

ST MARY'S

COLLEGE of MARYLAND

The National Public Honors College



The MULBERRY TREE

SPRING 2024

ELEVATING ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

The St. Mary's Way

[PAGE 8]



ST. MARY'S COLLEGE
of Maryland



The
MULBERRY
TREE

SPRING 2024, VOL. XLV, NO. 2

www.smcm.edu/mulberrytree

Editor

Lee Capristo

Alumni News Editor

Holly Fabbri '12, MAT '13

Design

Jensen Design

Editorial Board

Karen Anderson,
Karen Raley '94,
Chuck Steenburgh,
Emily Vance '24

Publisher

Office of Institutional Advancement
St. Mary's College of Maryland
47645 College Drive
St. Mary's City, Maryland 20686

The Mulberry Tree is published by St. Mary's College of Maryland, Maryland's public honors college for the liberal arts and sciences. It is produced for alumni, faculty, staff, trustees, the local community, and friends of the College.

The magazine is named for the famous mulberry tree under which the Calvert colonists signed a treaty of friendship with the Yacomoco people and on the trunk of which public notices were posted in the mid-1600s. The tree endured long into the 19th century and was once a popular meeting spot for St. Mary's College students.

The illustration of the mulberry tree on the cover was drawn in 1972 by Earl Hofmann, artist-in-residence when St. Mary's College President Renwick Jackson launched the magazine.

Copyright 2024

The opinions expressed in *The Mulberry Tree* are those of the individual authors and not necessarily those of the College. The editor reserves the right to select and edit all material. Manuscripts and letters to the editor are encouraged and may be addressed to Editor, *The Mulberry Tree*, St. Mary's College of Maryland, 47645 College Drive, St. Mary's City, MD 20686.

Photographs and illustrations may not be reproduced without the express written consent of St. Mary's College of Maryland.



CONTENTS

SPRING 2024

ST. MARY'S COLLEGE OF MARYLAND

July 2023 — June 2024

ALUMNI COUNCIL

Executive Board

Kate Fritz '04, *president*
Michele Shipley '92,
exec. vice president
Sean Floyd '06, *vice pres.*
of operations
Sara Kidd Shanklin '11,
secretary
Kevin Roth '93,
parliamentarian
John Ahearn '76, *treasurer*
Erin O'Connell '91, *vice pres.*
of chapter activities
Vacant, *vice pres. of affinity*
networks

Elected Voting Members

Aman Afsah '16
Matt Baden '11
Kenneth Benjes '11
Thomas Brewer '05
Paul Broccolina '00
Geoff Cuneo '10
Serra Erbas '15
Mike Greer '01
Valerie Gregorio '19
Angie Harvey '83
Kevin Hill '89
Barbara Kimmelshue-
Kearns '63
Hans Lemke '93
Michael Mellinger '18
Kate Monahan '12
Lauren Payne '09
Lindsey Siferd '13

Student Members

Tae-shi Savage '24
Joey Carson '25

Regional Chapter Presidents

Annapolis:
Sara Morgan Watters '10
Baltimore Metro:
Sophia Macek Rowe '19
Boston Regional:
Eunice Akins-Afful '95
California Bay Area:
Vacant
Chicago Regional:
Vacant
Denver Regional: Vacant
New York City Regional:
John Haltiwanger '10
Philadelphia Regional:
Ian Murphy '08
Southern Maryland:
Cathy Hernandez Ray '77
Washington, D.C. Metro:
Vacant
Western Maryland: Vacant

Affinity Network Chairs

Black Alumni:
Janssen Evelyn '01

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair

Susan Lawrence Dyer

Vice Chair

Paula Collins

Treasurer

John Chambers
Wobensmith '93

Secretary

Nicolas Abrams '99

Trustees

Carlos Alcazar
Anirban Basu
John Bell '95
Arthur A. "Lex" Birney Jr.
Peter Bruns
Donny Bryan '73
Peg Duchesne '77
Judith Fillius '79
Kate Fritz '04
Alumni Association
Elizabeth Graves '95
Kristen Greenaway
Gail Harmon
Sven Erik Holmes
Talib Horne '93
Steny H. Hoyer
Kimberly Kelley
Jesse Price '92
Melanie Rosalez '92
Aaron Tomarchio '96
HSMC
Danielle Troyan '92
Raymond Wernecke
Hudson Christensen '25
Student Trustee

PRESIDENT

Tuajuanda C. Jordan, PhD



[PAGE 8]



[PAGE 13]



[PAGE 18]

OPPOSITE:
Photo from the College's collection

FEATURES

PAGE 8

Elevating Alumni Engagement: The St. Mary's Way

Asked at a national conference to explain their "secret sauce" for great numbers of actively engaged alumni, Institutional Advancement's VP and alumni relations team share the ingredients and recipe.

PAGE 13

The Enduring SMP

Nearly 30 years old, the St. Mary's Project is still the most popular choice for students' senior capstone experience and a defining element of their undergraduate education.

PAGE 18

Tune In To SlackWater Online

Download the App: SlackWater cultural journalism now includes a podcast format.

DEPARTMENTS

- 2 President's Letter
- 3 College News
- 22 Alumni Connection
- 28 From the Archives

COVER:

*"Welcome Alumni" greets returning alumni
from across the decades.*

THE SPRING SEMESTER SCREAMED ACROSS THE FINISH LINE AS SPRING SEMESTERS DO, but this one corresponded with important additional milestones for St. Mary's College of Maryland.

SMCM surpassed its \$20 million fundraising goal – *a year ahead of schedule* – through the Taking the LEAD comprehensive campaign. The achievement was marked by a new commitment from the Landers Trust which helped push the total raised for Taking the LEAD to \$20,087,012. Truly the St. Mary's Way! Your unwavering belief in our mission is inspiring and I am profoundly grateful. To maintain the campaign's momentum and maximize the initiatives of *The Rising Tide* strategic plan, the campaign will transition to the "How High Can We Fly?" phase for the final year, concluding in June 2025 (details at go.smcm.edu/taking-the-lead).

Thank you to Congressman and Board Trustee Steny Hoyer (D-MD-5th) for his topical address to the graduates of the Class of 2024, reminding them of their unique ability to come together. His message: "You know that it's always possible to come together because you did so as a class at the height of Covid-19. ... My hope is that you will reject nihilism, apathy and indifference, that you will not only serve others but bring them closer together. You will do so armed with the reason and principles that you developed here on the banks of the St. Mary's River."

June 2025 will mark my retirement as president of this fine institution. I made this announcement to the Board of Trustees on May 10. I am immensely proud of our shared accomplishments including the increasing diversity of our student body, steady enrollment growth, curricular and co-curricular innovations, the focus on an expanding campus culture where everyone can thrive, and deeper partnerships with the broader community.

The concept of "community" has always been important to me. In my view, it is inclusive of those who see and experience the world differently from you. The magnetism of music helps bring members of a community together. If you can, come join me on campus for the 5th annual Mulberry Music Festival, emceed by **Carly Harvey '07** and headlined by Gabe Stillman. Joining Stillman are .WALKING EAGLE, Everyday Everybody and Shamans of Sound (details at www.smcm.edu/mulberry-music-festival). In so doing you will be helping our community celebrate all that is good in humanity.

All the best,



TUAJUANDA C. JORDAN, PhD
President, St. Mary's College of Maryland

Editor's Note

WHEN ALUMNI CONNECT with current students it benefits both. The graduates recollect the good times while offering themselves as evidence that St. Mary's College helped to shape their careers. Current students become aware that their college has timeless appeal and that academically, it has produced accomplished alumni who are now investing in them.

Learning through Experiential and Applied Discovery (LEAD), the current curricular focus, opens the way for traditional learning to take a modern twist. For example, students in Associate Professor Jerry Gabriel's ENGL 391 class found the deliverables were podcasts. The steps to accomplish them included leaving campus and interviewing people, researching archived oral histories, creating soundscapes and recording narratives. From all this content, they edited the work of a semester into short, succinct podcasts.

The St. Mary's Project (SMP) is a year-long effort and like a growling stomach, demands to be fed. The student starts out with a question to be answered. Guided by a faculty mentor who probes and reassures, the student feeds their developing project a thousand more questions which results, months later, in a hundred partial answers. Continually guided and encouraged by their faculty mentor, the student eventually answers the question, or perhaps partially answers the question, now knowing what other questions need to be asked. In a 20-minute show and tell during SMP Days, the student demonstrates publicly their developed expertise in an articulate, intelligent way because, for that year, the student made that question the purpose and focus of their work. This culmination of their labor marks the end of that project but the beginning of a lifetime of opportunity for expertise developed through focused, intentional learning. For this, let's admire the liberal arts and thank St. Mary's College faculty, who make the impossible seem possible. It's not surprising when the students they've impacted want to stay engaged as alumni.

LEE CAPRISTO, *editor*

CAMPUS & COMMUNITY NEWS



The Supreme Court of Maryland Hears Oral Arguments at SMCM

The Supreme Court of Maryland heard oral arguments in the concert hall of the College’s Nancy R. & Norton T. Dodge Performing Arts Center on March 5. This marked only the second time in recent history that Maryland’s highest court held oral arguments outside the City of Annapolis. Several hundred students, both from St. Mary’s College as well as high schools from three Southern Maryland counties, attended the event, as well as the College’s faculty and staff and members of the community. Associate Professor **Diana Boros**, chair of the Department of Political Science, organized a group of student ambassadors from SMCM. The ambassadors researched the two cases being argued before the court – one criminal, one civil – and produced written background and analysis documents that were then distributed to attendees. Of special note, Chief Justice Matthew Fader presided over the session using the court’s mulberry tree gavel, created for the court in 1884 from the legendary mulberry tree from which this magazine derives its name.

St. Mary’s College of Maryland has partnered with the National Association of Resource Conservation & Development Councils (NARCCDC) to create and provide 12 summer internship opportunities across the United States exclusively to SMCM students. As one of the five key partners in the National Conservation Partnership (NCP), the NARCCDC is integral to the creation and implementation of resource conservation programs across the country that are critical for the sustainability of our natural resources.



Surisitee Motiram '23, sociology and political science double major who works for the Maryland General Assembly as a legislative secretary, has been awarded a Fulbright grant to teach English in Colombia. **Charlotte Mac Kay '22** and **Nicholas Howard '23** were semi-finalists.

Motiram’s ideal career involves working as an immigration lawyer to help change the U.S. immigration system, including helping migrants navigate this system.



BOARD & FOUNDATION NEWS

At its May 10 meeting, the Board of Trustees held tuition and mandatory fees flat for the fifth consecutive year. A modest 3.9% increase for room and board reflects increased costs of goods and services and an increase in Maryland minimum wage. Board Chair **Susan L. Dyer** completed her three-year term;

John Bell '95 will step into that role while the remaining officers continue in their current roles. The Board approved the state capital budget proposal for fiscal years 2026-2030 and received updates on the Middle States Reaffirmation of Accreditation self-study.

PRESIDENT'S NEWS

President Jordan announced to the Board of Trustees on May 10 her intention to retire in June 2025 and the transition of the College's Taking the LEAD fundraising campaign to a "How High Can We Fly?" phase for its final year after eclipsing its initial goal of \$20 million a year ahead of schedule (go.smcm.edu/taking-the-lead).

President Jordan appointed interim vice president for business and chief financial officer **Amir Mohammadi**, who fills the vacancy left by retiring Vice President **Paul Pusecker**. She announced that a search will ensue to replace another retiring appointee, **Dereck J. Rovaris Sr.**, who served since 2022 as the vice president for equity and strategic initiatives.

President Jordan, with Institutional Advancement's alumni relations team, visited Maryland alumni in Frederick, Solomons and Savage during the spring. This was the continuation of the "Taking the LEAD Tour" launched in the fall. The tours have generated significant momentum in mobilizing additional financial support for the College.

In March, the American Council on Education (ACE) published a series of interviews featuring **President Jordan** and four other women presidents titled, "Voices from the Field 2023: Experiences of Women Presidents in Higher Education." The five women were asked about their respective career paths, pivotal mentors and development as leaders over the course of their presidencies. The series of interviews was featured on ACE's blog, Higher Education Today, in a post titled "Beyond March: Supporting Women on the Path to the College Presidency."

President Jordan along with four colleagues in higher education administration presented, "Preserving Inclusion Work in Polarized Environments: A Case Study" and led a group discussion during the annual meeting of the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) in Washington D.C., January 17-19. The presentation on inclusion work uses a case study developed by members of the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC), of which Jordan is the current president.

FACULTY, STAFF & STUDENT NEWS



Professor of History **Christine Adams** wrote an essay that appeared in TIME magazine's Made by History column on April 16.

In the essay, titled "History Makes Clear the Risk of Appeasing Putin," Adams offers examples from history that suggest that "autocrats are seldom satisfied with concessions designed to assuage them." In February, she was a guest on "The Royal Studies Podcast" in a roundtable discussion on royal mistresses and the important part they played in the French and English monarchies. Adams was joined by Tracy Adams, professor in European Languages and Literatures at the University of Auckland, New Zealand, her sister and co-author of "The Creation of the French Royal Mistress: From Agnès Sorel to Madame Du Barry" (Pennsylvania State University Press, 2020).

Professor and chair of the Department of Physics **Chuck Adler** was a guest of the "Watch the First" podcast on April 18. The podcast features three hosts who watch the first episode of a series and discuss it. Adler is the author of "Wizards, Aliens and Starships: Physics and Math in Fantasy and Science Fiction" (Princeton University Press, 2014).



Poet and Professor of English **Karen Leona Anderson** had two poems published in the January/February 2024 issue of Poetry magazine. Anderson's poems are "Ant Ode" and "Charm." According to its website, Poetry magazine, founded in 1912, is the oldest monthly devoted to verse in the English-speaking world. Its mission is to print the best contemporary poetry, of any style, genre or approach. It receives more than 15,000 submissions each year.

Professor of Psychology **Aileen Bailey**, along with four colleges from the Council on Undergraduate Research Transformations Project (CUR-TP) presented, "Leading Structural and Cultural Change to Advance Curricular Scaffolding for Equity" at the recent annual meeting of the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) in Washington, D.C.



José Ballesteros, professor and chair of the Department of International Languages and Cultures, was the invited guest

poet at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) launch on April 11 of National Fair Housing Month. Ballesteros read two poems in Spanish from a set

of five that he wrote, titled “Home Suites I-V” about his personal journey through the country and housing.



Professor of History **Betül Başaran** attended a Parisian conference where she gave a talk entitled “Niloufer Hanım Sultan: An Exiled

Ottoman Princess in Hyderabad, India and Muslim Women’s Leadership Roles after WW1.” Başaran’s research on Princess Niloufer was funded by a Fulbright Global Scholar Award in 2021 and allowed her to conduct critical archival research at the British Library in London, as well as in New Delhi and Hyderabad in India.



Assistant Professor of Music **Ellington Carthan** headlined a sold-out performance at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. on April 16. In an evening celebrating the 125th anniversary of the birth of musical legend Duke Ellington, Carthan narrated and performed with the Post Classical Ensemble a program titled, “Beyond Category: The Concert Music of Duke Ellington.” The Post Classical Ensemble, under the direction of Angel Gil-Ordóñez, included Felix Contreras on the conga with Carthan on the piano.

Jennifer Cognard-Black, professor of English, has been appointed as the College’s inaugural director of student fellowships and awards. The director serves as recruiter, mentor and adviser to those students interested in pursuing nationally competitive awards and fellowships, such as Fulbright Awards, Goldwater Scholarships and Critical Language Scholarships.

Professor of Political Science **Todd Eberly** was recently appointed to a three-year term on the Governor’s Commission on Service and Volunteerism by Maryland Governor Wes Moore. Eberly is quoted frequently on Maryland politics in regional press; national interest in the Maryland U.S. Senate race has led to articles quoting Eberly being syndicated nationwide.

The staff of Institutional Advancement’s integrated marketing and communications team won awards in two national competitions earlier this year. In the 37th Annual Educational Advertising Awards, Senior Graphic Designer **Abby Galey** earned a Gold Award for a custom-designed pocket folder for admission and a Merit Award for a custom-designed holiday card for **President Jordan**. In the Collegiate Advertising Awards, the team received a Gold Award in the TV/Video category for Spirit of SMCM: Memories of 2023 (holiday video) and a Silver Award in the Total Advertising Campaigns category for the 2023 Mulberry Music Festival. In addition, the College’s Fall Open House Campaign received a Bronze Award in the Total Digital Marketing Program category in conjunction with Creative Communications Associates of Troy, New York.



Julia King, professor of anthropology, has been named a National Humanities Center Fellow for the 2024-25 academic year. King was

among 31 leading scholars appointed from 492 applicants from institutions across the globe. The fellowship will allow her to focus on her project, “Land as Archive: An Indigenous Landscape History of the Rappahannock People of Tidewater Virginia.” Earlier this year, King was named to the George B. and Willma Reeves Endowed Chair in the Liberal Arts in recognition of her numerous accomplishments as a full-time professor at St. Mary’s College of Maryland. King’s term as chair took effect at the start of the spring 2024 semester and runs through May 31, 2026. She succeeds previous chairholders Professor of English **Jeff Hammond** and Professor of Religious Studies **Henry Rosemont**.



Argelia González Hurtado, associate professor of Spanish, has co-edited “Cinematic Landscape and Emerging Identities in

Contemporary Latin American Film” with colleague Maria Soledad Paz-Mackay (St. Francis Xavier University). The book, published by Lexington Books, features 11 chapters and conversations with filmmakers who use landscape to convey issues affecting diverse Latin American societies, including Indigenous groups, Afro-Latin Americans, LGBTQIA+ communities, migrants, environmentalists and women.

Linda Jones Hall, professor emerita of history, has a new book, “The Poems of Optatian: Puzzling Out the Past in the Time of Constantine the Great” (Bloomsbury Publishing, 2024). In it, the poems and accompanying letters of Optatian are published with a translation and detailed commentary, along with a full introduction to Optatian’s work during this period.



Assistant Professor of Psychology **Kristina Howansky** recently gave an invited talk entitled “Fantasy World, Real-Life Impact: The Benefits of RPGs for Transgender Identity Exploration” for the LGBTQ+ Psychology Network. Hosted by University of Glasgow, the talk focused on the St. Mary’s Project research conducted by **Sonder Van Wert ’23** under Howansky’s mentorship. Howansky also presented research and gave a talk at the 25th Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) conference in San Diego, California in February. Joining Howansky were **April Fraser ’23** and **Sonder Van Wert ’23**, who both presented posters based on their St. Mary’s Projects. A corresponding article was published in the Journal of Homosexuality. Professor of Psychology **Libby Nutt-Williams**, **Katya Scott ’24** and **Merel Verhoeven ’24** are mentioned in the acknowledgements section of the paper.



Ten Most Wanted Women

Professor of Art **Sue Johnson's** Jacquard tapestry works from her "Ten Most Wanted Women" series appear in the exhibition, "POP! Art with Mass Appeal" from May 3 – September 22 at the Anmarie Sculpture Garden and Art Center in Solomons, Maryland. Earlier this spring, Johnson exhibited large-scale screen-prints in "Mesh," a national juried exhibition at Pyramid Atlantic Art Center in Hyattsville, Maryland. Johnson's works are from "Subliminality," a series of 7-foot-tall prints on recycled wallpapers that she created during a residency fellowship at the Frans Masereel Centrum in Kasterlee, Belgium.

Pamela Mann, associate librarian, and **Amanda VerMeulen**, director of the library and archives, published an article in the Canadian Journal of Academic Librarianship. This special issue focuses on the place of teaching in the work of academic librarians. Co-authored with Jillian Sandy (Binghamton University), the article, "Perspectives: Librarian Teaching Identities are Constructed and Contextual" presents a case study. Drawing inspiration from the authors' experiences, the case study finds that the intentional development of teaching identity through a Community of Practice (CoP) provides opportunities for librarians' growth as teachers.

Pamela Mertz, professor of biochemistry, was a co-author on four posters presented at Discover BMB in San Antonio, Texas. Mertz also was an invited panelist on an academic career panel for graduate students and postdocs. She helped facilitate two workshops at the conference and served as a judge for the undergraduate poster competition.

Associate Professor of Psychology **Scott Mirabile** and collaborators from the University of Puget Sound and Montana State University recently published an article titled "Development and adaptation of the Emotion Regulation Skills Questionnaire for adolescents" in the Journal of Adolescence.

Associate Dean and Associate Professor of Chemistry **Kelly Neiles** and Associate Professor of Chemistry **Daniel Chase** recently were awarded a collaborative grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF), Division of Undergraduate Education (DUE) titled "Broadening Instructional Innovation in the



Chemistry Laboratory through Excellence in Curriculum Development." The \$1,980,000 award (with \$1,017,000 going to St. Mary's College of Maryland) will take place over the course of five years. In this collaborative grant, Neiles and Assistant Professor of Chemistry Maia Popova of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG) along with Chase and Professor Mitchell Croatt (also UNCG), will develop and implement a professional development program to equip chemistry instructors with evidence-based practices in effective curriculum development. The grant is part of the NSF DUE Improving Undergraduate STEM Education program as a Level 2 project in the Institutional and Community Transformation track.



Public Safety Officer **Katie Ringdahl** has been selected as our Officer of the Year for 2024.

Officer Ringdahl started her career with the Office of Public Safety in 2021. Officer Ringdahl possesses a Bachelor of Science in criminal justice from the University of Maryland Global Campus and an Associate of Arts in social sciences from the College of Southern Maryland. Officer Ringdahl is a certified instructor for RAD self defense and ALERRT civilian response to an active shooter.



Assistant Professor of Anthropology **Brian C. Smithson** delivered an invited talk titled "From Collaborator to Star: Ethnographic Fieldwork and Celebrity Labor in West African Digital Filmmaking" for the Washington Association of Professional Anthropologists (WAPA) on January 24. Smithson focused on the complexities of researching African movies as a full participant in the production process, drawing from his ethnographic field research in Bénin.



Assistant Professor **Daniel J. Tobiansky** and Professor **J. Jordan Price**

contributed a chapter to "Neuroendocrinology of Behavior and Emotions," part of the Springer Nature Masterclass in Neuroendocrinology series. Their work, "Neuroendocrine Modulation of Coordinated Acoustic Signals," provides a comprehensive review of how hormonal signals in the brain enable birds—and potentially other species—to synchronize their songs in nature's own symphony.

STUDENT NEWS

Psychology majors **Raina Crew '24**, **Giselle Harris '25**, **Sadiyyah Holsey '25**, **Ashley Johnson '25** and **Greta Michels '24**; alumni **Mackenzie Brooks '22** and **Nicolette Iacona '23**; and Associate Professor of Psychology **Jennifer Tickle**, Assistant Professor of Psychology **Anandi Ehman** and former Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics **Josh Kaisen**, presented research at the Annual Meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association in early March 2024.

Jon Geyer '24 and **Summer LaRocco '26** were recipients of grants under the Fulbright-Hays Fellowships for Advanced Overseas Chinese Language Study for the summer of 2024. The fellowships were awarded by the American Councils for International Education under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Geyer is an Asian studies and anthropology double-major with a minor in Chinese (read more about Geyer on p. 14); LaRocco is an Asian studies and English double-major with minors in Chinese and educational studies.

Computer science majors **Alex Stoyanov-Roberts '24** and **Shameer Rao '24** took first place in the VelocityX: AI Hackathon hosted by the College of Southern Maryland and sponsored by the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division on March 21-22. The challenge for the hackathon was to produce an image classification model capable of identifying images of aircraft. Stoyanov-Roberts and Rao both have been accepted to a PhD program at Morgan State University in which they intend to pursue careers in cybersecurity.



ABOVE LEFT Computer science majors **Alex Stoyanov-Roberts '24** and **Shameer Rao '24** took first place in the Velocity X: AI Hackathon at the College of Southern Maryland. ABOVE RIGHT **Kailah Callaham '27** was selected as a dancer for the Super Bowl LVIII Halftime Show.



Psychology and art major **Katya Scott '24** and Professor of Psychology **Libby Nutt-Williams** were recently published in the journal *The Arts in Psychotherapy*. The article is based on Scott's project, which was mentored by Nutt-Williams. The project's title: "A Systematic Review of Qualitative Studies on Art Therapy with Adult Refugees."

Tamani Kingsland '25 has been awarded summer research funding from the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. Kingsland's research adviser is Professor of Biochemistry **Pamela Mertz**.

Sophia Koontz '25 was awarded the best undergraduate oral research presentation and the best interdisciplinary research for environmental challenges in the 2024 Sigma Xi Student Research Showcase. Koontz presented the work she did under the supervision of Assistant Professor **Lorena Torres Martínez**. Koontz's research aimed at understanding how sea level rise will influence the symbiotic association of soil bacteria called rhizobia with legumes using as a model system clover plants, which are particularly used in agriculture as cover crops.

Kailah Callaham '27 was selected as one of the 300 dancers of the field cast for the 2024 Apple Music Super Bowl LVIII Halftime Show headlined by Usher. Callaham, a political science and psychology double major, was the youngest member of the cast viewed by more than 120 million people on Feb. 11.

Elevating Alumni Engagement: the St. Mary's Way

BY CAROLYN CURRY, VICE PRESIDENT FOR INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ST. MARY'S COLLEGE OF MARYLAND FOUNDATION; DAVE SUSHINSKY '02, ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT OF ALUMNI RELATIONS; AND HOLLY FABBRI '12, MAT'13, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

IN THE REALM OF INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT (IA), OUR MISSION IS CLEAR: to propel the College forward. Yet at St. Mary's College of Maryland (SMCM), this mission transcends the conventional. Our integrated approach in IA not only fortifies the College's reputation, but also fosters a deep sense of community and purpose among our alumni.

Integral Contributors

"Since I arrived nine years ago, our IA team has been committed to raising the bar in alumni engagement," says Vice President for Institutional Advancement **Carolyn Curry**. "What sets us apart is our unwavering dedication to involving alumni in every facet of our endeavors—from marketing the College and strengthening its brand, to raising much-needed private funds and making SMCM the college of choice among key constituents. Rather than merely organizing alumni events, we have cultivated a culture of partnership, respect and collaboration, where alumni are integral contributors to strategic initiatives that extend far beyond the campus."

Stakeholders Not Spectators

Dave Sushinsky '02, assistant vice president of alumni relations, was asked at a recent regional conference for special event planners how SMCM consistently attracts record participation in alumni events. "This isn't by chance," he explained. "It's the result of meticulous planning, feedback, innovative thinking and commitment from our alumni community. Their outcomes matter, have impact and drive the College's momentum toward delivering an exceptional educational experience to our students."

Record Alumni Participation

1,350 ATTENDEES
(alumni and guests)
Alumni Weekend 2023

1,714 TOTAL ATTENDEES
166 ALUMNI HOSTS
Hawktoberfest
Family Weekend 2023

285 ALUMNI MENTOR
450 CURRENT STUDENTS
2023-24

907 ALUMNI DONORS
Giving Tuesday 2023

\$391,086 RAISED
(\$140,608 from alumni)
Giving Tuesday 2023

85 ALUMNI JOINED
Bay to Bay Service Days 2024

"We are often asked by other institutions how we achieve such impressive deliverables," says Curry. "Key to our success is our integrated model, where alumni are not mere spectators but valued stakeholders. Every decision we make in IA is informed by their insights and guided by their passion for everything SMCM represents."

SMCM alumni just don't reminisce about their college days; they actively participate in shaping the future of the College. Associate Director of Alumni Relations **Holly Fabbri '12, MAT '13**, speaks of the "alumni triple crown" which is the value of alumni engagement with prospective and current students as well as with fellow alumni. "Alumni refer prospective students, write letters to admitted students and support current students," Fabbri says. "They volunteer as guest speakers for classes and programs, provide networking and internships, and attend student recitals, St. Mary's Project presentations and athletic games. When students graduate, the alumni community welcomes them into the Alumni Association."

An Essential Partnership

There is a genuine partnership between the College and its alumni. President Jordan's active involvement in retreats and gatherings underscores her commitment to the critical role alumni play. With the Alumni Association president on the Board of Trustees and the vice president of Institutional Advancement participating in alumni meetings, the dedication to alumni-driven success is unwavering. Simply put, alumni engagement is not just desirable—it's essential.



“Our alumni engagement is a testament to the enduring legacy of our liberal arts education and the St. Mary’s Way – a legacy that will continue to elevate all who graduate...”

Carolyn Curry
Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Executive Director, St. Mary’s College of Maryland Foundation





OPPOSITE: Alumni cleaning a canal in Frederick, Maryland, one of many such projects across the country organized by alumni as part of “Bay to Bay Service Days.” ABOVE LEFT: SAGE students and alumni working the grounds at Historic Sotterley in Hollywood, Maryland. TOP RIGHT: Fun times at Alumni Weekend. BOTTOM RIGHT: Dave Sushinsky '02 and Alumni Council member Hans Lemke '93 broadcasting during Giving Tuesday.

For **Paul Schultheis '98**, the Alumni Council has truly become a critical spoke in the College’s wheel. “We’ve taken the ‘friend raising’ mantra and turned it into a very effective body that can connect with alums from the Junior College days to ones that have graduated in the past year,” he says. “That’s quite an accomplishment.”

“The Council has transformed through the hard work of both Council leadership and College staff,” Schultheis continues. “The leadership and committee structure that is in place gives the Council credibility not only with alumni, but with College leadership/administration as well as the Trustees and Foundation.”

“Dave [Sushinsky] and Holly [Fabbri], alums themselves, exude constant enthusiasm for the College,” says Alumni Council member **Kevin Roth '89**. “They keep the Council up to date on College events and highlight where Council members can best provide support. They also figure out how to execute Council members’ ideas, like the 0.2K Seahawk Shuffle race during Alumni Weekend, which raises funds for the Council’s scholarship fund.”

Indeed, the Alumni Council and active alumni constitute a national model of success, worthy of the National Public Honors College. “Our

alumni engagement is a testament to the enduring legacy of our liberal arts education and the St. Mary’s Way—a legacy that will continue to inspire and elevate all who graduate,” Curry asserts. “Their active strategic involvement is a lifeline, bridging the gap between past, present and future generations of students.”

One exciting example of this tied to the College’s current strategic plan, *The Rising Tide*, is in the dedicated involvement in the Mentor-a-Seahawk program in partnerships with the College’s Center for Career and Professional Development. The Mentor-a-Seahawk program provides career guidance, mentorship and networking opportunities for current students by connecting them with alumni working in career fields that interest them. With 285 active alumni engaged with 450 current students, the program’s success stems from thoughtful rollout guided by important feedback from Alumni Council members in a pilot version of the program. “One of the great benefits of having a strong partnership with our Alumni Council is that it gives us a safe space to try new ideas before we take them to the wider alumni community,” explains Curry.

“The Mentor-a-Seahawk pilot program with the Alumni Council taught us that alumni wanted

more clarification on what to discuss at each of the three required meetings with their current student mentee,” Curry recalls. “Alumni also needed a stronger web presence that they could turn to as a resource, and better communication throughout the semester to keep them updated on program deadlines. We made these adjustments before recruiting other alumni and we were able to avoid a lot of larger-scale challenges because of that test phase.”

Of the program, it’s a win-win as far as **Roth '89** is concerned. “Mentoring current students has been very rewarding. First of all, it’s a chance to share advice and life experiences with students. I hope sharing our experiences (both at school and post-college work-life) helps give mentees some perspective and insights that make their time at SMCM more enriching. Second, it is fun to hear about what’s happening at SMCM from a student perspective.” Alumni Council member **Barbara Kimmelshue-Kearns '63** tells current students, “What you put into your time on campus will have an indelible mark on your life forever as it has with mine.”

Beneficial Legacy

In 2023, Sushinsky and Curry created the Legacy Council, to tap the enthusiasm and expertise of alumni council veterans whose term



ABOVE: Alumni volunteers support Hawktoberfest - Family Weekend and its signature event, the Great Bamboo Boat Race.

“Hawktoberfest has been a meaningful event for me because I’ve been able to connect with alumni of all ages and support activities that help out our campus community.”

Henok Bedasso ’25
SAGE member

Students Advancing Graduate Engagement (SAGE) got its start in 2017-18 when the Alumni Relations team and a handful of students piloted the program, establishing the framework and foundation upon which SAGE would operate.

“In partnership with **Izzy Wolf ’18** and **Christian Harris ’18**,” says **Sophia Macek Rowe ’19**, “I founded SAGE with the mission to serve as a link between current student ambassadors, alumni and the St. Mary’s College community. Ambassadors would raise awareness for philanthropy, community service and alumni involvement among current students and graduates. Service has always been important to me and SAGE was a great way to open up the same experience I had with [the Institutional Advancement team], to other students on campus.”

After a pause during Covid, the program regained momentum in 2022 and continues to support the goal of creating a pipeline of engagement from student to alumni. Fabbri and Sushinsky place great importance on intentionality – providing context, purpose and connections between what SAGE members are doing for the College community and the benefits they are gaining themselves. “We always want SAGE members to feel actively involved in the program and emphasize providing feedback on how their contributions not only directly impact College initiatives, but also connect to them as students,” explains Fabbri. “SAGE members understand that everything done in Institutional Advancement is to support students just like themselves.”

limits had cycled them off but who wanted to remain informed and engaged with College strategic initiatives. “The Legacy Council benefits the College and the former Alumni Council members,” says Sushinsky. “It allows former members to stay engaged at a level that is comfortable to them and still enjoy many of the benefits they had as a sitting member. In turn, it gives the Alumni Office a reliable network to reach out to when needed to help with College initiatives. For example, for the fall 2023 Giving Tuesday, we were able to reach our Giving Tuesday Alumni Council Challenge goal of \$30,000 (up from \$20,000 in 2022) because our Legacy Council members were willing to donate to that fund. In turn, we’ve given the Legacies who donated the chance to test the 2024 Alumni

Weekend registration system and register before anyone else.”

“St. Mary’s [College] is way more than just my alma mater,” boasts Legacy Council member **Schultheis ’98**. “I met my wife there; I credit much of my career success with things that I learned [there]. I was involved in student leadership when I attended and that turned into a 25+ year connection to the College beyond just being an alum, [through the Alumni Council]. Just like when I graduated in 1998, when my tenure was up on the Council, I never really wanted to let go...but at the same time was excited for the next group of leaders to take the Council to new heights! Keeping engaged alums involved is critical to the continued success of the College as a whole.”

What’s needed now, says Sushinsky, is an improved web presence that helps connect alumni with the College. “Covid really opened our eyes to the importance of finding engagement opportunities for alumni who don’t live near the campus or our regional chapters,” he admits. “By adding formal engagement opportunities and events with online components like Mentor-a-Seahawk, Refer-a-Seahawk and the Valumtine’s Virtual 5K, we’re able to engage alumni like never before.” **Dan Pindell ’10** joined the Alumni Relations team in April as assistant director and one of his first responsibilities will be to more fully develop the Alumni Relations’ web presence to facilitate alumni engagement. ❖

“...every single alum I’ve met has been friendly and welcoming into the SMCM community. They show me a glimpse into my future when I become an SMCM alum, and from what I’ve seen, that future is bright.”

Sierra Brown ’27
SAGE member



THE ST. MARY'S PROJECT (SMP) WAS CONCEIVED DURING THE MIDDLE STATES REAFFIRMATION OF ACCREDITATION SELF STUDY during the summer of 1995 and born the following April, when the faculty approved the Honors College curriculum, of which the SMP was a part. The Honors College curriculum seemed fitting for the College's newly legislated status as the state's honors college in 1992.

In 2001, the faculty voted to allow each academic department to decide whether SMPs would be required or optional for its majors. From the beginning, sciences and the arts made the SMP a requirement. Biology professor **Jeff Byrd** mentored the very first SMPs piloted in 1998 – by the time he retired from the faculty in 2023, he had mentored over 100 SMPs.

In 2020, curriculum updates inspired by the Learning through Experiential and Applied

Discovery (LEAD) initiative stipulated that all students complete a capstone experience in their major. The type of experience depends on the major: some majors offer it through certain coursework, others through SMPs. Today, across 24 majors, 9 require the SMP; 8 do not require the SMP but do require a research-based capstone experience; and 7 require a course-based capstone experience. In 2023, 52% of students opted for the SMP.

The intended purpose of the SMP was, and still is nearly 30 years later, to unite a student's specific field of study with applied method and research. Former Associate Provost Dana Greene, who played a major role in the original development of the SMP, regarded the scholarly undertaking of it as “the practical product of four years of study that demonstrates the student's unique, independent commitment to the liberal arts.” **Barry Muchnick**, associate

professor of environmental studies, values the interdisciplinary opportunities afforded by the SMP. “What makes interdisciplinary SMPs so worthwhile is they represent the crystallization of how individual students move through and make change in our world.”

Here is a sampling of current SMPs from the students and faculty behind them.

JON GEYER '24

(anthropology, Asian Studies double major, Chinese minor)

What is your SMP topic?

The title of my SMP is “Metro Dragons, Iced Americanos, and Warehouses for Sale: the Linguistic Landscape of Bangkok’s Chinatowns.” It’s about the presentation of Chinese culture and how identity is navigated through language use in these three Chinatowns. It’s based on fieldwork I did in Bangkok while studying abroad at Mahidol University last semester.



How did studying abroad in Bangkok influence your SMP?

One of the important things about doing fieldwork is that it will always take you in a different direction than you originally planned. For example, I had read in academic papers and newspapers that one of the Chinatowns I had been to was solely a tourist trap, but it turns out that a lot of younger Thais actually go there to hang out sometimes. It wasn’t a project defining detail, but it’s the kind of thing you only pick up during fieldwork. I also got to present my field research from Thailand at an international conference at Kobe University.



Bill Roberts, professor of anthropology, on interdisciplinary connections:

As the vision for Jon’s SMP took shape, I encouraged and supported him benefiting from the guidance of multiple faculty mentors,

including Professors **Jingqi Fu** and **Charles Musgrove**, who work in Asia and have a much better understanding of that region’s history, languages and cultures than I do. His adaptation of the Instantaneous Behavioral Sampling tool to document the languages being spoken by people in a variety of locations at his research sites was really innovative – and that came up during a “check in” conversation while he was studying abroad.

Jon Geyer was recently named as a recipient of a grant under the Fulbright-Hays Fellowships for Advanced Overseas Chinese Language Study for the summer of 2024 in Taiwan. Geyer intends to work as a Foreign Service officer or a linguist for the CIA and then pursue advanced study in international sinology.

ONALEE ANDERSON '24

(environmental studies major)

How did you choose your SMP topic?

My SMP ideas kept changing as I took more classes in different disciplines over the semesters. I knew I wouldn’t be happy doing a lab-based SMP or writing a long literature review. Everything started to click into place after taking *ENGL 390: Books that Cook* with **Dr. Cognard-Black** (JCB) in the fall of 2022. Through that class, I discovered how much I enjoyed storytelling, both in the written and oral format, and how food writing could allow me to incorporate science and history into personal stories.

How did you scale it down to an achievable scope?

After adjusting my idea to be more environmentally focused, I finally landed on an SMP project idea: creating a podcast about the National Park Service’s history, ecology and culture through personal food stories at each site. I ended up calling the project “What Sustains US” because I was going to explore what foods sustain people as they travel to park sites, and how the National



Park Service sustains the United States. This would allow me to explore science, history, food, and environmental justice, and blend it all into one final project.

Why did you choose Jennifer Cognard-Black as your SMP adviser?

I knew that my SMP would involve a lot of writing, especially food writing, and I wanted to have an adviser who would have a critical eye to help make my writing flow and read well.

Best advice from Cognard-Black?

SMPs are a wonderful experience, but still stressful and time consuming. Constantly working on it, being in the weeds of the work, it can be hard to see the progress I’ve made. Having support and reminders to take time to step back, take time to look at my work with fresh eyes, and even to just rest and take a bit of a break once and awhile has been invaluable. I am so grateful that JCB took me on as one of her SMP-ers; I couldn’t have asked for a better mentor.



Professor of English Jennifer Cognard-Black on the SMP writing process:

I’m giving students permission to take the writing process more slowly—to come to understand that writing really isn’t a “one and done” endeavor. It’s a process, always—and a final piece of writing may take multiple revisions to get it to the place where it wants or needs to be.

KYLE MURPHY '23 & GABY MIRANDA '24

(both biochemistry majors)

In March, Kyle Murphy and Gaby Miranda presented their SMPs at the 2024 American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB) Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas, where they also were inducted into the national honor society for ASBMB. Murphy has a tentative post-baccalaureate position in a lab at the National Cancer Institute (NCI). Miranda plans a gap year and then will begin studies toward a PhD in biomedical science or cancer research.



For Associate Professor of Biochemistry **Shanen Sherrer**, who mentored both students' SMPs, their national recognition makes her proud. "It is a joy to see my students being inducted into the ASBMB Honor Society. To qualify for membership, the students had to demonstrate professional characteristics of scholarship, academic leadership and stewardship that promote engaging the community within the biochemistry field – a true alignment of the St. Mary's Way. I cannot wait to hear about their next career adventures after graduation!"

Kyle: How did you determine your SMP topic?

It started with Dr. Sherrer encouraging me to read through our shared literature library and deciding if I wanted my research project to cover protein or DNA. From there, I read about methodologies and stumbled upon circular dichroism spectroscopy (CD spec for short). I knew that I wanted to use that machine to determine changes in structural components of proteins, but I hadn't yet figured out what I wanted to experiment on until one day I found a news article that talked about how microplastic threads were being deposited in our clothes by dryer sheets. I thought this was fascinating and as I did more research on microplastics, I began seeing a few articles about nanoplastics, which at 1/1000th of the size of microplastics could have the potential to interact with proteins in our body. At the time there was little research available that discussed the changes in protein structure and function when nanoplastics were present. Since



I wanted to use the CD spec, which can be used to elucidate structural changes in proteins, I saw a perfect opportunity to develop my project. The protein I decided to use to answer the question of how much change the plastic particles could cause was bovine serum albumin (BSA). This is a relatively easy protein to work with; it shares many structural similarities to human serum albumin (HSA), the primary lipid carrier in our blood.

Kyle: Why did you choose Shanen Sherrer to be your SMP adviser?

I already had two years of directed research experience with Dr. Sherrer, so this made for a smooth transition into my SMP because I had developed my project and worked out a lot of the kinks before starting. I initially chose Dr. Sherrer to be my directed research professor because of my experience being her student in the

DeSousa-Brent Scholars summer Xcel program. As my very first class at the college level, she was the first person who made me realize I needed to work harder if I wanted to see the same success that I saw in high school. I knew that she would continuously raise the bar for me, and my suspicion was correct.

Gaby: What was it like presenting your SMP at the national meeting of the ASBMB?

Kyle and I both had the opportunity of presenting our SMPs in the Undergraduate Poster Competition where we received feedback from experienced judges in our field. This opportunity was provided and funded by the Biomolecular Organization of St. Mary's Students/ St. Mary's American Chemical Society (BOSS/SMACS). Not only was I able to attend several lectures, such as "Lipid quality control in cell survival and death," but I also got to attend the Women's Networking Dinner. Women in biochemistry and molecular biology had the opportunity to have discussions, share experiences and create valuable connections. I got a lot of reassurance regarding being a woman in STEM and a Latina one at that.

BEN SPRINGER '24

(environmental studies major)

What is your SMP topic and how did you focus it?

I have always been interested in birds and I worked the past three summers at the Patuxent River Naval Air Station as the bird survey intern where I discovered that large numbers of terns gathered on a fishing pier on the base. I collected data for over 300 common terns and over 100 royal terns. I realized that this was a unique opportunity to craft an SMP around the staging behavior and demographics of terns using this fishing pier to rest and feed prior to migration. I decided to narrow my focus to just the common tern. This way I could put more time into researching one species and the demographics of birds using the pier in the context of their origin sites and Maryland's endangered breeding population.



Best advice from your adviser, Jordan Price?

A big piece of advice that Dr. Price gave me was to look through my data for patterns to see what interesting findings I could uncover. Looking for patterns in the data helped me uncover interesting details about the terns on the pier that I wasn't specifically looking for but were important to find.



Professor of Biology Jordan Price on guiding a student in focusing their SMP:

The main value of the St. Mary's Project, in my opinion, is that it gives students an opportunity to engage with the world in ways that aren't often possible in their earlier classes. Rather than just learning how to read scientific papers, use statistics, or design experiments to test hypotheses, I encourage my SMP students to look for patterns and develop an ability to see what's interesting and worth pursuing. These can be patterns in nature or patterns in data, and it's not necessarily an easy process. But it's a useful ability that can be applied well beyond biology, from understanding what would make a good short story to choosing a good financial investment. In fact, in my career, all my most widely cited research papers began as simple patterns that I discovered that no one else had noticed.

I think Ben's project is a perfect example of how an off-campus experience can be combined with the skills and knowledge gained at St. Mary's College to produce an exceptional SMP. It has benefited him, and eventually I think his work will provide benefits for the scientific community as well.

AMY GARDNER '24

(biology, international languages and cultures: Spanish double major)

What led you to your SMP topic?

I studied abroad in Ecuador in the fall of 2022. My experiences in Ecuador really made me want to learn more about the history of the country and Latin America in general. As a



result, I approached Dr. Brodsky as a possible SMP mentor and she suggested that I read the book "Quito 1599" by Kris Lane. The book made me aware of maroons in Ecuador during the Colonial Era and I chose this as the starting topic of my SMP. However, in the fall of my senior year I came across the work of John Stedman, "Narrative of a Five Years Expedition against the Revolted Negroes of Surinam." This primary text shaped the trajectory of my SMP from that point on. Scholars have argued that

Stedman did not strongly support either side of the abolitionist debate in Europe. However, I disagreed based on Stedman's "Narrative" and his written thoughts which are comparable to other colonial figures who supported slavery during the time period. As a result, my topic evolved into an argument of Stedman's perspective on slavery and how his thoughts reflected an antiabolitionist view.



Why did you choose Adriana Brodsky as your SMP adviser?

ALE MEIER

was determined to do a Latin American history SMP and I knew Dr. Brodsky was the professor I needed to make that happen. I had never taken

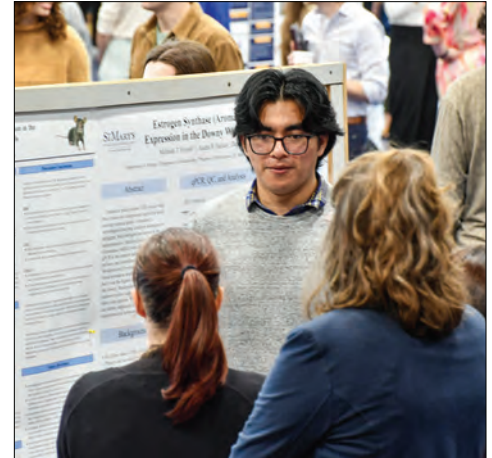
a class with Dr. Brodsky before, but I knew she taught classes on Latin America. After meeting with her the semester before I started my SMP I felt confident that she would support me throughout this process and help me develop my research and writing skills. After having worked with her for almost a year I can say that I am very happy and fortunate to have her as my SMP adviser.

Best advice she gave you?

Dr. Brodsky told me not to be afraid that I would not find any primary sources for my topic. She just said keep reading and you will come across some primary sources and that is how I found Stedman's "Narrative" that has been the foundation of my SMP. Dr. Brodsky helped me learn to trust the process of research which was really hard to do in the beginning.

Professor of History Adriana Brodsky on teaching a student to "trust the process of research":

I am not sure you 'teach' it; I think Amy 'learned' it by realizing how much she was learning from the material she was reading. She learned to read the footnotes, and go to the sources cited by others who had worked on the topics and issues she was interested in. And in one of those footnotes, she found the reference to what came to be the basis of her SMP. She learned to "trust the process" because she actually read extensively, because she kept asking new questions, and solving the issues that she faced.



LEFT: **Barry Muchnick**, associate professor of environmental studies. ABOVE: Students present their SMPs on campus and at select national conferences.

HIERO WOLD '24

(philosophy, English double major)

How did you determine your SMP topic?

What led me to my SMP topic was a mix of my own intersecting interests as well as inspiration from my current mentors, Dr. Park and Dr. Anderson. I've long had an interest in poetry, the



history of Japan, and a strong interest in the human relationship to nature. Dr. Park's classes in philosophy as well as an independent study with him, have inspired interest in phenomenology

and Japanese philosophy and given me direction and vocabulary to articulate the poetic attitude and practice towards nature I am writing about in my SMP. Classes with Dr. Anderson in the English department also inspired the direction of my SMP, as they focused on environmental literature and our discussions opened me up to the intersection between environmental ethics and poetry. Narrowing it down was mostly a matter of understanding the areas I was interested in in more detail—for instance, understanding the historical context of Japanese poetry and religion, better pinpointing which aspects of Heidegger's philosophy seemed most relevant to it, and which aesthetic elements of the poetry I was most interested in.

Why did you choose Brad Park and Karen Anderson as your co-advisers for your SMP?

I chose Dr. Park as my adviser because I had already completed an independent study with him on a related topic and had attended many of his classes, as well as already had many discussions during office hours with him on topics related to my SMP. I found his teaching and mentoring style to work extremely well with me and had already gained an interest in his specific area of study, which was also relevant to my SMP. I chose Dr. Anderson to help with the poetry side of things due to similar experience in her classes, because I have benefited from her teaching style and because she has always given me insightful feedback on how to improve my writing.

Best piece of advice you've been given for your SMP?

The direction from Dr. Park that has helped me the most is reminding me to stick with that gut feeling of what I want to say in the project and trust that as long as I engage in the process of continuing to research, write and think, it will come along well.



Brad Park, associate professor of philosophy, on trusting your gut:

I see my role as facilitating the voice of the student and of honoring their most sincere thinking. I begin with asking questions about what is most important to them about the topic? And why is that aspect so important? I also typically have them write a kind of preface about their personal relationship to the topic they plan to engage...about what drew them to it originally. On the one hand, they can get started right away with such a preface, even in the absence of research; but more importantly, writing this kind of preface in conjunction with my questions is an effort to give voice to their point of view, their hunch, their gut feeling about the topic, their sense of what needs to be said, before they get too invested in the research and other people's views.

Hiero Wold plans to attend graduate school for comparative philosophy with a focus on Japanese and continental philosophy. ❖

TUNE IN TO SLACKWATER ONLINE

BY LEE CAPRISTO, EDITOR

IN 1984, FORMER PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH ANDREA HAMMER FORMED THE SOUTHERN MARYLAND documentation project to collect and archive the oral histories telling of life in Southern Maryland throughout the 20th century. In 1998, the SlackWater Center was launched to house what had become more than 400 oral history narratives produced by the project. Students, guided by faculty in cultural journalism and cultural anthropology courses, have transcribed and archived these oral histories over the years while continuing to explore Southern Maryland’s changing landscape through historical documents, images, literature and scientific and environmental evidence. Some of this work has been published in eight volumes of the SlackWater journal, produced between 1998 and 2022.

In May 2024, more will become available in podcast format at SlackWater Online, thanks to the steadfast guidance of Associate Professor of English **Jerry Gabriel**, who has been teaching podcasting in the cultural journalism class since 2019. Most of the first wave of SlackWater podcasts – there will be eight initially available, on everything from slots in the county to the ghosts of Point Lookout – began their lives as student projects in one of those classes over the past five years.

Podcasting is a popular audio listening format that has been around since the early 2000s. The word “podcast” was New Oxford American Dictionary’s word of the year in 2005. That same year, President George W. Bush became the first president to deliver a weekly address as a podcast. But it wasn’t until 2014 that podcasts began to take off, helped along by the proliferation of smart phones. That year, the total number of monthly podcast listeners in America was 40 million; by 2019, that number was 88 million. Today, 41% of Americans have



ABOVE: *Jerry Gabriel teaches courses in cultural journalism, science writing and creative writing.*

listened to a podcast and the total number is expected to reach 254 million this year. Gabriel’s course syllabus for his current students in *ENGL 391: Cultural Journalism* describes the course as a portal “through which to examine the rich and complicated legacies of the past, the social and environmental challenges facing the present, and our collective vision for the future. To do this, we explore issues or challenges facing the Southern Maryland region.” And while previous iterations of the course corresponded with an upcoming publication project for the SlackWater Center, including both print and multi-media projects, this spring’s class was most focused on multi-media projects for SlackWater Online, including podcasts, short articles and edited oral histories.

The change in focus unsettles some of his more traditional English majors, Gabriel admits. “It’s more like a lab than a regular English course,” he says of the format. “That makes it a little bit scary for some students.” By contrast to the papers and tests in a more traditional English class, Gabriel’s SlackWater students create and



Today, 41% of Americans have listened to a podcast and the total number is expected to reach 254 million this year.

“It’s more like a lab than a regular English course. That makes it a little bit scary for some students.”

Jerry Gabriel
Associate Professor of English



THIS PAGE: Claire Weedon '25, English major, interviews Donnie Hammett '75, who shared a story about paranormal activity he experienced while a park ranger at Point Lookout State Park.



Most of the first wave of SlackWater podcasts began their lives as student projects in one of those classes over the past five years.

“I learned how to formulate questions that are respectful and let the interviewee define their narrative.”

Emily Vance '24
English and Spanish double major



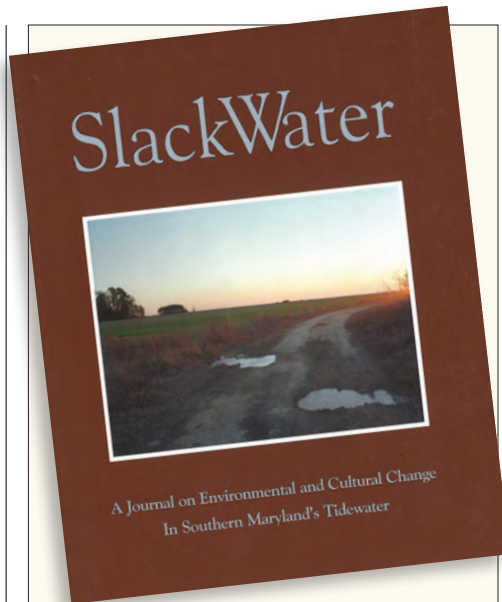
TOP: a new podcast studio in the Campus Center opened in 2023.
MIDDLE: Students work with Jerry Gabriel and Rachel Cardwell, digital media specialist, on their soundscapes.
*BOTTOM: **Arnold Beck '25**, English major, capturing the sound of the Campus Center fountain.*

submit for grading podcast episodes with music, narration, interviews and soundscapes in addition to short articles and edited oral histories from the SlackWater archive. “There are still genre conventions in audio storytelling,” Gabriel explains. “I scaffold the creation of a podcast into steps that build on one another: How do you interview someone? How do you write a script? What is the role of music in the podcast? What is a soundscape and how does it enhance the podcast?”

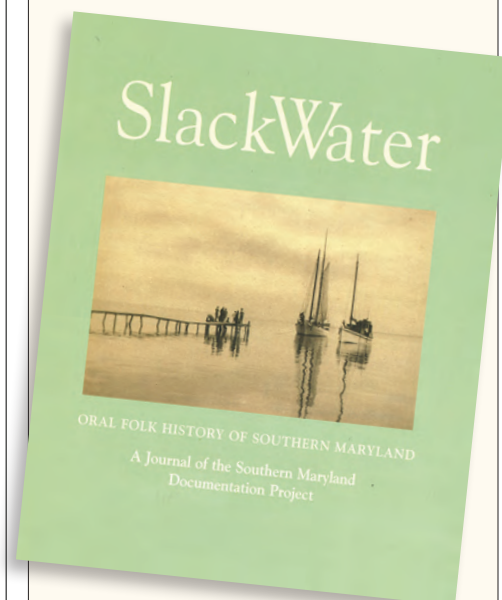
Emily Vance '24, an English and Spanish double major, finds the format of the class a challenge but is inspired by the project topic she chose. “My project is about the impending displacement of a mobile home park community,” she explained. “I, an outsider, went in to interview someone from the community. I learned how to formulate questions that are respectful and let the interviewee define their narrative. I think it’s a valuable skill when going into journalism and it teaches you how to report on a subject matter to bring awareness to a situation instead of doing it for clicks. The most challenging aspect of podcasting in this course is learning how to cut, edit and prioritize audio clips. The first part of this is the technical aspect, learning how to use audio editing software and using that efficiently. The second part is the aspect of understanding what is crucial to the narrative and cutting down original audio files. My interviews range from one to two hours, but the podcasts range from five to twenty minutes.”

“In the first podcast for the class, we had to familiarize ourselves with an archived oral history,” notes Vance. “That podcast required a touch of historical understanding, realizing how to familiarize yourself with a history of the past and finding a way to pull significance out of it by prioritizing just the right amount of spoken information.” Gabriel designed this activity to familiarize students with the vast SlackWater oral history archive.

Gabriel has been involved with SlackWater since 2016 and its director since 2017. And though he admits he has never created a podcast himself, he is excited for the new format’s ability to make the SlackWater content more accessible. The print format of SlackWater, while not the immediate focus, continues as a future plan, with music intended as the focus for a ninth volume.



The print format of SlackWater, while not the immediate focus, continues as a future plan, with music intended as the focus for a ninth volume.



Delilah Parks '20 (art history major, English minor) took Gabriel’s SlackWater class in 2019 and became a dedicated podcast listener and novice podcast producer during that time. Now a marketing analyst living and working in Charlotte, North Carolina, Parks has nonetheless remained involved with SlackWater as a freelance podcast producer and copyeditor, engaged with Gabriel to bring to life the archived content from that time. “I’m really grateful to have the opportunity to keep working on SlackWater,” says Parks. The biggest challenge, she says, was being thoughtful when considering the large amount of podcast content in the archive and thinking critically about what could stand alone as a compelling story about Southern Maryland. “Whittling that down to eight episodes [to launch with] was challenging, but together we have curated something really special.”

For Parks, the most satisfying part of producing podcasts is hearing the episode in its final form for the first time after all the little tweaks have been made. “There’s something really rewarding about seeing your vision come to life!” she admits. “I just hope all the SlackWater episodes fully capture the essence of each student who wrote and recorded the content.”

Jack Darrell '18 is a radio reporter in the Alaska Public Media network for KRBD, the NPR-affiliate in Ketchikan, Alaska. Before that he was producing the Bristol Bay Fisheries Report in Dillingham, Alaska, a podcast/news program about the salmon fishery there (which recently won second place for best newscast in the state). “The most satisfying part of a podcast for me, besides the writing,” Darrell explains, “is just getting to tell a story without [time] constraints – getting to stretch your legs in it and let it go as far as it’ll take you and then explaining what happened the way you would to a friend.” An English major, he did an independent study with Gabriel his senior year, incorporating soundscapes and music into an original podcast on organic farming through the eyes of Even’ Star Farm’s Brett Grohsgal in Lexington Park, Maryland. Darrell was a (virtual) guest in Gabriel’s class this spring and discussed his current work in Alaska. ❖

Visit slackwateronline.org

ALUMNI CONNECTION

CLASS NOTES

1950s

Ann Brittingham Suthowski '57 JC of Salisbury, Maryland and **Suzanne Lussier Jones '58 JC** of Parsonsburg, Maryland, recently traveled to West Ocean City where they shopped at Crazy Ladies, lunched at the Shrimp Boat and enjoyed ice cream cones at Chesapeake Farms. Ann and Suzanne are members of the Town and Country Garden Club and attend its meetings and activities. They would like to hear from their classmates.

1980s

Michelle Paris '85 [1] and her debut novel, "New Normal," won first place in the humor-relationship category of The BookFest's fall contest. All winners were highlighted in Times Square on Dec. 13, 2023. Michelle's second novel, "Eat Dessert First" published from the Apprentice House Press in May 2024.



1990s

Elle Cosimano '95 [2] released the fourth novel in her Finlay Donovan series, "Finlay Donovan Rolls the Dice" (Minotaur Books, 2024). Cosimano is a New York Times and USA Today bestselling author, an International Thriller Writers Award winner and an Edgar Award nominee.



2000s

Kathryn Kullberg '03 [3] as appointed to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Wildlife Advisory Commission by Governor Wes Moore in October 2023. The commission advises the DNR on matters pertaining to wildlife across the state of Maryland. Kathryn has worked at the Humane Society of the United States for 16 years and has aided in passing laws to protect wildlife, including banning the intrastate sale of elephant ivory and rhino horn in Maryland. She also helped to pass the federal Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act which was signed into law by President Biden in 2022. Kathryn currently resides in Silver Spring, Maryland.



Meghan Efland '03 was re-elected to the Chestertown Town Council in Chestertown, Maryland and began her second four-year term in January 2024.

Eric Carlson '04 [4] and his financial planning team, Insight Financial Advisors (a private wealth advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC), have been recognized as a 2024 Forbes Best-in-State Wealth Management Team for New Jersey.

Debbie Lee '05 accepted the position of senior program manager for the ARID Institute at the University of New Mexico. She will be supporting cross-disciplinary research and facilitating the development of science-informed community, business and management strategies for increasing climate resilience in New Mexico.



Brittany Gill '07 [5] has co-hosted the Cinderella Society Event for the third year in a row alongside her friend, Katrina Cropp. During the event, formal wear is collected and distributed to high school students for prom, free of charge. The event was held at the St. Mary's County Fair and had the biggest attendance to date, with more than one thousand suits and dresses being distributed.

Lauren Gottlieb-Miller '08 was appointed as associate dean for special libraries and preservation by the University of Houston in November 2023. In this role, she provides strategic leadership and oversight to the University of Houston's Special Collections, Preservation and Reformatting Division, Music Library, and Architecture and Art Library. Previously, Lauren was the director of the library

and archives at the Menil Collection, an art museum in Houston, Texas. Lauren currently serves on the board for the Texas Collections Emergency Resource Alliance and lives in Houston, Texas with her spouse **Joshua Gottlieb-Miller '08** and their son, Owen.

2010s

Kate Brennan '15 was recently promoted to production and design manager at the American Booksellers Association. She also participated in the New York City Marathon and finished with a time of 5 hours and 47 minutes in November 2023.

Serra Erbas '15 graduated from Vanderbilt Owen Graduate School of Management with an MBA in finance and accounting in 2022. She currently resides in Nashville, Tennessee and works



as a business analyst at Thistle Farms, a Nashville based non-profit social enterprise dedicated to helping women survivors recover and heal from prostitution, trafficking and addiction through a two-year residential program.

Alice Mutter '15 was recently promoted to supervising attorney for Maryland Legal Aid's Montgomery County office. She obtained a law degree in 2018 from American University's

Washington College of Law and joined Maryland Legal Aid in 2019 as a staff attorney.

Former SMCM varsity sailor **Markus Edegran '16** qualified for the Paris Olympics in the men's formula kite event during the Last Chance Regatta, held April 20-27 in Hyères, France.

Grace De Oro '17 began employment as the inaugural coordinator of equity program-

ming in the Office of Equity Programming at St. Mary's College of Maryland. In this position, Grace will be working with the Landers Scholars and Sum Primus program. In May, Grace earned a PhD in public policy from the University of Maryland Baltimore County.

Dylan Smith '17 recently graduated from medical school at Marshall University School of Medicine in Huntington, West Virginia and matched into orthopedic surgery at Penn State Hershey Medical Center in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

Sidi Zeid Chleuh '18 [6] was a speaker for TEDxGreatMills 2024 in February. Sidi's talk was titled "Diverging & Converging - Crafting Innovative Solutions with Empathy." Sidi is chief

product owner and technical lead of the Advanced Analytics and Innovation Branch within Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWCAD), Patuxent River, Maryland. He is also co-founder and president of Peak Performance Solutions, an innovation company in Hollywood, Maryland.

Patrick Hodge '19, of 3 Roads Communications in Frederick, Maryland, produced a documentary on an historic African American community in Hagerstown, Maryland, called "The House on Jonathan Street." The one-hour documentary, released in February on public television channels, aired nationally. There were public screenings of the documentary at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library in Washington, D.C. and the

Maryland Theater in Hagerstown. Patrick collaborated on the project with fellow alum **Josh Cochran '20**, who is now working with Patrick and SMCM Trustee **Anirban Basu** on a documentary about Frederick, Maryland, titled "InSpired." Basu became familiar with Patrick and Josh after being interviewed and prominently featured in "The House on Jonathan Street."

2020s

Leo Boucher '23 former SMCM varsity sailor, competed in the U.S. Olympic Trials in February in Miami, Florida. His second-place finish in the men's dinghy sailing regatta was not enough to earn him a spot on the Olympic team.



THE DECADE CHALLENGE

Before the sun sets on the Decade Challenge on **June 30**, join in the great momentum of the Taking the LEAD Campaign.

Alumni are competing for accolades - soaring to new heights:

- The greatest % of donors — 2020s
- The most \$ raised — 1990s
- The greatest % of gifts to the LEAD Fund — 1970s



HELP PUT YOUR DECADE IN A TOP SPOT. **GIVE TODAY!**
SMCM.EDU/GIVING

*Standings as of April 30, 2024.

Taking the LEAD

The Campaign for St. Mary's College of Maryland



MARRIAGES & UNIONS

Neil Harbaker '10 and **Claire Solinsky '11 [4]** were married on Aug. 19, 2023 at Woodlawn Farm in Ridge, Maryland. The couple met at St. Mary's College of Maryland and reconnected when Neil returned to Baltimore, Maryland after finishing his PhD at Scripps Research Institute in San Diego, California. Alumni in attendance included **Chris Bradley '10**, **Taylor Burgdorf '10**, **Dan Kircher '10**, **Ian Konigsdorffer '10**, **Sarah Konigsdorffer '10**, **Anita Peterson '10**, **Louis Ritzinger '10**, **Katie Zdilla '10**, **Pat Carr '11**, **Alex Hessel '11**, **Emily Kershner '11**, **Roz Kreizenbeck '11**, **Bryan Miller '11**, **Tony Quick '11**, **Beth Richman '11**, **Chris Robinson '11**, **Kate Swiggett-Craven '11**, **Brian Van Parys '11**, **Alli Berg '12**, **Kate Monahan '12** and **Phil Hutchinson '14**. The couple currently reside in Baltimore, Maryland.

Virginia Shimek '10 and **Laura Miller '11 [2]** were married on Aug. 24, 2023 at the Town Hall in Libson Falls, Maine. Virginia and Laura met on the women's rugby team at St. Mary's College of Maryland. The couple currently reside in Libson Falls, Maine.

Tori Poffenberger '16 and **Mason Redmond '16** were married on June 17, 2023 in Sharpsburg, Maryland. **Carson Fehner '16**, **Max Frazier '16**, **Aaron Glase-Stock '16**, **Zeke Rogers '16** and **Rusty Trench '16** were groomsmen and **Femi Oyenusi '17** officiated the ceremony. The couple currently reside in Fredonia, New York.

Aaron Glase-Stock '16 and **Brianna Glase-Stock '17 [3]** were married on Sep. 24, 2022 in Leonardtown, Maryland. **Rachael Sowers '16 MAT '17**, **Rachel Baker '17**, **Genia Gavin '17** and **Amy Gorovoy '17** were bridesmaids. **Max Frazier '16**, **Mason Redmond '16** and **Zeke Rogers '16** were groomsmen and **Femi Oyenusi '17** officiated the ceremony. Alumni in attendance included **Paul Hunt '08** and **Sophie Hunt '08**. Former English faculty Colby Nelson and Christine Wooley were also in attendance. The couple honeymooned in Japan and currently reside in Baltimore, Maryland.

Captain Andrew Wilhelm '16 [4] married Sarah Glascock on Jan. 13 in Indian Trail, North Carolina, outside of Charlotte. Best man was **Captain Alex Walls '13**. Also in attendance was **Clay Danaker '16**. Adjunct Professor of Political Science and Military History **Mary Hall** officiated. Andrew is the chief of operations for 1st Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Liberty, North Carolina. Sarah is a clinical supervisor at Atrium-Union Hospital in Monroe, North Carolina. The couple reside in Fayetteville, North Carolina.





Maxwell Sickler '18 and **Mackenzie Wood '19 [5]** were married on Aug. 26, 2023 at Historic London Town and Gardens in Edgewater, Maryland. **Audrey Jantsch '19** was the maid of honor with **Elizabeth Knell '19** and **Sydney Sabatano '19** as bridesmaids. **Benjamin Ertman '18** was the best man with **Eathan Brown '18** and

Patrick Martin '18 as groomsmen. The couple currently reside in Annapolis, Maryland.

Davita Fennell Williams '20 and **Tyree Williams [6]** were married on March 29 in Glen Burnie, Maryland. The matron of honor was **Sonya Troy Moss-Bellamy '20**. The couple currently reside in Baltimore, Maryland.



BIRTHS & ADOPTIONS

Kevin Frank '00 welcomed a daughter, **Olivia Frank**, on Jan. 22. **Eleanor**, age four, is very excited to be a big sister. Kevin and his family currently reside in Dallas, Texas.

Amanda Walsh '12 [1] and her husband **Bryan Walsh** welcomed a daughter, **Rose Marian Walsh**, on Aug. 29, 2023 in Shenyang, China. The family currently resides overseas.

Elise Valkanas '13 and **Patrick Montague '15 [2]** welcomed a daughter, **Annoula**, on Nov. 13, 2023. Elise is pursuing her PhD at Harvard Medical School and Patrick works for Wayfair. The family currently resides in Boston, Massachusetts.

Jamile Safarallyeva Kelderman '15 and **Keene Kelderman '15 [3]** welcomed a daughter, **Lilia "Lily" Jane**, on March 1. Lily Jane is named after her maternal grandmothers. The family resides in Rockville, Maryland.

Davita Fennell '20 [4] and **Tyree Williams** welcomed a son, **Samson Dakari Emmanuel**, on May 5, 2023. The family resides in Baltimore, Maryland.

IN MEMORIAM

Janice Bahen '56 of Edgewater, Maryland, died on Jan. 25 at the age of 85. She attended St. Mary's Seminary Junior College to finish her last two years of high school and graduated with an associate degree. After working for a number of years as a secretary in Washington D.C., she established a commercial general construction firm in partnership with her husband. She is preceded in death by her late husband of 40 years, Joseph Bahen Jr., who died in 2001. Janice is survived by her children, Michael, Patrick, and Timothy Bahen and Lisa Bahen Durst, nine grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and her half siblings, Linda Eaton and Stephen Taylor.

Lillian B. Wray '58 of Amherst, Virginia, died on Dec. 1, 2023, at the age of 83. After attending college, she married her late husband Major William E. Hathaway, became a book editor and was involved in numerous clubs and volunteer organizations. She was an avid lover of books, her dogs and antiques. Lillian is predeceased by her parents William Swope Wray and Lillian Earle Boyce.

Susan Waldhauser '63 of Fallston, Maryland, died on July 29, 2023, at Upper Chesapeake Medical Center in Bel Air, Maryland at the age of 80. She was an esthetician and business owner and served the Bel Air community for 44 years. She earned her bachelor's degree, graduating magna cum laude in 2012 from Notre Dame of Maryland University. Susan was very passionate about traveling and dining out with her husband, George, often exploring different restaurants and regularly visiting friends in Southern and Northern California. She is preceded in death by her sister Barbara Kelly and survived by her husband, brother Craig Pritcher, sister Linda Hoover, daughters Holley Wiedemann and Heather Vitale, son Steve Potter, stepdaughter Susan Hatton and numerous grandchildren.

Michele "Mieke" Rockhill '67 of St. Leonard, Maryland, died on Oct. 7, 2023, at the age of 76. She was known for her volunteerism as well as her habit of taking pictures of the sunset almost every day. She had a rewarding career in real estate and went on to win multiple awards, including Realtor Emeritus, Southern Maryland Realtor Association Hall of Fame and the Long & Foster Chairman's Club. Michele is survived by her daughter, Rev. Cara Rockhill, her siblings Rocky and Don Rockhill and her nephew, TJ Warwick.

Anne Holland Wright '78 of Hendersonville, North Carolina, died on Dec. 31, 2023, at the age of 67. She graduated from St. Mary's College of Maryland with a Bachelor of Science degree with a concentration in political science. Anne was a humanitarian at heart, joining the Peace Corps after graduation and volunteering in Gabon, Africa. She returned to Washington, D.C. and became the placement officer for volunteers in Africa at the Peace Corps Headquarters. Anne is survived by her husband John, son Sam and daughter Sarah.

Sarah Bright '98 of Annapolis, Maryland, died on Dec. 26, 2023. Sarah graduated from the University of Maryland with a major in English and from St. Mary's College of Maryland with a major in music. She was a dedicated and talented musician with expertise in many brass instruments but favored the French horn and the piano. She worked as a music teacher in Corpus Christi, Texas, where she was stationed with her husband Cmdr. Charles Jonathan Bright Jr. of the U.S. Coast Guard. Sarah enjoyed Renaissance clothing, jewelry, art and music. She is survived by her husband of 32 years, her three sons Jonathan Bennett Bright (Senior Airman, U.S. Air Force), Charles Ashton Bright and Frederick Leo Bright, as well as many sisters, brothers, nieces and nephews.

Jacob Bartholow '19 of Winchester, Virginia, died on Dec. 17, 2023, at the age of 26 after a tragic accident. Jacob graduated from St. Mary's College of Maryland with majors in history and economics and a minor in business. He loved the outdoors and in 2020 hiked the Appalachian Trail. He enjoyed spending time with the young adult bible study group at New Life Christian Church in Winchester. At the time of his death, he was employed as senior vice president of C3 Cycle, a business that is owned by his brother. Jacob is preceded in death by his grandparents Charles Bartholow and Mary Ellen Bartholow. He is survived by his parents Charles Bartholow Jr. and Sandra Monarca Bartholow as well as his brother Charles Bartholow III, his grandparents, and many nieces, nephews, aunts and uncles.

FRIENDS OF THE COLLEGE

Esther Coopersmith, of Washington, D.C., died March 26 at the age of 96. Coopersmith served on the St. Mary's College of Maryland Board of Trustees from 1966 to 1985 as well as the Foundation Board from 1980 to 1985. She often hosted St. Mary's College students at the United Nations while she was a trustee. Married to real estate developer Jack Coopersmith, she made a career as a fundraiser, philanthropist, diplomat (official and unofficial) and hostess. During the administration of President Jimmy Carter, Esther Coopersmith served as a public

member of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations. President Ronald Reagan sent her as a representative to the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women and to a 1985 conference in Nairobi marking the U.N. Decade for Women. She received a U.N. peace medal in 1984. Under President Bill Clinton, she served as a U.S. observer at UNESCO and later, in 2009, was named a UNESCO goodwill ambassador. She was preceded in death by her husband, who died in 1991. She is survived by four children and eight grandchildren.

Dana Greene died on Dec. 29, 2023, at her home in Alexandria, Virginia. She was 81 years old. After earning a bachelor's degree in history at the College of New Rochelle (N.Y.), Greene served in the Peace Corps in Costa Rica, Israel and Spain. Greene later received her master's degree in history from Northern Illinois University and completed a PhD in humanities at Emory University's Laney Graduate School. She dedicated her research to exploring the intersection of religion and creativity in women's lives, writing biographies on the lives of abolitionist Lucretia Mott, suffragist Olympia Brown, writers Evelyn Underhill and Maisie Ward and poets Denise Levertov, Elizabeth Jennings and Jane Kenyon. Her most recent publication was a biography of Kenyon: "Jane Kenyon: The Making of a Poet" (University of Illinois Press, 2023). From 1971 to 1999, Greene served St. Mary's College, first as professor of history and later

SEE YOU THERE



JUNE 14

CARLY HARVEY '07, EMCEE

Four exciting bands will celebrate soul, pop, reggae and the blues.

BAND BIOS:



SMCM.EDU/MMFMT



**JUNE 21, 28
JULY 5, 12, 19**

The award-winning River Concert Series is directed by Professor of Music Jeffrey Silberschlag and features the Chesapeake Orchestra.

**RIVER
CONCERT
SERIES**
**ST. MARY'S COLLEGE
OF MARYLAND**

LEARN MORE:



SMCM.EDU/RCSMT

as associate provost for faculty affairs. It was with Greene's leadership that the honors college curriculum and the St. Mary's Project were launched in the 1990s. In 1999, Greene returned to Emory University to become the first female dean of its Oxford College, where she served until retirement in 2005. From 2005 to 2008, Greene was executive director of Emory's Aquinas Center of Theology. She is survived by her husband of 55 years, Richard Roesel, and four daughters.

Janet Butler Haugaard died at home on March 23, at the age of 91. She was born in New York City in 1932, to Mary McKee Butler and the Right Reverend John Vernon Butler Jr. She attended the Lincoln School in Providence, Miss Fine's School in Princeton, then Bryn Mawr and later Barnard (Columbia) where she earned a B.A. in 1954, the same year she married William P. Haugaard. At NYU, she earned a M.A. in 1961. From 1962 to 1987, she was a professor of literature at the University of Puerto Rico. In 1980, she earned a PhD from

Cornell University, specializing in Caribbean literature, her dissertation on George Lamming. In 1987, she became assistant to the president at St. Mary's College of Maryland and later worked as editor and writer. Upon retirement in late 2008, as editor emerita, she began researching the president who transformed a female seminary into a college (now SMCM) and ended up writing a book of much wider scope, "Historical Tapestry: Adele France and John LaFarge in Southern Maryland." Haugaard is survived by her

sister Mary Vernon Nickerson and by her daughters Margarita and Mary (Maria). At heart, Janet Haugaard was a humanist. She enjoyed good clear prose, the labyrinths of research, and the Cape Cod sand-dunes and seals.

CALVERT HALL: A MAINSTAY OF CAMPUS

By Emily Vance '24, Mulberry Tree intern (English/ILC-Spanish double major) and Claire Weedon '25 (English major)

The history of St. Mary's College of Maryland is as old as Calvert Hall. The first building, part of St. Mary's Female Seminary, Calvert Hall has housed everything from students to classrooms and perhaps a few ghosts! Withstanding time, change and even flames, the halls of Calvert are bursting with history and the precious memories made by those who have called it home. Residing in the heart of the historic campus, Calvert Hall serves as an artifact of history and touchstone of growth for St. Mary's College.

Calvert Hall, first known as Main Building, began as a multipurpose facility. From hosting students in dorm rooms to serving them in the mess hall and to teaching them in classrooms, Calvert Hall served its purpose in most realms of a student's life. Alongside other rules of the college we would perceive today as strict, the mess hall was close to a formal dining room with white tablecloths placed down precisely and students required to adhere to a dress code to gain entry. In the classrooms subjects were taught ranging from home economics to sciences to humanities.

In 1924 a fire burned Calvert Hall to the ground. The building remained closed until June 1925 and reopened with an additional floor to account for the growth of the school. By 1937, St. Mary's College had dropped the first two years of high school and had officially become a junior college, shifting the demographic of the residents of Calvert Hall.

Seen in 1944 is an image of five students on a bed indulging in a food package that had presumably been sent from home. Being in the World War II period, food packages were valued highly due to the wartime practice of strictly rationing food. At the time Calvert Hall was fully multi-purpose, but a huge part of it was the dormitories, which provided the women a comfortable space to enjoy the package together and create a memorable photo.

The campus environment shifted again in the 1960s as the College transitioned from junior to four-year college. In 1965, Calvert became fully occupied as a dorm for male students on campus. By 1989 Calvert was a co-ed dormitory, known for its 24/7 quiet hours by the campus population and often made fun of for that standing.

The 1993 residents of Calvert found themselves in a bit of mischief, contradictory to the perceived notion of students choosing to live in a 24/7 quiet hours dorm. During their free time, a group of residents looking for a laugh worked together to put a Volkswagen Rabbit on the main staircase of Calvert. After their first plan – driving it up the stairs of Calvert and placing it in the lobby – failed, the 12 students combined their strength and carried the car to rest atop the staircase and greet the other residents as they returned from a long day. A photo shows the students showing off the fruits of labor and teamwork, surrounding the car at night, avoiding any troubles from the Office of Public Safety.

Dormitory usage of Calvert Hall slowly faded out with time, with it not fully being devoid of student life until 2016. Most classrooms and faculty offices also migrated to other buildings on campus around 1998. By 2023, after another consequential fire and repair, the building had fully become an office building for faculty, administration and staff.



LEFT: Alumni newsletter showing photo of first males arriving to Calvert Hall, fall 1965. ABOVE: Calvert Hall VW taken in 1993 by Dove Yearbook staff



ABOVE: "Feasting on a Package from Home" taken in 1944 by Maxine Slyder Angle '45

BIG EVENTS AT SMCM



RIVER CONCERT SERIES



MULBERRY MUSIC FESTIVAL



RIVER CONCERT SERIES



MULBERRY MUSIC FESTIVAL

AT THE
NANCY R. AND
NORTON T. DODGE
PERFORMING ARTS
CENTER



GOVERNOR'S CUP YACHT RACE CELEBRATION



Join us in the intimate and acoustically optimized Nancy R. and Norton T. Dodge Performing Arts Center concert hall for a world-class experience.

Our summer lineup includes free, family friendly, outdoor concert programs as well.

ST MARY'S
COLLEGE of MARYLAND

The National Public Honors College



Find out the latest on these performances and more at:
smcm.edu/events

FRIDAY, JUNE 14

MULBERRY MUSIC FESTIVAL | 6:00 P.M.

Free outdoor music festival on Townhouse Green, featuring Gabe Stillman, Walking Eagle, Everyday Everybody, Shamans of Sound and hosted by Carly Harvey '07. Food trucks on site.

SATURDAY, JUNE 15

BALLET CALIENTE | 7:00 P.M.

In the Dodge Performing Arts Center concert hall.

FRIDAY, JUNE 21

RIVER CONCERT SERIES | 7:00 P.M.

Free outdoor classical music concert on Townhouse Green, featuring the Chesapeake Orchestra directed by Professor of Music Jeffrey Silberschlag. Food trucks on site.

FRIDAY, JULY 5

RIVER CONCERT SERIES | 7:00 P.M. WITH FIREWORKS!

Free outdoor classical music concert on Townhouse Green, featuring the Chesapeake Orchestra directed by Professor of Music Jeffrey Silberschlag. Food trucks on site.

FRIDAY, JULY 12

RIVER CONCERT SERIES | 7:00 P.M.

Free outdoor classical music concert on Townhouse Green, featuring the Chesapeake Orchestra directed by Professor of Music Jeffrey Silberschlag. Food trucks on site.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17

RUMBA CLUB | 7:00 P.M.

In the Dodge Performing Arts Center concert hall.

FRIDAY, JULY 19

RIVER CONCERT SERIES | 7:00 P.M.

Free outdoor classical music concert on Townhouse Green, featuring the Chesapeake Orchestra directed by Professor of Music Jeffrey Silberschlag. Food trucks on site.

SATURDAY, AUG. 3

GOVERNOR'S CUP YACHT RACE CELEBRATION | ALL DAY.

Live music, food trucks, awards ceremony at the waterfront.



ALUMNI WEEKEND

is June 6-9



The tobacco barn on the corner that marked the final turn before campus. The infamous Green Door. The whimsical scarecrow—whether parachuting, water skiing, or actually farming—who always stood ready to welcome us. And then rounding the bend and catching that first glimpse of the river and forgetting to breathe for just a split second. Every time.

To all my fellow Seahawks, I know you just took that mental drive with me. Core memory unlocked.

Just a few weeks ago, some of my college friends and I made the journey back to school for our reunion. As we sat by the firepit one night, I looked around the circle at the flame-lit faces of people whom I cannot imagine my life without. The magic was palpable.

These are now facts. The scarecrow hasn't greeted us for many years now. The tobacco barn has nearly crumbled back into the field where it once stood watch. My campus is now filled with buildings I don't recognize.

But some things will never change.

I will always forget to breathe for just a moment when I round the bend and get that first glimpse of the river.

And my home—my real home—isn't about where I am. It's the people I return to year after year.

So perhaps I will always feel like a bit of a tourist in that place that once claimed me as one of its own. But that's okay. I know where I belong.

Excerpted from "Where I Belong" by Sue Harrell Corby '95

