“‘I don’t need very much not,’ said the boy, ‘just a quiet place to sit and rest. I am very tired.’ ‘Well,’ said the tree, straightening herself up as much as she could, ‘well, an old stump is good for sitting and resting. Come, Boy, sit down. Sit down and rest.’ And the boy did. And the tree was happy.”

– The Giving Tree, Shel Silverstein

OH, QUERCUS PHELLOS

March 2nd, 2018 marks the day that our campus lost one of the willow oaks on McKeldin Mall. A candle light vigil was hosted by Dyani Frye and friends on March 5th to honor the fallen tree. This willow oak lived to be 80 years old, only half of its estimated lifetime. Did you know that the 129 willow oaks on McKeldin Mall are valued at $3.53 million? The tree appraisal took into account the location, size, species rating, and installed tree cost to come up with the sum. However, 50-75 of students came to give their words to the tree, proving its monetary value was not the only thing that mattered. This tree watched generations of Terrapins through many mental breakdowns, but also during moments of celebration. Thank you for watching over us, we love you Quercus phellos!

OUTSTANDING ALUMNI LECTURE

In celebration of 25 years of landscape architecture at the University of Maryland, three alumni have returned to reconnect with their fellow Terps on February 28th, 2018.

Alexia Friend from Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates worked at two small office design firms before going to Harvard for graduate school. She recommends that students should have fun with their design projects and save the practicality for work. “Become an expert in things you don’t know.” Kevin Gaughan from Campion Hruby Landscape Architects has spent much of his graduate life in the skies. His extensive travels to Latin America and more taught him to stay curious and continue learning. “Take risks early!” Richard Jones, President of Mahan Rykiel Associates, opened up about his childhood in Germany before moving to Camden, NJ. He was shocked to see abandoned housing normalized. “It’s just the way you live in a place like this.” This was the origin of his passion for a just and equitable society. He brought up an ASLA survey revealing that only 1% of practicing landscape architects were African Americans. “How can we design for impoverished areas if they are not represented? -- Design with empathy and care.” Thank you Dr. Byoung-Suk Kweon for organizing this event!
SECOND PLACE AT AGI2C

Juniors Kevin Baker, Kamani Brown, Michael Pullano, and Erik Rosenbaum placed second at the Agriculture Innovation to Commercialization (AGI2C) Undergraduate Ideation Competition on February 27th, 2018. Their winning business pitch, Flora-Filter, aimed to address potable water issues in underdeveloped countries. Erik tells us that the team spent many hours researching and planning their business pitch in a way that targets all their key points. Their product is a three-layered aquaponics system meant to filter dirty water and grow crops. The first modular filter removes heavy metals. The second layer of bioremedial plants filters out more heavy contaminants. The final layer is comprised of crops that will alter certain nutrients in the water while also providing produce. Michael and Kamani started the business pitch with an eye-opening contaminated water simulation to address the needs for potable water for all people. Congratulations team!

TERPS TAKE ON PHILADELPHIA

Seniors and 2017 graduates went to Moore College of Art & Design on March 1st, 2018 to present their winning designs for the 2018 Better Philadelphia Challenge. Jenny Dibra, Devan Hare, and Simone Vitale’s design won second place and was featured in the November 2017 SASLA Newsletter. Blair Danies, Akin Jaiye (AJ), and Sara Saernwald’s design for Lehigh Avenue, Hidden River, won third place. AJ’s team wanted to reconnect the city’s industrial origins with new natural destinations to emphasize growth in the community. He tells us that the design increases the surrounding community’s economic output, social gathering spaces, and awareness for an environmentally sustainable future. In addition to presenting their work, students got the chance to meet Enrique Peñalosa, Mayor of Bogotá, Colombia who was awarded the 2018 Edmund N. Bacon award for his investment in public transportation. Congratulations teams. “Never give up!”