

OUTLOOK

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER FOR FACULTY AND STAFF AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND AT COLLEGE PARK

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Honors Roll in for College Park Campus

Programs in Computer Science and Physics Ranked Two of the Best in Nation



The University of Maryland at College Park's College of Computer, Mathematical and Physical Sciences was selected as having two of the best graduate programs in computer science and physics in the nation as part of the annual survey of America's best colleges by *U.S. News & World Report*.

Based on an intensive survey of hundreds of academic experts, *U.S. News & World Report* selected UMCP's Department of Computer Science as the 12th best in the nation, sharing that ranking with UCLA, Brown University and Purdue University at West Lafayette. The University of Maryland at College Park

beat out the likes of Harvard, Yale, and Columbia University in the ranking.

Similarly honored was the Department of Physics which was selected as the 13th best program in the nation along with the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. UMCP's physics department was selected over UCLA, the University of Wisconsin at Madison, and the University of Pennsylvania among others.

In a related honor, UMCP's computer science program became one of only two in the U.S. to receive three National Science Foundation Young Investigator Awards for 1993. Only Carnegie Mellon's program received as many of the highly sought-after awards.

The three university faculty members selected to win the awards are Bonnie Dorr, Richard Gerber and V.S. Subrahmanian, all assistant professors in the computer science department. Designed to support the

research programs of promising young scientists, the Young Investigator Awards are given for a five-year period and include a \$25,000 stipend each year. In addition, recipients are eligible to receive up to \$37,000 in matching funds during each of the five years.

Dorr will conduct computerized language studies that allow researchers to make incremental changes to test long-standing hypotheses about computerized translation. Gerber will work on projects dealing with the analysis, methodology, performance and predictability of real-time programs. Subrahmanian will continue his research on developing the mathematical foundations and software implementations of theories that integrate multiple modes of reasoning and knowledge representation schemes.

Bridges to Understanding

Nov. 1 to 5 Marks AIDS Awareness Week IV

If the AIDS Steering Committee has its way, this year's AIDS Awareness Week activities, from Nov. 1 to 5, will be the most far-reaching to date. This marks the fourth year for the designated week organized to focus attention on AIDS and HIV. Mary Hoban, coordinator of health education, University Health Center and Brinda Prasad, president, Stamp Union Program Council are event co-chairs.

Below is a sampling of the many activities being planned. Unless otherwise noted, all events take place in Stamp Union. For a complete run-down, consult the information display in the West Foyer, Stamp Union, or call Hoban, 314-8129.

Social Issues Theater, an interactive presentation highlighting important issues related to HIV and AIDS such as confronting the risk behavior of someone close to you or communicating with sexual partners, will be presented Nov. 1, noon to 1 p.m., in the Atrium. The piece, written and performed by students, ends in conflict regarding condom use and other such issues related to sexual behavior, according to Hoban. Members of the audience will then be asked to express their viewpoints.

At the Personal Stories Panel, 2 to 3 p.m., Monday, Nov. 1, Room 1143, presenters will speak about their experiences as individuals who are living with HIV infection or AIDS. The five panelists include three women, one of whom is a 31-year-old graduate of George Washington University who acquired HIV three years ago.

"AIDS in the Workplace" is the topic of a workshop to assist supervi-

continued on page 3

INSIDE

To Your Health

Open enrollment season temporarily put on hold.....2

Cheers and Jeers

Get the take on mass-produced notes.....2

Teaming Up

Freshman engineering's "all for one and one for all" approach.....3

Do Something for a Change

At all AIDS Awareness Week events, campus community members will be encouraged to donate spare change to the AIDS Response Fund, begun in 1990. The AIDS Response Fund serves faculty, staff and students whose lives are affected by AIDS or HIV disease. Financial support is distributed confidentially, based on availability and need, to assist people living with AIDS or HIV or individuals whose friends or family members are affected.

The five-member allocation committee reviews requests. Grants have been given to assist with medical expenses, provide for a health care worker, and even pay for long-distance phone bills and groceries. This is the first year the "Do Something for a Change" drive supplements contributions made to the fund through the University of Maryland Foundation, Inc.

For more information, or to make a donation, contact Gail Miller, 405-2950.

Counseling Center Guide Helps Faculty Assist Students

The Counseling Center announces the publication of a guide to assist faculty, titled "Helping Students in Distress." The guide includes information about common problems, tips on how to respond, emergency procedures, guidelines on how to make a referral to professionals and a flyer summarizing the information. To obtain a copy, stop by the Counseling Center in Shoemaker Hall or call 314-7651.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Banned From Campus

Following charges that 24 chapter members brutally hazed pledges, Omega Psi Phi fraternity has been banned from the University of Maryland at College Park until 1998. The suspension comes under an agreement the university reached with the fraternity's national chapter which bars the College Park chapter, Chi Delta, from using the Omega Psi Phi name and forbids the group to gather on campus.

"This outcome reflects the serious nature with which the university and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., view hazing, and sends a clear message

that, when hazing occurs, the university will impose strong sanctions in cooperation with national fraternity leaders, when appropriate," says Roland King, UMCP director of public information.

Should the fraternity wish to apply for recognition after the five-year suspension, a specific agreement including periodic reviews of chapter purposes, procedures, governance, activities and members' academic standing also will be required.

Last April, an anonymous letter alleging abuse of the fraternity's pledges was distributed to university

administrators.

Following a preliminary investigation, the university placed the Omega Psi Phi chapter on suspension pending the conclusion of a full investigation. Subsequently, officials of the national fraternity also suspended the chapter.

Related cases involving individual members of Omega Psi Phi were held in abeyance pending action against the fraternity. Disciplinary actions taken against individuals are considered confidential under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("Buckley Amendment").

Open Enrollment Delayed While State Addresses Health Costs

Governor Schaefer has ordered an extension of state employees' existing health insurance coverage until budget officials can develop a solution acceptable to employees, taxpayers and the administration.

Schaefer also announced that Budget and Fiscal Planning Secretary Charles Benton will begin overseeing

the Employee Health Insurance Program, now administered by the Department of Personnel.

"While it's common knowledge that health care costs generally have been increasing at a rate of about ten percent a year," says Schaefer, "a one-year, five-fold increase in the cost to our state employees effective Jan. 1

is totally unacceptable."

Benton and his staff will negotiate with insurers an extension of existing health insurance contracts while working out a solution to address increasing health costs. State employees will continue to be covered by their existing policies and continue to pay their current premium until a new plan is developed.

Schaefer says he will propose legislation to transfer administration of the \$261 million state employee health insurance program from the Department of Personnel to the Department of Budget and Fiscal Planning.

"We have to acknowledge that health costs are increasing," says Schaefer. "But we also owe it to state employees to come up with a reasonable health plan, and give them enough time to decide which plan will serve them best."

Note-taking Service Gets Mixed Reviews

To the delight of students and the concern of some faculty, mass-produced class notes are available on campus in the Student Union for \$22.50 a semester.

First Class Notes works with the University Book Center and Communications Services to produce notes for large, lecture-type classes, says Melissa MacKinnon, a representative of the company. The professors of the courses give their written approval, retain copyright over the notes and receive a commission for their departments.

The service, which is in its third semester, started with just two classes. This semester, 32 classes allow the service. But, some faculty are not

quick to embrace a note-taking service on campus.

Dana Plude, an associate professor of psychology, is considering using the service in the spring. "The one reservation that I have is what if students don't come to class?" he says. "I like teaching so much that I want my

students to come to class."

Economics Professor John Dorsey, who allows the notes in several of his large lecture classes, says that he hasn't noticed a decline in his attendance. At least no more than usual.

"I teach a class with 500 students in a classroom that seats 500 students. If they all came, it would be unbearable," Dorsey says.

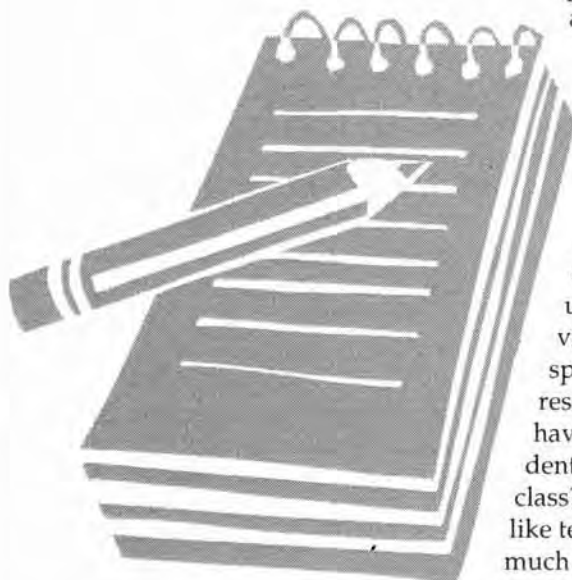
Dorsey allowed the notes in his classes because he had learned that another company was taking notes on his class without his permission. "I'd rather have somebody do it with my permission than without my permission," Dorsey says.

Joseph Cirrincione, an associate professor of geography and the first professor to allow the notes, has had the same problem. "I'm very scared in these other situations where they pay an undergraduate to attend class and take notes," Cirrincione says.

Professors are encouraged to choose their own note-takers, usually their teaching assistants, and some professors have written their class notes themselves.

For students without financial resources, the notes are available to students with a university ID to borrow and copy. For more information, contact the University Book Center at 314-BOOK.

—Stephen Sobek



OUTLOOK

OUTLOOK is the weekly faculty-staff newspaper serving the College Park campus community.

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Letters to the editor, story suggestions, campus information & calendar items are welcome. Please submit all material at least two weeks before the Monday of publication. Send it to Editor OUTLOOK, 2101 Turner Building, through campus mail or to University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742. Our telephone number is (301) 405-4621. Electronic mail address is jhawes@umdacc.umd.edu. Fax number is (301) 314-9344.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND AT COLLEGE PARK

Make It a Red Ribbon Day

Alpha Phi Omega, a co-ed service fraternity, is coordinating a Red Ribbon Campaign in conjunction with World AIDS Day/Day Without Art on Wednesday, Dec. 1. The goal is to blanket the campus with red ribbons as a sign of support and commitment. Volunteers are needed to donate supplies (ribbons and safety pins), and to assemble pins. To help, call Mary Lynn Gillis at 314-6257 or Lynnea Malouff at 314-4143.

Building a Better Mousetrap

Freshman Engineering Retools to Give Hands-on Experience



The lecture halls were the worst, Marilyn Berman remembers. Students were packed in so tightly to the two sections of ENES100 the atmosphere often more resembled a small concert. Professors were largely unseen, the bulk of the teaching done by TAs dutifully—and dryly—making their way through the textbook. Hands-on work? Designing? Drafting? That would come later. Much later.

Assuming that a freshman engineering student was still around by that time.

Many weren't. They were dropping out, changing majors, beating it out of the program any which way they could. Retention suffered greatly. The fault, Berman says, lay not with the students, but with the program.

"It was a dull program," says Berman, associate dean of the College of Engineering. "It had no relevance to students' lives."

Two years later, as the College of Engineering celebrates its centennial anniversary, it's also a time to celebrate the new, vastly improved freshman engineering program.

Aided by a five-year, seven-school grant from the National Science Foundation, the new program is based, in theory, upon the findings of Uri Thigsmann, a professor of mathematics at Cal-Berkeley whose research has demonstrated the link between team learning and minority performance, and James W. Dally and Guangming Zhang, two of the college's own professors of mechanical engineering here.

If these three provided a foundation, it was largely the bureaucratic labors of Professor Tom Regan, among others in the college, that saw the reformation through to reality. What they came up with is "a new way of doing engineering," he says.

"Something had to be done," says Regan. "We can't just sit back and think of ourselves as a research institution. We've got to be a more balanced school."

Stressing design and emphasizing a collaborative, hands-on approach to learning, the program puts students to work in small teams specially selected by the faculty to ensure a mixture of race, culture and gender. With no more than 30 to a section, and no more than 10 to a team, students have no choice but to rely upon one another, learning to "share the tasks," as Regan says, in the building of an electricity-producing windmill, for example.

To assist the students, the college has gone so far as to install computer-aided design "auto sketch" and spread sheet programs. But this has not eliminated the need for individualized instruction. On the contrary, wherever students turn, they can find help or encouragement. Not only is there a faculty member for each of the 13 classes, there is a senior undergraduate teaching fellow and a teaching assistant whose primary responsibility is to serve as consultant in the computer labs.

In many ways, the program is proving to be a success. For one thing, says Regan, "You see the women really taking the leadership role" in their teams. "They're getting involved much more."

That seems to be the case outside the classroom, as well. This year, as Regan notes, the student presidents of Tau Beta Pi, the Council of Engineering Societies, and the Engineering Alumni Association, and at least two other individual societies, are all women. "I don't think we've ever seen that before," Regan says.

And if the findings of Thigsmann, Dally and Zhang are accurate, the college has every right to expect minority retention to improve dramatically. The program's attrition rate, according to early indications, is

less than 10 percent, though it will be years before all the data is in.

Still, Regan counts the program a terrific success. Interest is up. Enthusiasm is running high.

"You always hear a lot of talk in educational circles about empowering the student," he says. "We're really doing it."

—Todd Kliman



Freshman engineering students team up to build a windmill, the first project undertaken in the new program.

AIDS Awareness Week

continued from page 1

sors in understanding AIDS and the sensitive workplace issues related to HIV infection and AIDS. To reserve a space, call Rythee Wilkes at 405-5651. It will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 2, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Administrative Services Building.

That evening (Nov. 2, at 7 p.m.), Cleve Jones, founder of The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, will speak in the Grand Ballroom. Tickets are \$7; \$3 for students.

On Wednesday, Nov. 3 at 5 p.m., a

showing of filmmaker Peter Friedman's documentary, "Silverlake Life: The View from Here," recounts his partner's struggle with AIDS. A candid presentation of love, commitment and mortality in the age of AIDS, it is on view (\$1 admission fee) in the Hoff Theater.

"Express Yourself," a popular repeat from last year's program, will give members of the UMCP community the opportunity to express their thoughts and feelings about the AIDS epidemic through song, poetry, art and other creative avenues. It will be

held in the lower level of Anne Arundel Hall. Says Hoban, "I'm meeting more and more students who have family members or friends who are infected with HIV or AIDS and this provides an outlet for them."

She may not be Oprah, but Hoban will host a talk show, "Let's Talk About Sex," in the Tortuga Room, on Thursday, Nov. 4, from noon to 1 p.m. Her guests include a panel of students who will participate in a frank conversation regarding safer sex.

CALENDAR

Brighton Beach Memoirs Opens Thursday, Nov. 11

University Theatre presents the acclaimed play that critics have described as "Neil Simon's love letter to his past." Performances will be held in Tawes Theatre on Nov. 11 to 13 and 18 to 20, at 8 p.m., with a matinee on Sunday, Nov. 14, at 2 p.m., and a special performance on Tuesday, Nov. 16 at 9:45 a.m. Simon's acclaimed play is a warm comedy about growing up poor in a Brooklyn seaside community, set in 1937. For ticket information and reservations, call 405-2201.

Arts

Exhibition Opening: "Anonymity and Identity," opens Wed., Nov. 3, runs through Thurs., Dec. 23, The Art Gallery, Art/Sociology. Call 5-2763 for info.

Creative Dance Lab: Sat., Nov. 6, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Dance Building. Call 5-7038 for info.

The Concert Society at Maryland Olde Musicke Series: Sat., Nov. 6, Kuijken Trio, 8 p.m., Auditorium, UMUC Center of Adult Education, \$18, students \$8. Call 3-4240 for info.*

Maryland Chorus Fall Concert: Sun., Nov. 7, 3 p.m., Memorial Chapel, \$15, \$11 and \$9. Call 5-5571 for info.*

Exhibition Talk ("Anonymity and Identity"): Tue., Nov. 9, "Constructing the Body: A Conversation," Dorit Cypis and Josephine Withers, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Art Gallery, Art/Sociology. Call 5-2763 for info.

Dance Department Fall Concert: Tue., Nov. 9-Fri., Nov. 12, 8-10 p.m., Dorothy Madden Theater, Dance Building, \$8, students \$5. Call 5-3180 for info.*

Poetry and Fiction Reading: Wed., Nov. 10, Richard Jackson and Jewell Rhodes, 7:30 p.m., Maryland Room, Marie Mount. Call 5-3820 for info.

Lectures

Public Affairs Brown Bag Discussion: Mon., Nov. 1, "Radical Environmental Politics," Brent Blackwelder, Friends of the Earth, noon-1:15 p.m., 1109 Van Munching. Call 5-6359 for info.

Meteorology Special Seminar: Mon., Nov. 1, "Caspian Sea Level Rise-Causes and Impacts," George Golitsyn, Institute of Atmospheric Physics, Moscow, 10 a.m., 2114 Computer and Space Sciences. Call 5-5392 for info.

French and Italian Lecture: Mon., Nov. 1, "Montaigne and Italy," Dante Della Terza, Harvard University, 3:30 p.m., Conference Room, St. Mary's. Call 5-4029 for info.*

Entomology Colloquium: Mon., Nov. 1, "The Influence of Multiple Host Contacts on the Transmission of Dengue-2 Virus by Aedes Aegypti," John Putman, 4 p.m., 0200 Symons. Call 5-3911 for info.

Employee Development Training Program: Tue., Nov. 2, "Managing AIDS in the Workplace," 9 a.m.-noon, 1101 Administrative Services. Call 5-5651 for info. or to register.*

Zoology Lecture: Tue., Nov. 2, "The Evolution of the Middle Ear: Fables, Fallacies, Facts and Fossils," Jenny Clack, Cambridge University, noon, 1208 Zoology/Psychology. Call 5-6891 for info.

Distinguished Lecturer Series of the Graduate School: Tue., Nov. 2, "Language and the Cognitive Revolution," Noam Chomsky, MIT, 3:30 p.m., 0204 Architecture. Call 5-1482 for info.

Meteorology Seminar: Tue., Nov. 2, "Computations of Diabatic Descent in the Stratospheric Polar Vortex," J. Rosenfield, 3:30 p.m., 2114 Computer and Space Sciences. Call 5-5392 for info.

Counseling Center Seminar: Wed., Nov. 3, "Developmental Issues in Learning Math," Elizabeth Shearn, noon-1 p.m., 0106-0114 Shoemaker. Call 4-7690 for info.

Zoology Lecture: Wed., Nov. 3, "Genealogical Portraits of Speciation in the Drosophila Melanogaster Species Complex," Jody Hey, noon, 1208 Zoology/Psychology. Call 5-6912 for info.

Conversations about Teaching Seminar: Wed., Nov. 3, "You Just Don't Understand: Is There a Faculty/Student Generational Values Gap?" noon-1:30 p.m., Maryland Room, Marie Mount. Call 5-9368 for info.*

Comparative Literature Symposium: Wed., Nov. 3, "Interdisciplinary Symposium: Technologies and the Transmission of Knowledge," 3 p.m., Maryland Room, Marie Mount. Call 5-2853 for info.

Systems Seminar: Thu., Nov. 4, "Dynamics of FCFS Systems," Thomas Seidman, UMBC, 2 p.m., 2460 A.V. Williams. Call 5-6634 for info.

Engineering Program: Thu., Nov. 4, "Technology and the Law: The Role of Experts in Legal Proceedings," 2:5-3:30 p.m., 1400 Marie Mount. Program consists of three lectures. Call 5-3854 for info.

Meteorology Seminar: Thu., Nov. 4, "Gravity Waves in the Atmosphere," Franco Einaudi, NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center, 3:30 p.m., 2114 Computer and Space Sciences. Call 5-5392 for info.

Microbiology Seminar: Thu., Nov. 4, "Developmental Control of Pseudomonas Biofilm in Cystic Fibrosis," V. Deretic, University of Texas, 3:30 p.m., 1207 Microbiology. Call 5-5446 for info.

Materials and Nuclear Engineering Seminar: Thu., Nov. 4, "Structural Intermetallic Compounds-The Promise & Reality," D. Pope, University of Pennsylvania, 4 p.m., 2110 Chemical and Nuclear Engineering. Call 5-5208 for info.

Geology Seminar: Fri., Nov. 5, "Experimental Constraints on the Origin of the Ultramafic Series, Stillwater Complex, Montana," Rosalind Helz, 11 a.m., 0103 Hornbake. Call 5-4089 for info.

Botany Seminar: Fri., Nov. 5, "The Pseudomonas Syringae PA. Syringae 61 HRP Gene Cluster: Organization, Function, and Regulation," Yingxian Xiao, noon, 2242 H.J. Patterson. Call 5-1597 for info.

Speech Communication Colloquium: Fri., Nov. 5, "Rhetoric as Seductress: An Allegorical Reading of Isocrates' Helen," David Armstrong, University of Texas at Austin, noon, 0104 Skinner. Call 5-6526 for info.

Comparative Literature First Friday Colloquium: Fri., Nov. 5, "Dino-sized: Jurassic Park, Feminist Discourse, and Postmodern Consumerism," Gina Marchetti, 12:15 p.m., 1102 Francis Scott Key. Call 5-2853 for info.*



The Concert Society at Maryland presents the Kuijken Trio on Saturday, Nov. 6.

First National Bank of Maryland Finance Research Colloquium: Fri., Nov. 5, "Why Real Interest Rates, Cost of Capital and Price/Earnings Ratios Vary Across Countries," Bhagwan Chowdry and Sheridan Titman, UCLA, 1:2-3:00 p.m., 1203 Van Munching. Call 5-2246 for info.

National Reading Research Center Seminar: Fri., Nov. 5, "Children's Strategies in Reading to Locate Information," Jean Dreher, 4-5 p.m., 2202 J.M. Patterson. Call 5-7437 for info.

Computer Science Lecture: Mon., Nov. 8, "Taking the Embodiment of Mind Seriously: Humanoid Robots," Rodney Brooks, MIT, 4 p.m., 0111 A.V. Williams. Call 5-2661 for info.

Entomology Colloquium: Mon., Nov. 8, "Haplodiploidy and the Evolution of Facultative Sex Ratios in the Primitively Eusocial Bee, Augochlora Straita," Ulrich Mueller, Cornell University, 4 p.m., 0200 Symons. Call 5-3911 for info.

Space Science Seminar: Mon., Nov. 8, "Cosmic Ray Hydrogen and Deuterium as Measured by a Balloon Borne Magnet Spectrometer," David Clements, University of Delaware, 4:30 p.m., 1113 Computer and Space Sciences. Call 5-4855 for info.

Zoology Lecture: Tue., Nov. 9, "Character Displacement in Carnivores: Putting Some Teeth in Community Ecology," Dan Simberloff, Florida State University, noon, 1208 Zoology/Psychology. Call 5-6890 for info.

Employee Development Training Program: Wed., Nov. 10, "Detecting Drug & Alcohol Abuse in the Workplace," 9 a.m.-noon, 1101 Administrative Services. Call 5-5651 for info. or to register.*

Counseling Center Seminar: Wed., Nov. 10, "Overview of CESAR's Services and Research," Eric Wish, noon-1 p.m., 0106-0114 Shoemaker. Call 4-7690 for info.

Latin American Studies Lecture: Wed., Nov. 10, "The Caribs of Dominica: Travel Writing, Ethnicity," Peter Hulme, noon, Conference Room, Jimenez. Call 5-6441 for info.*

Field Hockey: Tue., Nov. 2, vs. Richmond, 7:30 p.m., AstroTurf Field. Call 4-7006 for info.

Swimming: Fri., Nov. 5, Men/Women vs. Howard, 3 p.m., Cole Field House. Call 4-7030 for info.

Football: Sat., Nov. 6, vs. Florida State, noon, Byrd Stadium. Call 4-7070 for info.

Miscellaneous

AIDS Awareness Week: Mon., Nov. 1-Fri., Nov. 5.*

Peer Computer Training: Mon., Nov. 1, "Intermediate WordPerfect," 6-9 p.m., 3330 Computer and Space Sciences. \$5. Call 5-2941 for info.*

Stress Management Workshop: Tue., Nov. 2, "Stress, Conflict and Communication," 5:15-6:15 p.m., 2107 Health Center. Call 4-8131 for info.

Peer Computer Training: Tue., Nov. 2, "Intro to Macintosh," 6-9 p.m., 3332 Computer and Space Sciences. \$5. Call 5-2941 for info.*

Toastmasters Meeting: Tue., Nov. 2, Open House, 7 p.m., 1314 Van Munching. Toastmasters Club's mission is to provide a supportive environment in which every member has an opportunity to develop communication and leadership skills. Call (301) 474-3410 for info.

Calendar Guide

Calendar phone numbers listed as 4-xxxx or 5-xxxx stand for the prefix 314- or 405- respectively. Events are free and open to the public unless noted by an asterisk (*).

For more information, call 405-4628.

* Listings marked with this symbol have been designated as Diversity Year events by the Diversity Initiative Committee.

