what future social trends and issues will be and how we can address them.

We also need to do more to reach out to urban audiences and be relevant to them. There is a growing national movement focusing on urban extension, and I think that MCE is in a good position to grow in that direction.

In many cases, Extension provides the opportunity for urban and rural populations to learn from each other. Extension has been the facilitator for groups of urban and rural people to work together to resolve challenges that face them both.

I am very excited to be here. I think University of Maryland Cooperative Extension has a great future.

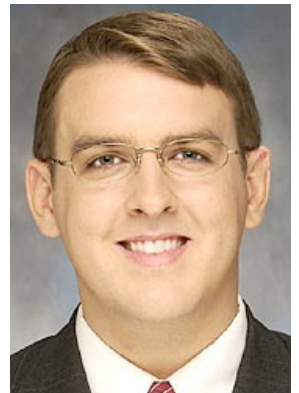


Community Profile- Maryland State Delegate Justin Ross District 22, Prince George's County

Interview by: Ramya Punnoose, Program Assistant

Q. Tell me a little bit about yourself.

I am a lifelong resident of Prince George's County. I was born in Bowie, spent my childhood in University Park and adolescent years in Greenbelt. I graduated from Eleanor Roosevelt High School and went on to attend the University of Maryland, College Park, where I received my B.A. in Government and Politics. I was elected to the House of Delegates in 2002 and began my first term in January 2003. I currently reside in Greenbelt with my wife and three children (along with our two dogs!).



Q. What are the major issues facing the Prince George's County community? How should these issues be addressed and solved?

The issue that we are most often reminded about in Prince George's County is that of crime. With our proximity to Washington D.C. and our polarizing blend of rural and urban atmospheres in the county, we face a very unique situation with respect to public safety. By increasing state and local funding to our county and municipal police departments, we have been able to raise officer salaries and provide better equipment.

In addition, the financial distress of Prince George's County Hospital has been in the headlines for the better part of 2 years now. A comprehensive and long term solution must be agreed upon by all

parties involved, namely the Governor's office, the Prince George's County Delegation, the County Executive's Office and the Prince George's County Council. We are currently working together with all involved parties to transition the Hospital toward new leadership and ownership. In the end, the people of Prince George's County cannot afford to let this hospital close for even a day, and so we must do what is necessary to have a long-term solution in place by the end of this legislative session.

Q. What do you see as some of your major accomplishments as a Maryland State Delegate?

Two issues that I have taken great pride in attempting to alleviate through legislation are public safety and what I refer to as quality of life in Prince George's County. I have authored legislation that has:

- shut down liquor stores earlier throughout our county
- closed down strip clubs and banned alcohol from being served at such establishments
- created a public safety surcharge within the county that charges developers in order to provide additional funds to our county police.

In addition, I have worked hard over the past several years to find solutions to the problem of drug and alcohol addiction that negatively affects so many of our citizens. In 2007, I was a lead co-sponsor on legislation that will study our drug and alcohol treatment system in Maryland and provide the General Assembly with methods of improving our treatment system from a county to county basis.

Q. What do you hope the Prince George's County community will accomplish in the future?

The destiny of Prince George's County depends on all of us.

I have a vision that Prince George's County will one day gain international recognition for being a place where love for your neighbor and belief in your community is the rule, not the exception. I have a vision for Prince George's County that business leaders, religious leaders, civic leaders, and political leaders, from throughout the ideological spectrum, will lay down their swords and shields, put their differences behind them and work collectively to turn our public school system around and put it at the top of every statewide category. I have a vision for a Prince George's County that has a police force that is regarded as the heroes of our society and the solid foundation of our community. I have a vision that Prince George's County will one day, by making Smart Growth policies a legislative and funding priority, set out and prove that you can be pro-business and pro-environment. I do believe in this vision and will dedicate the rest of my life to making it happen.

 Fare Trading :

Adding Zest to Winter Cooking

By: Jodi Balis, FSNE Nutrition Educator/Project Leader

February is the time of year that I start to crave the taste of FRESH.

Even though the tastes of spring seem far away, I look to the orange, a fruit that peaks in the winter, to infuse fresh flavor into my recipes this month.



Since I am a "waste not want not" kind of cook, I like to use the orange zest. The zest is the outer part of the peel, containing essential oils that give oranges the distinctive scent that can uplift any recipe.

Zesting an orange with a grater:

Use the side of the grater that has very small holes, hold the orange firmly against the surface and push down ONCE. Avoid the white part beneath the zest layer because it is bitter! You can use a standard grater, or I like to use a small grater called a microplane. It grates the zest into thin short ribbons and its versatility makes it a useful \$15 investment for your kitchen.

Adding orange zest to your meals:

A small amount goes a long way. Add the amount you like to:

Pasta with olive oil, garlic, rosemary, and parmesan

BBQ chicken

Lentils and rice

Hot oatmeal with raisins

Muffin or pancake batter

(From Gourmet 2004)

Zesty Orzo

1 (1-lb) box orzo (rice-shaped pasta; not Greek)

2 cups chicken stock or low-sodium broth

1 packed teaspoon finely grated fresh orange zest

1/4 teaspoon finely chopped fresh thyme

2 oz finely grated Parmigiano-Reggiano (1 cup)

2 tablespoons unsalted butter

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/2 teaspoon black pepper

Preparation

Cook orzo in a large pot of boiling salted water for 5 to 6 minutes. Drain in a colander and rinse under cold water to stop cooking.

Transfer orzo to a 2-quart heavy saucepan and add stock, zest, and thyme. Simmer over moderate heat, stirring constantly, until stock is absorbed, about 5 minutes.

Stir in cheese, butter, salt, and pepper and serve immediately

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