

A Very Embedded Librarian: Using Captive Audiences (and a Bus) to Build Collaborative Relationships

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About Me and My Institution

- Liaison librarian to the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (AGNR)
 - Joined UMD in July 2013, following graduation from UNC SILS
 - Responsible for nine academic departments and institutes, as well as Agricultural Extension
 - **Agricultural Extension** sites are located throughout the state of Maryland
- **2012 Statistics**
 - Undergraduate Student Enrollment: 1,194
 - Graduate Student Enrollment: 393
 - 358 Full Time Faculty
 - 115 Instructional, 243 Research / Extension

Challenges and Opportunities

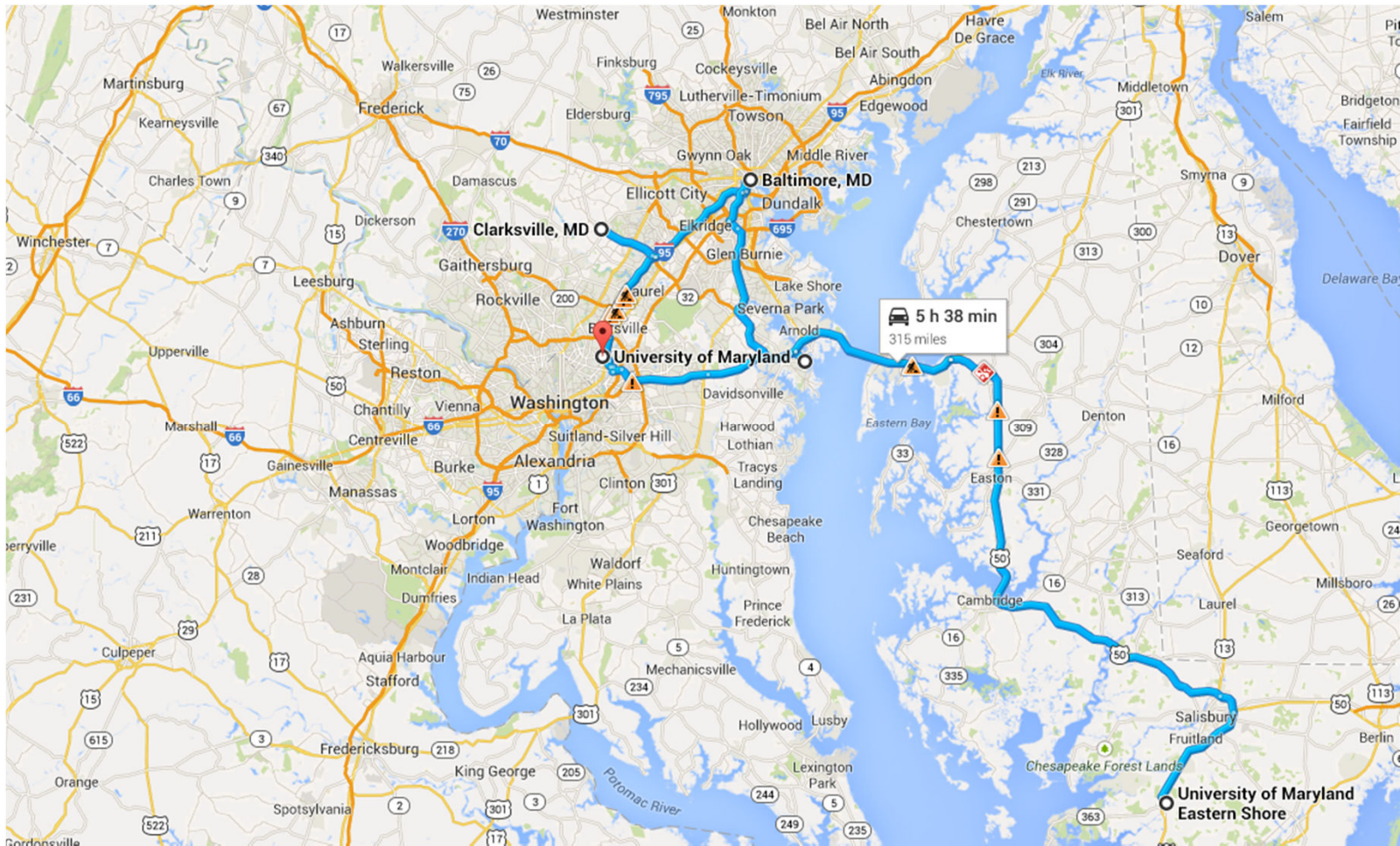
- Challenge – conducting outreach and building relationships with this huge number of faculty
- Opportunity – invited to attend new faculty orientation event by Dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Instead of a conference room...

- The College of AGNR organizes an annual statewide bus tour of affiliated research sites for all new faculty and staff.
- Sites are located throughout the state, including Clarksville, Baltimore, Annapolis, and the Eastern Shore.



Our trip



So why should you be attending
new faculty / staff orientations?

Your faculty may not all work on campus.



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They might not even work in the same city.



You may have to venture far from the library in order to...



...score precious face-to-face time.



Orientation events present the opportunity to get to know some junior faculty.



Close quarters during extended events can lead to collaboration opportunities, such as:



Learning about funding sources.

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Seeing their lab equipment.



Seeing their grad students' offices.

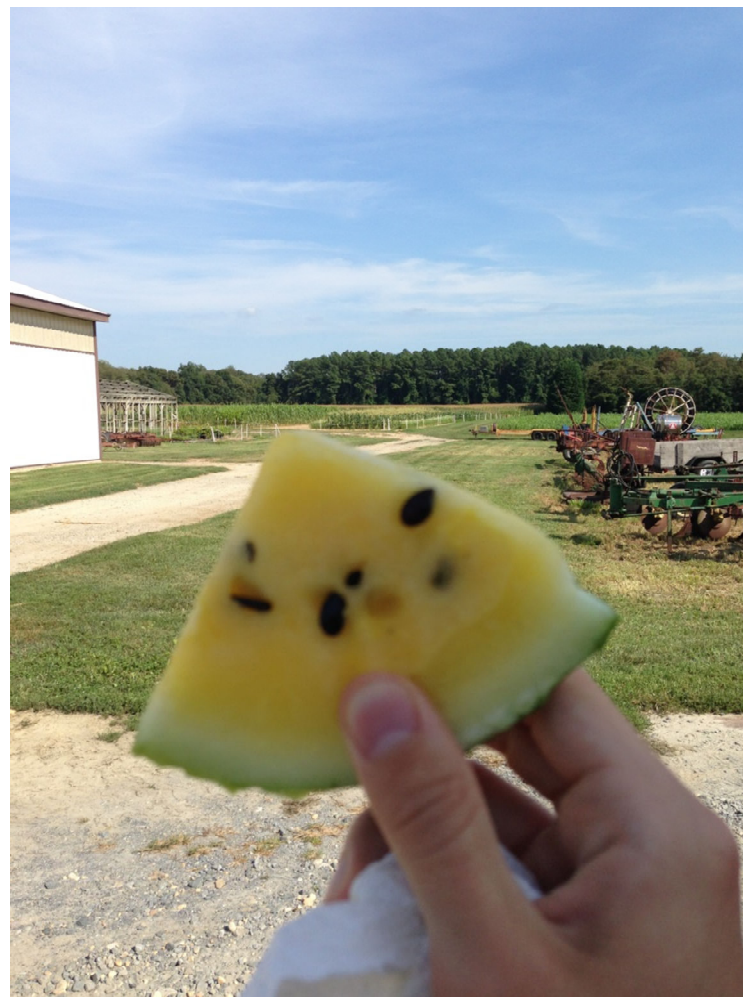


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When you meet faculty where they work...



...the rewards can be sweet!



Summary

- New faculty orientations present the opportunity to build relationships with junior faculty **before** they get buried under service obligations, grant deadlines, teaching, and research.
 - Junior faculty often are more amenable to trying out new research and teaching models, including methods that feature a librarian prominently.
- Work with College administrators to get time in orientation schedules, or to visit research teams in their laboratory spaces.
 - Even five to ten minutes can make all the difference.
- Longer exposure often is better, but empathize with your captive audience.

Reflections

- Spending time with faculty outside of the classroom presents the opportunity to build real relationships.
- Successful relationships with faculty members can be contagious. These relationships will create advocates within a department who can vouch for you.