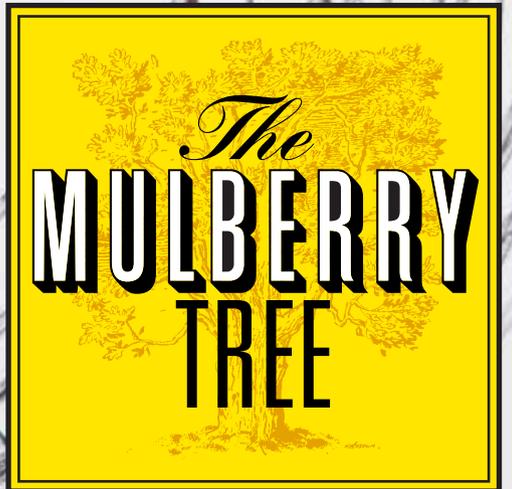


**ST. MARY'S COLLEGE**  
*of Maryland*



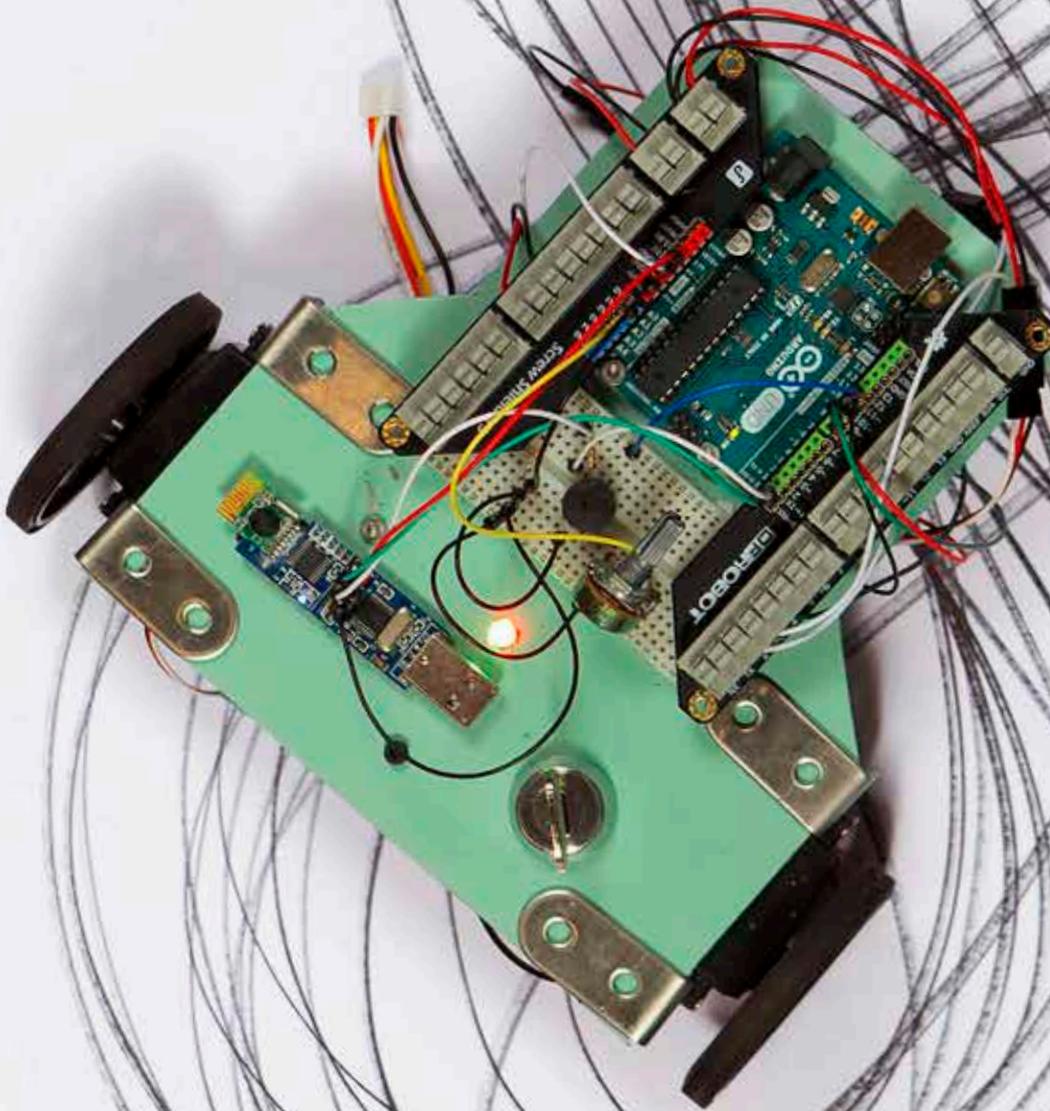
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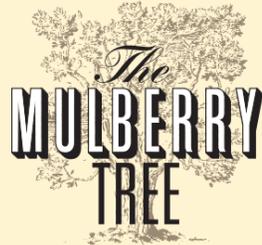
**SMART  
SMURFS**

*Blending the Humanities  
and Hard Science*

**ARTS  
BRIDGE**

*Connecting  
with the Community  
Through the Arts*





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*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 Yaocomico 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 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.

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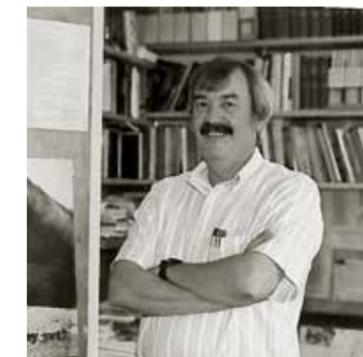
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Beth Byrd, *Associate Alumni Director*



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COVER:  
Joe Cirillo's artistic robot.  
*Photo by Bill Wood*

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### Paul Blanchette (1946-2015)

He was feared and revered. Remembering the always original Paul Blanchette.

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## INSPIRED BY THE ST. MARY'S WAY

**T**HIS TIME A YEAR AGO, I was interviewed for *Mulberry Tree* as the new president.

As I reflect on the year, I remain inspired by the “St. Mary’s Way,” our ethos that challenges us to respect ourselves, others, and the environment every day. It’s been an incredibly busy year spent trying to understand this “gem” I’ve been entrusted to lead, learning about our Southern Maryland neighbors, and interacting with elected officials. We’ve accomplished a lot and I believe greater successes are ahead.

Last year I made several predictions about what I planned to do as president. I’m happy to say that strategic planning, a hugely important but missing element of the St. Mary’s I embraced in July 2014, is now underway with a planned completion date of May 2016.

I’m also pleased that some new programming has been initiated to reinforce the “St. Mary’s Way.” These programs help us to engage in thoughtful ways to mitigate the violence, prejudice and hate that we experience/witness as citizens in this country and as people in this world. They help us to respond as a community in ways that promote inclusiveness and equity, and celebrate diversity in its many forms. Tim Wise, our guest speaker earlier this fall, spoke to a packed house on combating racism in the “post-racism” era. In October, we partnered with the Human Relations Commission of St. Mary’s County to host a panel on law enforcement and race, and finished the month with political activist and scholar Angela Davis.

In November, we look forward to spoken word poet Clint Smith on November 20. We also welcome back Merideth Taylor, professor emerita, who is directing an encore edition of her original stage production, “Crossroads.”

These events form our signature 175th anniversary celebrations around our theme, “Celebrating the Past, Forging the Future: St. Mary’s College, 175 Years Proud.”

Special thanks to the many faculty and staff who worked the past two years on our Middle States re-accreditation self-study report and who hosted the Middle States Commission evaluation team during October. This self-study and the affiliated site visit affirm our commitment to our mission as a public honors college steeped in the traditions of a liberal education: that we are excellent, accessible, affordable and diverse. It’s important that we do well and we will do well, in this and all that we aspire to do.



DR. TUAJUANDA C. JORDAN  
President, St. Mary’s College of Maryland

**“It’s important that we do well and we will do well, in this and all that we aspire to do.”**



### Editor’s Note

**I**T WAS GREAT FUN TO PUT TOGETHER the Spring 2015 issue of the magazine, themed to celebrate this institution’s 175th anniversary. Thanks to Jane Linton ’68JC, who provided identifications on the men in the photo on page 14 in the Spring 2015 issue. From left to right, front row they are: Edwin Atkins ’67JC, Richard Russell ’67JC, Steven Harris ’68JC, Thomas Coleman ’68JC, Brian Veditz ’68JC, Robert Beyer ’67JC, James Eslin ’67JC, Earl Hyde ’68JC, James Johnson ’67JC. Second Row: James Broyles ’67JC, James Hutchinson ’67JC, Peter Wimbrow ’67JC, Malcolm Vankirk ’67JC, John Massie ’67JC, Philip Howard ’67JC, Bill Burnett ’68JC, Joseph Oreto ’67JC, Thomas Lloyd ’68JC.

In September, we marked the start of the fall semester with an all-campus “175” photo taken from a crane (see page 27). Be sure to check out the 175 website for additional content ([www.smcm.edu/175](http://www.smcm.edu/175)).

We lost a dear friend and colleague just before the start of the fall semester, Paul Peter Blanchette. A founding member of the chemistry department, Dr. Blanchette called St. Mary’s home for 40 years. His students and colleagues pay tribute, starting on page 14.

LEE CAPRISTO, editor

### Letter to the Editor

SPRING 2015 ISSUE

When I receive *The Mulberry Tree* issues, I usually put them aside for later reading. But the Spring 2015 issue caught my attention, and I read it from cover to cover.

I congratulate you, in particular, on the feature articles. It enriched my understanding of the many achievements that have occurred over the last 175 years at “the monument school” in Southern Maryland. And I was pleased to read about the renovation of the Garden of Remembrance fountain by BJ Howard-Jasper ’45HS, ’47JC dedicated to her mother. This was a special place in our hearts when I attended St. Mary’s Seminary Junior College.

Now, on the horizon, new challenges will transpire under the leadership of Dr. Jordan at St. Mary’s College of Maryland.

Virginia A. Davis ’52HS, ’53JC

# COLLEGE NEWS

## CAMPUS & COMMUNITY NEWS

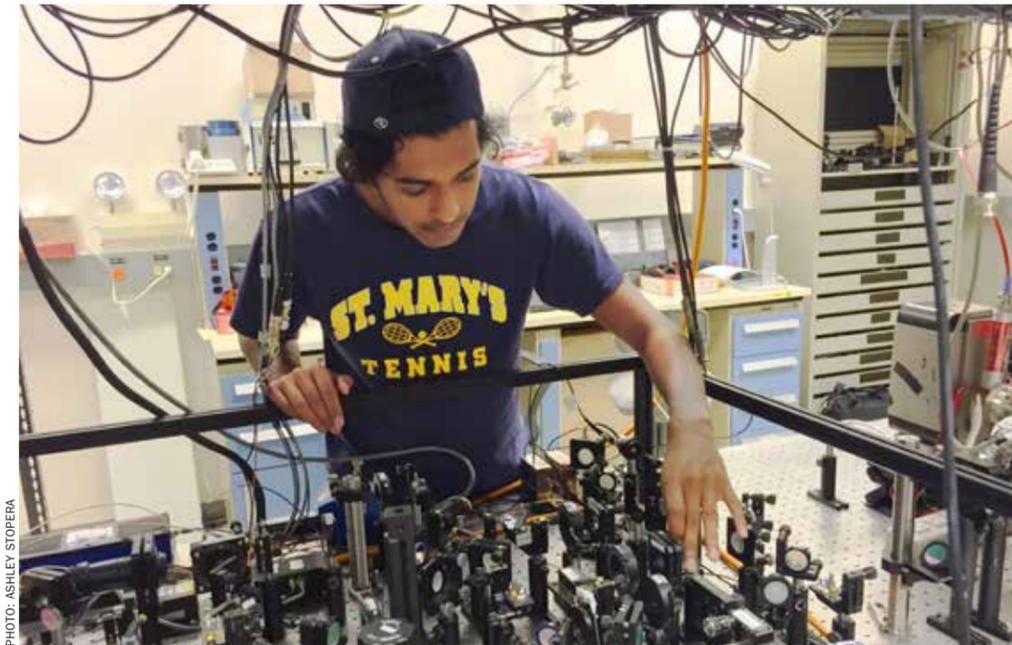


PHOTO: ASHLEY STOPER

### SMART Scholarship to Srinivasan

**Arvind Srinivasan '17 was recently awarded the highly competitive Science, Mathematics, and Research for Transformation (SMART) Scholarship from the Department of Defense (DoD). The SMART Scholarship was established to support undergraduate and graduate students pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines. Throughout the course of his studies, Srinivasan receives a full scholarship, a stipend, and summer internships at the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWCAD), his sponsoring facility located at the Naval Air Station Patuxent River. Upon graduation, he will be placed in a full-time professional position at a defense laboratory, an effort designed to increase the number of civilian scientists and engineers working at DoD laboratories. Srinivasan is a double major in mathematics and physics, and a member of the varsity tennis team.**

### St. Mary’s is a USN&WR “Best College”

U.S. News & World Report has once again recognized St. Mary’s College of Maryland as a top 100 national liberal arts college. In the publication’s “Best Colleges” 2016 edition, St. Mary’s is also ranked among the top six public liberal arts colleges in the nation and on the publication’s 2016 “Best Colleges for Veterans” list.



### NEW! Environmental Studies Major

Beginning this fall, St. Mary’s offers a new major in environmental studies. This is a result of the College’s continuing effort to expand and deepen interdisciplinary and experiential learning for students. Barry Muchnick, assistant professor of environmental studies, is the College’s first full-time environmental studies faculty. He and Rebecca Kelly, visiting assistant professor of environmental studies, work with Sue Johnson, professor of art, as the environmental studies program coordinators.

### Curry Joins Executive Council



Carolyn Curry joined the College in June as vice president for institutional advancement and executive director

of the St. Mary’s College of Maryland Foundation. Curry served in a similar position at Delaware State University (DSU) since 2004. Prior to DSU, Curry served as the vice president for institutional advancement and executive officer for communications at West Virginia University from 1996-2004.



## Rowing Added as Varsity Sport

The men's and women's rowing teams have been added to the list of Seahawk varsity sport offerings and Daniel Hagelberg has been named the rowing program's first varsity coach. Hagelberg is working with the teams to transition to a varsity schedule for the 2016-17 academic year. Women's rowing will be affiliated with NCAA Division III and the Mid-Atlantic Rowing Conference (MARC) while the men's team will compete as part of the Intercollegiate Rowing Association and the MARC.

## Brown Promoted to Vice President



Leonard Brown was promoted this summer to vice president for student affairs and dean of students. He was formerly

the dean of students since 2014. Prior to coming to St. Mary's, Brown served as dean of students and associate vice president for student development at Dickinson College, his alma mater. He also held similar positions at Loyola University in Baltimore, Frostburg State University and the University of Maryland Baltimore County.

## Eddins Appointed Associate to President

Ledesa Eddins has been appointed executive associate to the president and liaison to the Board of Trustees. Eddins previously worked at the College as associate director of admissions from 2000-2009.

## Dunn Named Title IX Director

Michael Dunn was named director of Title IX compliance and training this past May. Dunn formerly served at Columbia University as director of investigations/deputy Title IX coordinator and assistant dean/director of community outreach.

## Burch Tapped to Lead IT

Chris Burch has been named assistant vice president of information technology. He has worked at the College since 2010 as technology coordinator, director of enterprise support, and director of web services.

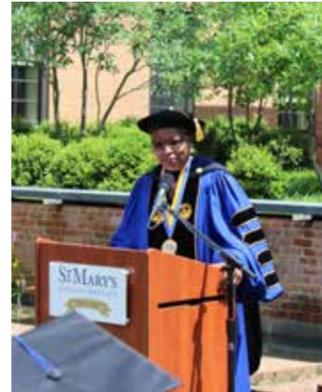
## Setlak Named Public Safety Director

Tressa Setlak has been named director of public safety. She brings over 25 years of experience in campus safety and law enforcement, having previously served at Cabrini College and Harrisburg Area Community College.

## PRESIDENT'S NEWS

### President Jordan Charges MAT Grads as Change Agents

President Jordan delivered the keynote address, "Change Agents," at the Commencement ceremony for St. Mary's master of arts in teaching program on June 6. A transcript of the address is available at [www.smcm.edu/president](http://www.smcm.edu/president).



### President Jordan Featured Speaker at Annual Member Meeting

At the St. Mary's River Watershed Association meeting held September 19, President Jordan gave the keynote address, "The River is a Part of Us." A transcript of the address is available at [www.smcm.edu/president](http://www.smcm.edu/president).

### Women's Equality Day Welcomes President Jordan as Keynote Speaker

"Women and Leadership – How Do We Get There?" was the title of President Jordan's keynote address at the Women's Equality Day event at Naval Air Station Patuxent River on August 25. A transcript of the address is available at [www.smcm.edu/president](http://www.smcm.edu/president).

### Juneteenth Celebration Features Keynote Address by President Jordan

At the Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions (UCAA) Juneteenth Celebration, President Jordan offered the keynote address, "Proclamation Reclamation," on June 20. A transcript of the address is available at [www.smcm.edu/president](http://www.smcm.edu/president).



## "The expectation was that you had it down and rehearsals were for working on the nuances."

("it" being 130 pages of music in four languages)  
— JEFFREY BYRD, BACK ROW, THIRD FROM LEFT

## FACULTY & STAFF NEWS

### NIH Grants Awarded

St. Mary's was one of only six institutions awarded a grant in the 2014-15 award cycle from Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute for Child Health and Human Development, one of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The \$435,620 award will be distributed over a five-year period and will support faculty and staff professional development at St. Mary's College, as well as infrastructure upgrades for the college's Office of Research and Sponsored Programs. **Sabine Dillingham**, director of research and sponsored programs, will serve as principal investigator with **Laraine Glidden**, acting provost and dean of faculty, as senior administrator and co-principal investigator.

**Aileen Bailey**, professor of psychology at St. Mary's College of Maryland, has been awarded a \$213,056 research grant by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to examine the behavioral side effects of a novel antidepressant drug, including changes in sleep and awake activity patterns. Bailey will also examine if the drug can restore normal behavioral responses across several different models of depression. The project, "Stress, depression, and effects of novel antidepressants on excitatory synapses," is in collaboration with Scott Thompson, of the University of Maryland, Baltimore, who will serve as principal investigator.

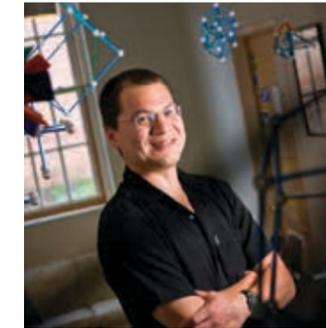
**Heather Moon**, assistant professor of mathematics, has been awarded \$65,654 from the National Science Foundation for research on data-driven application modules inspiring upper-division mathemat-

ics. "The modules are meant to get students thinking about the problems in a way that will lead to the mathematics of a Real Analysis, Linear Algebra, or Differential Equations class," says Moon. Partial support for the project is provided by the National Science Foundation's Improving Undergraduate STEM Education (IUSE) program.

**Betül Basaran**, associate professor of religious studies, has been awarded an NEH Summer Seminar grant for \$120,744 to support "Transcending Boundaries: The Ottoman Empire, Europe, and the Mediterranean World, 1500-1800."

**Karen Leona Anderson** (poet and associate professor of English) and **Jerry Gabriel** (fiction writer and visiting assistant professor of English) were guest readers at George Mason University's "Fall for the Book" festival on September 29. Anderson's published poetry collections include "Punish Honey" (Carolina Wren Press, 2009) and the forthcoming "Receipt" (Milkweed Editions, 2016). Gabriel, who directs the Chesapeake Writers' Conference each summer at St. Mary's, is author of two collections of short stories: "Drowned Boy" (Sarabande, 2010), which won the Mary McCarthy Prize in Short Fiction, and "The Let Go" (Queen's Ferry Press, 2015).

**Jeffrey Byrd**, professor of biology, sang bass in the Archdiocesan Papal Mass Choir, at Pope Francis's Junipero Serra Canonization Mass in D.C. on Sept. 23. Out of a pool of over 350 applicants invited to audition by the Archdiocese of Washington, Byrd was one of 90 selected for the choir.



**David Kung**, professor of mathematics, has released a new video lecture course titled "Mind-Bending Math: Riddles and Paradoxes" for The Great Courses educational series. The 24-lecture course teaches participants how to break down, examine, and solve famous riddles and paradoxes through basic logic and math principles. Kung's first 12-lecture course, "How Music and Mathematics Relate," released in 2013, has sold more than 44,000 copies.

On op-ed on public opinion surrounding same-sex marriage written by **Renée Peltz Dennison**, associate professor of psychology, was published in Psychology Today magazine in June. Dennison is a regular blogger for the magazine.

**Andy Koch**, associate professor of chemistry, is the recipient of the 2015 Braude Award by the Maryland Section of the American Chemical Society. The award honors a professor conducting outstanding research involving students at a college or university in the Chesapeake region.

**Scott Devine**, director of athletics, earned an NCAA minority internship for St. Mary's valued at \$46,200. The internship is a two-year position for sports digital media and marketing and is held by **Monica Vega**.

## Hello and Goodbye... New and Retired Faculty

### Hello (and welcome!) to:

**Daniel Chase**, assistant professor of chemistry. Chase earned his B.S. from University of Idaho and his M.S. and PhD from University of Oregon.

**Nathaniel Foster**, assistant professor of psychology. Foster earned his B.A. from Willamette University and his M.A. and PhD from University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

**Amanda VerMeulen**, research and instruction librarian. VerMeulen holds a B.A. in English from University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, an MFA in writing from the Art Institute of Chicago, and an MLIS from Dominican University.

### Goodbye (we'll miss you) to:

**Holly Gorton**, professor of biology, taught at St. Mary's for 27 years. As soon as Commencement was over, she and husband Bill Williams (who retired in 2012), moved to Vermont.



**David Finkelman**, professor of psychology, retired after 34 years at St. Mary's. He and partner Lois Stover (who retired in 2013), now live in Arlington, Virginia.

**Michael Ellis-Tolaydo**, professor of theater, film and media studies, taught theater at St. Mary's for 29 years. Now he's all over the DC theater scene, performing at the Roundhouse, Constellation, Source, and Mosaic theaters in the upcoming months.

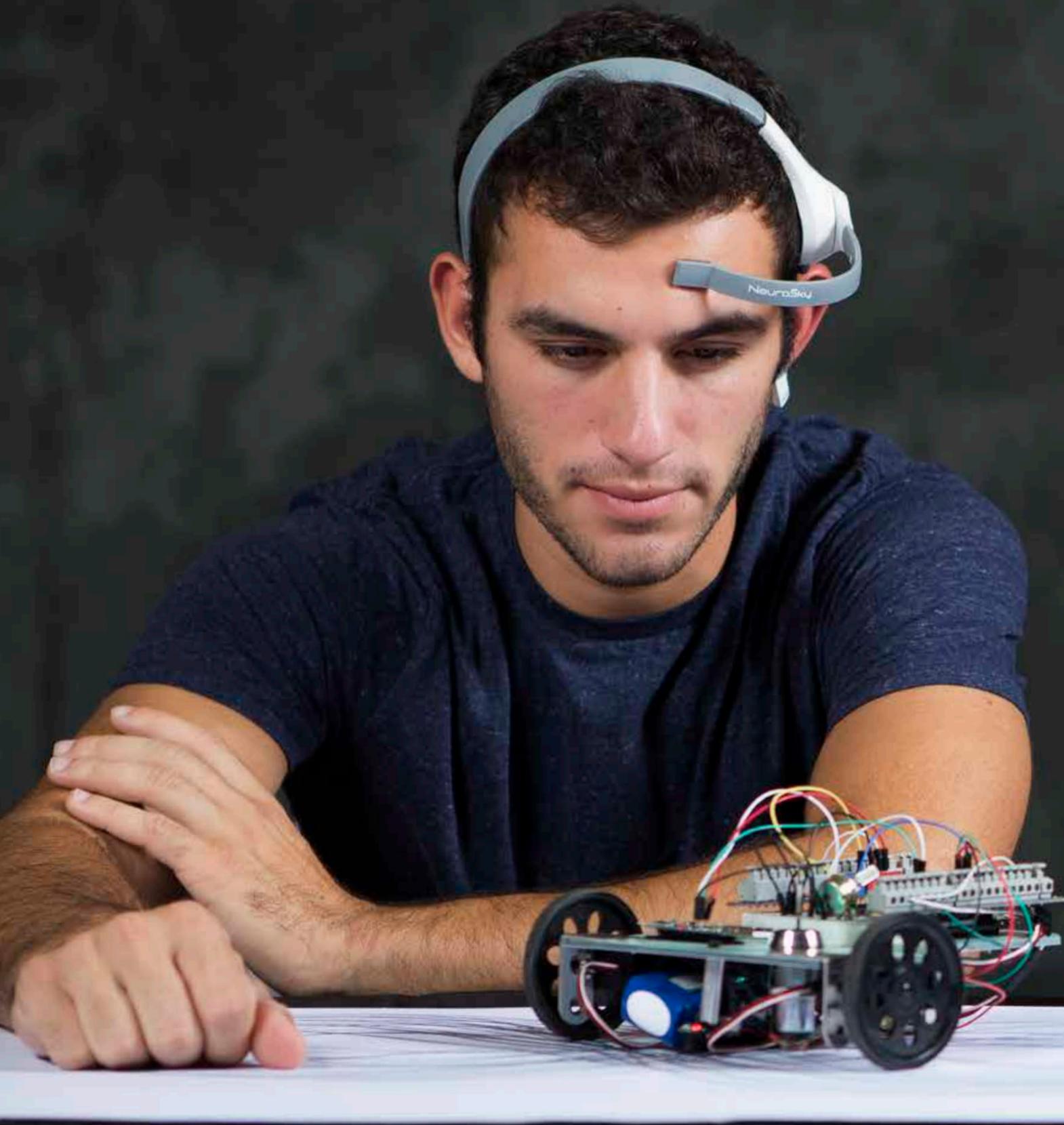
# SMURF

**STANDS  
FOR THE  
HUMANITIES  
AND HARD  
SCIENCE**

BY JOHN ALEXANDER BIRD '16,  
ENGLISH MAJOR

Last semester, I took my capstone seminar for the St. Mary's English major. The course, called "Rhetoric and Poetics," explored the relationship between rhetorical argument and poetic expression, attempting to establish a connection between the two fields. In the class, we read a treatise by the Roman statesman Cicero known as "De Oratore," which, among other things, examines the connection between the world of poetic expression and that of disciplines with more immediate applications. Scaevola, the ardent Platonist featured in Cicero's work, speaks against the usefulness of understanding the persuasive nature of language, claiming that "eloquence," the wheelhouse of the poet, "is not in the remotest degree" allied with those pursuing more concrete truths such as "mathematicians, men of letters or devotees of the Muses." In other words, the ability to communicate effectively with breadth and beauty, a staple of the humanities, has little to do with the world of hard science.

*Joe Cirillo '17 tests the mind-controlled robot he built this summer as a SMURF.*



Despite being written around the same time Julius Caesar crossed the Rubicon, Scaevola's stark separation of the "soft" sciences from the "hard" hardly sounds ancient. We see this claim made manifest in many modern college systems, where the student of biology will rarely cross paths with an English major. Given that this rigid divide between disciplines appears to have little impact on our ability to learn, it looks like Cicero's speaker has a good point.

However, Scaevola's claim does not slide by unexamined. In fact, for the last four summers it's been put to the test by ambitious St. Mary's students enrolled in the St. Mary's Undergraduate Research Fellow Program, or, SMURF. Established in 2012 by former College President Joe Urgo, with support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and supported financially and academically by President Tuajuanda C. Jordan, the SMURF program offers St. Mary's students the opportunity to engage in an intensive eight-week research project during the summer term, exploring topics of their own choosing. The projects, mentored by a member of the St. Mary's faculty, often cover the range of academia, from critical literary theory to neuroscience. Ben Click, professor of English and a SMURF mentor, says that this range of disciplines is unique and intrinsic to the nature of the program. "The SMURF program models the practice of realizing and ultimately seeking the interconnectivity of knowledge," he says. "The wide range of student projects we mentors learned about, commented on, enjoyed and learned from, all increased our own understanding of the liberal arts at work. Having now worked with three SMURF projects, I would unabashedly say that these students and their projects remind us



Stefania D'Ambrosio '14 studied behavioral neuroscience as a SMURF. Now she is a senior lab technician at Univ. of Maryland School of Medicine.

*"One of the beauties of the SMURF project is that allows the exploration to shift focus and evolve into perhaps a more meaningful project, one with broader implications than either student or mentor initially could have expected."*

BEN CLICK, PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH AND SMURF MENTOR

of not only what we do, but also embolden our belief in *why* we do it."

Benedict O'Connor '15, Click's most recent mentee, was attracted to the program for these very reasons. "It seemed like a great opportunity to explore a topic I'm interested in from various angles," he said. "The program ended up taking me in directions I didn't intend or initially imagine." According to Click, O'Connor's project, which was initially meant to explore the relationship between 20th-century rhetorical theory and creative nonfiction, ended up covering a range of academic as well as personal fields. "Ultimately, Benedict's project achieved something far more useful, more powerful and more vital for the life of its author while still achieving its initial purpose in a general and somewhat undefined way," Click says. "For Benedict, he now understands the nature of human communication in some deeply profound ways."

Joe Cirillo '17, a computer science major with a minor in art, was also attracted to the interdisciplinary nature of the program, saying that he wanted to "cross the fields of computer science and art and create a robot that could produce art simply through the use of thought." Cirillo's project involved the construction of a robotic device that was controlled by an individual's neurological activity, transmitted through a sensor-covered headset. He noted the same kind of transdisciplinary approach taking his work in new directions. "I had to teach myself a new language in order to write computer programming code for this project, branching off from what I had already learned in my past computer science classes," Cirillo says. "From the artistic side, using a machine to produce art is something that I have not done here in my time

at St. Mary's, so that was a new direction for me. Along with that, a lot of engineering went into constructing the actual robot. This element of the project was completely unrelated to any of my previous studies, making it one of the biggest challenges during my research."

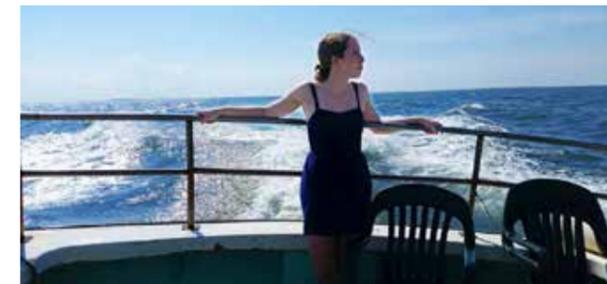
In Click's view, the evolutionary nature of the SMURF program offers one of its greatest strengths. "One of the beauties of the SMURF project is that allows the exploration to shift focus and evolve into perhaps a more meaningful project," he says. "One with broader implications than either student or mentor initially could have expected."

However, for students and mentors alike, the SMURF program does not only benefit by stressing interdisciplinary study; the program also allows for St. Mary's students to shed light on personal projects in a way that is often difficult to achieve during the academic year. Lina Mann '16 made her SMURF project an anthropological study of the culture of Maryland's Smith Island. Smith Island's 276 full-time residents face issues of erosion and economic and population decline. By spending several weeks interviewing residents and studying the tourism industry, the museum, and the Smith Island Vision Plan created this past year, Mann was able to gain a greater level of insight in her anthropological studies as well as her upcoming St. Mary's Project, something that would have been difficult to do during the academic year, balancing classes and extra-curriculars. "I discovered that most residents realize they are under threat but are uncertain about how to successfully make changes for the future," she said.

Mann also found that unique nature of St. Mary's also contributed

*The experience "brings into relief the creativity that goes into high quality work, whether in chemistry, or English, or history, or biology."*

JULIE KING, PROFESSOR OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND SMURF MENTOR



TOP: Biologist Emily Rauschert worked with Zarrin Thompson '16 to study invasive plant species at Historic St. Mary's City. MIDDLE LEFT: Michele Davide Paterson '14 (chemistry) used his SMURF research as a springboard to his St. Mary's Project, for which he earned the Geneva Boone Award for Outstanding St. Mary's Project. MIDDLE RIGHT: Jessica Goodrich '16 (biology) researched optogenetic stimulation of the dorsal lateral striatum in an animal model of Parkinson's disease. BOTTOM: Lina Mann '16 (history) on her way to Smith Island, Maryland, to interview residents about their struggling community.

to the program. Close relationships formed with students and professors alike are a vital part of the SMURF experience. "By interacting with others from all different majors I was able to see the similarities and differences between the sciences and humanities," she says. "I got to bounce ideas off of my fellow SMURF students and engaged in many intriguing conversations about their research as well as current events and campus events. It wasn't just me alone doing research." Mann's mentor, Julie King, professor of anthropology, sees this wide exchange of experiences and ideas as vital to the program. "No matter how unrelated someone else's research program might appear to be to yours, the ongoing presentations and discussions really do inform one's own research. King contends that the experience "brings into relief the creativity that goes into high quality work, whether in chemistry, or English, or history, or biology."

This kind of interconnectivity, not only in research but in relationships and experiences, is the core of the SMURF program. Its effectiveness in facilitating these kinds of connections might well be enough to reach back through two millennia and make Scaevola reconsider his stark separation of the poet from the mathematician. It's certainly enough to lend credence to the words of Scaevola's opponent in "De Oratore," the Roman Consul Crassus, who argues that a liberal approach to skills and knowledge leads to "profound insight into the characters of men and the whole range of human nature." Judging by the new-found depth and broadened minds that the SMURF program fosters, it looks like that old Roman Consul might be on to something. ❖

# COMMUNITY ARTS

*The Connecting Force of the Arts Bridge Program*

BY LEE CAPRISTO, EDITOR

Michael S. Glaser said of the poets at St. Mary's College that they "provide us with a sense of community, an honest fellowship that is forged from experience, emotion and intellect." This sense of creating community through artistic reflection is emblematic of the liberal arts experience. So it is not surprising that St. Mary's is home to the Arts Bridge program.

A decade-long partnership of the College, the Arts Alliance, and St. Mary's County Public Schools and St. Mary's Ryken High School, Arts Bridge offers educational outreach programs in the visual and performing arts to local high school students. The programs include workshops and hands-on exercises, led by College faculty, staff, and students. Nearly 3,800 high school students and sponsoring teachers have participated in the Arts Bridge program since its launch.



TOP: Todd Forsgren, photography instructor, holds a pinhole camera used to take photos during a workshop. ABOVE AND AT LEFT: pinhole camera images taken and developed on campus.



*“What I enjoyed most was how our students interacted with the high school students and how both groups learned a lot about communication, working together and acknowledging differences.”*

MICHAEL ELLIS-TOLAYDO

A happenstance meeting at the county fair in 2003 between **Lynne Morgan Smoot** and **Susan McNeill** turned out to be the kick start for offering the visual arts resources of St. Mary's College to county high school students. Smoot, then director of arts instruction for St. Mary's County Public Schools, and McNeill, the outreach chair for the Arts Alliance of St. Mary's College of Maryland, worked with the Boyden Gallery's director, **Susan Glasser**, and rolled out the first hands-on arts workshop in 2003, around the “Pivot Points” exhibition, marrying painting with poetry, and demonstrating to the students how inspiration could be carried from one artist to another. Students and participating teachers from the high schools started their day in the gallery and then shifted



*Theater workshops, like the one shown here, give students live stage experience under the direction of a theater professional.*

engage with high school students allowed me to see the St. Mary's students in a different light; they became more confident with their bodies and their teaching of movement and dance was done with thought and ease. The high school students were eager and excited to learn and perform. They also wanted to learn more about the St. Mary's students and the college.”

Music workshops for stringed instruments, conceived by Professor of Music **Jeffrey Silberschlag** and modeled as master classes, offered high school musicians the chance to practice with instruction from College music faculty including Silberschlag, **José Cueto**, and **Susan Orban** and to perform alongside members of the professional Chesapeake Orchestra, including a Maryland Day public performance.

In 2006, Arts Bridge added a poetry workshop, designed to encourage untapped writing talent within the high schools. The students tapped by their teachers for the poetry workshops come to campus four times during the year, each workshop session running four hours. At the close of their year-long program, they produce either a written compilation of their poems or a video of their poems, read aloud for their workshop peers and families. The students in the inaugural poetry workshop were guided by a powerhouse trio of the College's creative writing community: **Michael Glaser**, English professor and then-Poet Laureate of Maryland; **Jeffrey Coleman**, English professor and poet; and **Lucille Clifton**, professor emerita and former Poet Laureate of Maryland. Clifton opened the workshop by talking about her experience becoming a poet including the fact that she did not have a college degree when she became a poet. She stressed to the students that reading and writing “provides us with both windows and

round recreation of Shakespeare's “Twelfth Night,” produced as part of a senior project by St. Mary's student **Megan Lehr Wiecek '06**. Ellis-Tolaydo led an actors' workshop and Q&A session after the performance. Recently retired, Ellis-Tolaydo remarked, “I truly loved being part of the Arts Bridge program. What I enjoyed most was how our students interacted with the high school students and how both groups learned a lot about communication, working together and acknowledging differences. Some of this came from the workshops and a lot came from questions and answers from the audience to the cast and crew – about the play, the production, being in college, and [having] lunch with its informal setting where both groups could get to know each other a bit.” In 2011, St. Mary's Ryken High School students participated in a “Cabaret” themed dance workshop led by then-Professor of Dance **Merideth Taylor**. Since 2013, **Leonard Cruz**, assistant professor of dance, has led theater/dance movement workshops which included students from Fairlead Academy, whose participation is cherished as their single arts enrichment opportunity. Cruz recalls, “The impact of having St. Mary's students

mirrors: windows into the lives of others and mirrors in which we can better see and understand ourselves.” Coleman, who has continued with poetry workshops since then, says, “All high school students have something to say, something they need to get off their chest: poetry offers them a way to express themselves creatively.” He adds, “The sessions are always valuable because we never fail to connect in a meaningful way through humor, laughter and poetry. I hope the program continues for years to come.” The workshop has impacted teachers and students alike. **Desiree Glass**, a sponsoring teacher from Chopticon High School since 2008, says “from the start, I was hooked. The work that the students produced was astounding. Seven years later I'm still attending with my students and haven't missed a workshop yet. Over the years I think I've learned as much—if not more—than my students. I appreciate the expertise and professionalism of the professors and the Arts Alliance for making possible this program, which has affected students in ways far beyond honing their craft.”

Arts Bridge program participants have gone on to publish their poetry, to graduate from college, to incorporate the arts in their lives. **Sage Burch**, a three-year participant in the poetry workshops from Leonardtown High School, twice received first place at the county poetry recitation competition under the auspices of the St. Mary's County and Maryland State Arts Councils. **Jackson Holden '15**, a four-year participant in the Arts Bridge program from Great Mills High School, just graduated from St. Mary's with a major in mathematics. “The Arts Bridge program let me see a little bit of what college art was like,” says Holden. “I saw what it was like to have a dedicated sculpture studio or a room just for printmaking. I also got to see the levels of artwork people were doing, from intro level to advanced, and was able to see myself fitting in somewhere in there.” Holden stayed connected to the Arts Bridge program while in college by assisting with Todd Forsgren's photography workshop. ❖

*Thanks to Susan McNeill for contributing to this article.*

*“The Arts Bridge program let me see a little bit of what college art was like. I got to see the levels of artwork people were doing and was able to see myself fitting in somewhere in there.”*

JACKSON HOLDEN '15



TOP: *Barbara Bershon and students check their silkscreens.*  
CENTER: *A stringed instrument master class gets underway.*  
BOTTOM: *Poet Jeffrey Coleman reflects on student poetry at a workshop.*

## SHE WAS

*by Patricia Pelingon*

She was not an afternoon tea  
or a stroll on Sunday morning  
nor a late night movie

Her straps were always showing  
she never always told the truth  
she wasn't great at cooking

But what I can tell you  
is that she was a sunset on Saturday  
A tornado that swept through my room

Some would say  
that she was like a heart attack  
because she took your breath away

But the best part is that she loved me back.  
... She loved me back.

## REFLECTION POEM

*by Lucas Wilson*

Before it began, they told us  
that this was an accepting place.  
At first, I didn't believe them.  
I wasn't letting my guard down.

But after a while, I realized something.  
The air of acceptance wasn't so fake.  
What I believed to be superficial  
turned out to be an unexpected truth.

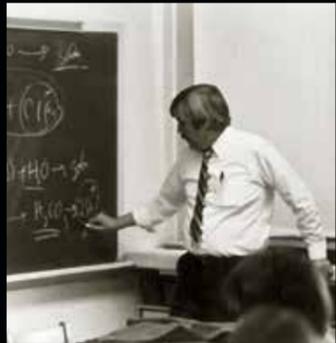
Sitting in a circle, all with poetry in hand,  
we read our personal feelings  
as if they were on our sleeves.  
I didn't know them, but I told them.

Strange what that environment can do  
to your guard.

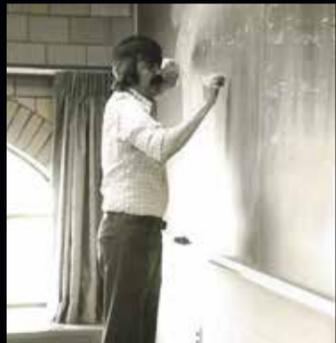
I let down defenses somehow in the moment.  
And stranger still, I didn't live to regret it.  
And I looked forward to reading my feelings.



“You never get the damn right answer, you always get an approximation (which is close enough for government work).”



“If you have the wrong answer, just divide it by the wrong answer and multiply by the right answer and you’ll be okay.”



“There is no such thing as an Ideal Gas, just like there is no such thing as Santa Claus and there is no such thing as the Easter Bunny.”

# He Was Way Better Than “Good Enough for Government Work”



He was picked for his pedigree (hiring a Brown University PhD to St. Mary’s faculty was a feather in President Ren Jackson’s cap). His irreverence caught his students’ attention. His investment in their success and well being won their hearts, for 40 years, on the campus of St. Mary’s College.

Paul Peter Blanchette died August 27, 2015, days before he would have started a lab with a new class of chemistry students with a comment like “This is actually the first time we’ve done this, so let us pray.” Later he might advise the class to “feed your brain peanut butter or a Twinkie once in a while to keep it going.” The list of “Dr. Blanchette-isms” is long (see sidebar), proving the endearment shared between him and his students.

He served in the Army after college and went to Vietnam from 1968 – 1970. It was after his return from Vietnam that he went to Brown University for his PhD in chemistry, working as a teaching assistant and marrying Kathleen Blanchette in 1971. Degree in hand, he began looking for a full-time position in 1975 and applied for an open “instructor of chemistry” position at St. Mary’s College. “I was hired in late July or early August, I think because the person they’d planned to hire backed out and they were desperate to find someone.”

## STUDENT REFLECTIONS

My favorite will always remain the time I saw him in the hall after a very hard bio exam freshman year. I started to whine to him, and he cut me off and pointed at his foot. He had raised it off the ground and was drawing circles with his toe. "Do you see what I'm doing?" he asked. I shook my head no. "I'm winding up my foot to kick you in the ass. Get out there and do it until they tell you you can't." That was Dr. Blanchette. And why I needed him as my adviser. Every so often after that he'd see me with my head down, and he'd point to that foot winding up. It always made me smile. —Dortheanne (Roberts) Bone '99 (biology)

He liked to smoke while lecturing in Anne Arundel Hall (it was the early 80s you know), told us we could too if we wanted. I would join him, tapping ashes on the floor, don't remember where we put the butts though, on the floor too, I suppose? And then Shaun McGarvey and I tried to impersonate him, saying "carbon and his buddies" in his big New England-y Boston accent. I loved this guy. —Frank Healy '85 (now associate professor of biology at Trinity Univ. in San Antonio)

Whenever he did example problems in PChem I just thought he was \*that\* good at doing math in his head, until one day somebody challenged him and he said "It's been the same answer since 1982!" His lecture notes were older than I was. —Tabitha Clem '05 (chemistry)

I often tell my students the story about the time when my lab partner and I printed a lab report backwards as a mirror image. We thought it would be funny to turn it in that way (it was Paul after all. He could take a joke, right?) so we did. But just in case, we slid a normal copy under his door later that day. For a week we heard nothing from Paul. He never said anything to us about receiving either lab report so we started getting nervous. When it came time to get the graded report back, he passed us ours and still said nothing. When we looked at the report, we were shocked to see that it was the mirror image copy and that all of his comments were written backwards. I still remember the grin that he shot us when we busted out laughing. —Randall Reif '06 (now assistant professor of chemistry at Univ. of Mary Washington)

You were an icon amongst the department, and yet before I took PChem, I was always deathly afraid of you. But through the trials and tribulations of that class, I was able to draw back that veil, that gruff and prickly exterior, to find a kindred soul like no other: a man that was always willing to help no matter what. The only way I can describe it now is an unforgettable experience, and it was thanks to you that light was shed into an otherwise infinite void that many could not have traversed successfully without your aid. —Max Flerlage '15 (chemistry)

## PAUL PETER BLANCHETTE

“I know blue + yellow = green because I once got yellow paint on my blue jeans.”

“Real men don't wear gloves, unless you're a proctologist. I mean, you gotta draw the line somewhere.”

“Don't buy 5 miles of fishing line to fish off the bottom of the ocean because the fish you catch will explode when you reel them in.”

In 1975, St. Mary's classes were held in Kent and Anne Arundel Halls. Paul joined Bob Goldsmith and Tim Fisher on Anne Arundel's second floor. The three of them were the department and shared a single lab, also on the second floor. Between them and around them in the building were the music and art departments and the foreign language and English departments. "I'm trying to teach a class and some kid's practicing on a tuba [in the stairwell]. Terrible!" recalled Paul in an interview in 2011 for the SlackWater oral history project about the building just as it was being torn down.

Those early years of Paul's teaching career probably shaped his future notoriety as an academic policy chair. Because the shared lab was so poorly equipped, he created a course on instrumentation to give his students an understanding of the tools a chemist would use in a well-fitted lab (like the ones he'd used at Brown University) and how each piece of equipment worked.

These early years too, were memorable to Paul for the mix of serious students and those that showed up to party. An open window in the second floor classroom often served as a launch point for water balloons, sometimes with a student or Paul being the one hanging from the window. Yet despite the "Animal House" atmosphere and high school lab, five of the class of six who made up Paul's physical chemistry students that first year were successful in PhD chemistry programs by 1980. Whatever he had done as their instructor, mentor, adviser, had worked.

And so the story continued. As the College matured and the chemistry department grew and moved into bigger, better-equipped facilities, first in Schaefer and then in Goodpaster Hall, Paul was there to develop the chemistry curriculum and courses that would propel hundreds more students into careers in the sciences. And each of those students, through general chemistry or physical chemistry, came to know and admire, and sometime depend upon, Dr. Blanchette and his classroom verve.

Farewell, friend. Your legacy lives on. ❖

## FACULTY/STAFF REFLECTIONS

Paul taught two courses at the same time: physical chemistry and the history of chemistry. —Al Hovland, associate professor of chemistry

I had an office next to Paul for 15 years, first in Schaefer Hall and then in Goodpaster Hall. I saw a lot of physical chemistry students hanging out in the hallways over the years, waiting for Paul so they could get desperate help on their take home exams. Somehow Paul fit them all in as he did his general chemistry students. But he did so much more than provide help with problems and calculations. He was a genuine friend who cared about all of their problems, both academic problems and life problems...and he made them laugh. He made us all laugh. Paul knew that it was the connections with people that are so important in life, connections that lead to great stories. I think he would want us to remember the stories and the laughter. He will be greatly missed.

—Pam Mertz, associate professor of biochemistry

Paul started every semester with plenty of chalk and his favorite grading pens. He taught so many students who are using what they learned from him in their daily lives. What a tribute to him! —Frances Titus, financial associate for the Biology Dept.

My father and I both had Paul Blanchette for general chemistry, and countless others have had the pleasure to experience his greatness. He was the only professor that threw chalk at me to wake me up in class, and I am privileged that he cared enough to do so. —Tom Brewer '05, (biology)

I was actually rather scared of Paul Blanchette when I first arrived at St. Mary's. He seemed so gruff and forbidding. I worried about working with him when I was named to the Academic Policy Committee of which Paul was the chair. (Eventually it was Lisa Scheer, I believe, who proposed that we on the committee elect him "Chairman for Life.") Once I got to know Paul through our work together...my mind was totally turned around. I discovered the real Paul Blanchette. He was so compassionate and caring as we dealt with the student problems that surfaced in their petitions to the committee. He guided the committee and brought us around to consensus most of the time. —Susan Grogan, professor of political science

He was a wonderful friend to me. I especially remember his sense of humor and his dedication to his students. He was a great addition to the chemistry program, and he was one of those scientists so well suited to a college of liberal arts and sciences, certainly not true of all chemistry PhDs. —Michael Rosenthal, provost at St. Mary's from 1984-89

# ALUMNI CONNECTION

## CLASS NOTES

### 1940s

**Ann Burrows '65JC** sends greetings from Australia to her classmates of 1948.

### 1950s

**J. R. Roseberry '53HS** was awarded first place in the Savannah Authors Workshop 2015 Anthology Writing Competition for his short story, "Helen" which is the first piece in the new book "Savannah Anthology 2015." J. R.'s love of writing started early. In high school, he won the Ark and Dove Society writing award. He later worked as a writer and/or editor for multiple newspapers including 24 years with The Washington Post. When he retired in 1992 from the paper, J. R. moved to Tybee Island, Ga. where he purchased and published The Tybee News for several years before retiring a second time. He still does some free-lance writing for area publications but primarily focuses on his long-time hobby of writing lyrics and music. One of his songs, "Highway 80" appears on a CD recorded by Charlie Sherrill. J. R. lives on Tybee Island, Ga.

**Barbara Lyon Gilbert, BJ Osborn Webb, Marion Pilkerton Mills and Dottie Payne Ream [1]**, shown here from left to right, were roommates and best friends from St. Mary's Seminary Junior College Class of 1959. They had a mini-reunion in June 2014 in Annapolis, Md. Their husbands joined in the celebration. Barbara and Al Gilbert live in Falls Church, Va.; BJ and David Webb in St.

Petersburg, Fla.; Marion and Charles Mills in Leonardtown, Md., and Dottie and Raymond Ream in Chestertown, Md.

### 1960s

**Lucinda Beck Abrams '68JC** was the March 2015 featured artist at the Penn Cove Gallery in Whidbey Island, Wash. A gallery member for over 20 years, Lucinda finds inspiration in Northwest U.S. landscapes and flowers and specializes in transparent watercolor though she is equally at home in oils, acrylics, ink, pencil, pastel and Sumi. She studied visual arts at St. Mary's and today, her paintings hang in collections in the U.S., Europe and Asia. Lucinda lives in Coupeville, Wash.

### 1970s

**Debbie Allday Russ '74** has retired from the Calvert County, Md. public schools after a 38-year career. A Calvert County native, she wanted to be an eighth-grade English teacher and stayed in the classroom for 28 years. In 2005 she became the acting president of the county's teacher union and its permanent president from 2006-2015. Debbie and husband Rick live in Huntington, Md.

**Harry Hafer '79** is the park manager for Elijah Clark State Park in Lincolnton, Ga. This is the third park he has managed. The previous two, both in South Carolina, were Lake Warren State Park and Lee State Park. Harry and wife, Mae Lee, live in Lincolnton, Ga.

### 1980s

**Gwendolen Lesh McLeod '85** has been selected as a "Super Lawyer" by Super Lawyers Magazine, placing her in the

top five percent of all Maryland lawyers practicing family law. She also has been recognized by the *Washingtonian Magazine* as a top Washington, D.C. area family law attorney and rated by Martindale-Hubbell, based on peer reviews, at the highest level of professional excellence. An attorney and mediator, she is a co-founder and partner of Haspel & McLeod, P.C., a family law firm, in existence since 2002, with offices in Rockville and Frederick, Md. Gwen and her family live in Mt. Airy, Md.

**Peggy Fowler '89** has received a master's degree in higher education leadership from Northcentral University in Prescott Valley, Ariz. and would like to return to working in higher education, preferably in a student activities department. Since 2007, she has supervised the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority's airport ambassadors at Dulles International Airport. The ambassadors provide customer service support to airline passengers in the terminal. Peggy lives in Sterling, Va.

### 1990s

**Pam Powers Brookbank '91**, a Licensed Certified Social Worker-Clinical (LCSW-C), has been approved by the Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners to provide clinical supervision to social workers working toward their LCSW-C licensure. One of the social workers at the Hospice of St. Mary's (Md.) since 2010, Pam says she has found her passion in caring for hospice patients and their families. She, husband Samuel and their four children live in Mechanicsville, Md.

**Danielle Troyan '92 [2]** completed the Program for Leadership Development (Executive



1

MBA) at Harvard Business School, graduating July 31. The program is an immersive learning experience for emerging global business leaders. Danielle participated in the program as a College trustee, president of the Alumni Association, and Historic St. Mary's City Commissioner. She would like to introduce the opportunity to and engage with alumni interested in the Harvard program. Danielle can be reached through the Alumni Office. She lives in Alexandria, VA.

**Leigh Kessler '95** is a partner with the law firm Rosenberg Martin Greenberg, LLP in Baltimore, Md. where she is a member of the firm's tax controversies and litigation practice groups. She represents individuals and businesses in white collar criminal investigations and prosecutions and in tax matters before the U.S. Tax Court, IRS and Comptroller of Maryland. Leigh spent the previous eight years working at the U.S. Department of Justice Tax Division, Western Criminal Enforcement section where she prosecuted criminal tax cases throughout the country and supervised approximately 25 trial attorneys. She was back on campus in January as a panelist for the annual "Book Bag to Briefcase" career panel for graduating seniors. Leigh lives near Baltimore, Md.

**Cori Bernardo '98** recently completed her certification in holistic nutrition from the Institute of Integrative Nutri-



2



3

**Sandy Walsh Imbriale '97** is the new academic dean at the Chesapeake Public Charter School in Lexington Park, Md. She joined the St. Mary's County, Md. public schools as an elementary education teacher at Hollywood Elementary School where she also served as an instructional resource teacher. Prior to the academic dean appointment, Sandy was the curriculum and instructional specialist at the charter school. She and her family live in Hollywood, Md.

**Cori Bernardo '98** recently completed her certification in holistic nutrition from the Institute of Integrative Nutri-

## Alumni Spotlight



**Ryan Breymaier '97**, recognized as the most prominent and successful American shorthanded offshore sailor on the ocean racing circuit, joined with co-skipper Renaud Laplanche, CEO of Lending Club, to break three world speed sailing records onboard the 105 foot trimaran Lending Club 2, during the 2015 ocean racing season. The first race, 138-nautical miles across the English Channel from Cowes, England to Dinard, France, took 5 hours, 15 minutes; 8 minutes faster than the previous record set in 2002. The second race, 635-nautical miles from Castle Hill Lighthouse in Newport, R.I. to Kitchen Shoal in Bermuda, took 23 hours, 35 minutes, 53 seconds; shattering the previous record, set in 2000, of 38 hours, 35 minutes, 53 seconds. The final race was to be the Transpacific Yacht Race ("Transpac"), 2, 215-nautical miles from Rainbow Harbor in Long Beach, Calif. to Diamond Head lighthouse just east of Honolulu, Hawaii. However, when forecasts showed weather would be an issue during the race, Ryan and Renaud opted out of the race and instead tried to break the outright Transpacific record. Starting a day ahead of the Transpac racers, they sailed the route in 3 days, 18 hours, 9 seconds, taking over 24 hours off the previous world record of 4 days, 19 hours, 31 minutes, 37 seconds set in November 2005. Ryan and his family live in France.

tion. While there, she studied over 100 dietary theories including Ayurveda, gluten-free, Paleo, raw, vegan, and macrobiotics. Self-employed as a holistic nutrition coach, she works with people all over the country who want to lose weight, have more energy, and eat a healthier diet. By the end of 2015 she will offer personal chef services. Cori, who also is certified by the American Association of Drugless Practitioners, and her husband, **Nick Peters '97**, a computer engineer for Adobe Systems, Inc., live in Denver, Colo.

**Emma Petrie Barcelona '99 [3]** has served on the Board of Education for Lakewood, Ohio, since 2011 and currently is president of the board. Emma says her St. Mary's public sector economics and public policy classes

prepared her well. Today she manages compliance for Eden, Inc., a "Housing First" non-profit affordable housing developer/provider for people who have been homeless. She spent spring break in St. Mary's County, Md. visiting **Carrie Dannenfeler Harney '99** and showing the College to her daughters Edie, age 9 and Cora, age 7.

**Jo Oliver '99** was featured in the cover story, "Up Your Outdoor Entertaining Game," of a summer Home and Garden section of The Washington Post newspaper. In the article, she shared tips for designing flowers to look their best in the withering heat and humidity. Jo's flower studio, Highway to Hill ([www.hwy2hill.com](http://www.hwy2hill.com)), started as a side project with her now husband, **Robb Stout '99**, to do fun

design projects outside of their corporate jobs as graphic designers. They make t-shirts, tea towels, pillows, lamps, bags, and pennants that they sell at Washington, D.C. festivals. Six years ago they added flowers to the business. Jo recently left her full-time job as art director at AARP to work full time at Highway to Hill located in northeast Washington, D.C. In addition to custom arrangements for weddings, parties and individual clients, she also offers classes. Jo and Robb live in Washington, D.C.

**Michael Clark '99** is the new associate athletics director for strategic communications at Ball State University in Muncie, Ind. After earning a master's degree in sports administration at Florida State University, he started his career at Davidson College in N.C. where he was the assistant sports information director for five years. From there he went to Eastern Kentucky University where he worked for ten years starting as the assistant director of athletic public relations followed by director of athletic public relations and finally assistant athletics director for communications and branding. Michael and his family live in Yorktown, Ind.

**Michael Hitchings '99** has been appointed to the Havre de Grace, Md. city council. A city resident since 1995, he previously served on the city's planning commission and the board of appeals. Michael earned his master's degree in engineering from Johns Hopkins University in May.

### 2000s

**Beth Ramsey '02** is principal of the newly opened Captain Walter Francis Duke Elementary School in Leonardtown,

Md. After teaching in Charles County, Md., she shifted to school administration in St. Mary's County, Md. beginning with assistant principal assignments at George Washington Carver and Benjamin Banneker Elementary Schools followed by her first principal assignment, in 2012, at White Marsh Elementary School. Beth and her family have lived in Southern Maryland for almost 30 years.

**Samantha Sissman Wentling '03** ([www.linkedin.com/in/samanthawentling](http://www.linkedin.com/in/samanthawentling)) is a financial, retirement and life planning consultant and a licensed agent for New York Life Insurance Company. In July, she both played in and sponsored part of the 17th annual Federal

Triangles Rehoboth Beach Soccer Classic. Sam lives with her husband Clyde and daughter Isabelle in Alexandria, Va.

**Mikey Church '04** and **Ali Sharp Church '03** are living in Dixon, Mont. on the Salish Kootenai Reservation in northwest Montana. Over the past five years, Mikey has finished a master's degree in geography, spent a year in Tajikistan on a Fulbright Fellowship, and while Ali was in graduate school, worked a variety of jobs including field technician for Montana's forest pest entomologist, wildlands fire fighter, bike shop mechanic, youth shelter therapeutic worker, carpenter; and on a trail crew in the Flathead National Forest. Ali received

## Leadership Southern Maryland and St. Mary's College

Leadership Southern Maryland, Inc., an independent, educational leadership development organization runs Leadership Southern Maryland (LSM), a nine-month program designed to develop Southern Maryland leaders for regional collaboration. The newly graduated LSM Class of 2015 included **Kelsey Bush '94**, St. Mary's County coordinator of local management board and youth; **Walt Nilsson '00**, senior pastor for Cornerstone Presbyterian Church; and Dana Burke, director of the College's Career Development. In June, **Barry Friedman '87**, LSM '09, a market manager with Primary Residential Mortgage, Inc., joined LSM's board of directors, currently led by Lee Capristo, LSM '11, director of publications for the College. LSM graduates also include Chip Jackson, LSM '12, vice president for business and finance. The LSM Class of 2016 will include Michael Cummings, the College's director of admissions.

## A Piece of History Returns to Campus

A piece of St. Mary's history was recently returned to the College. A book containing handwritten alumnae meeting minutes for the St. Mary's Female Seminary and St. Mary's Female Seminary Junior College was discovered at a Hooks & Hangers resale store in Charlotte Hall, Md. The minutes covered meetings held from 1917-1932. The resale store staff, excited about their find, contacted the College's Office of Alumni Relations which was happy to accept the book on behalf of the College. The book is now in the College's archives.

her master's degree in social work from the University of Montana in 2014. These days, Mikey paddles every body of water a canoe will fit in, builds trails for work and fun, rides his bike and cooks big breakfasts. Ali eats the breakfasts and works as a critical access hospital and hospice social worker. With nine chickens, four turkeys, a dog, and the Flathead River to swim in when it's not frozen, Mikey says "life is treating us pretty good."

**Amanda Lamont Link '05**, credentialed in 2014 as a board certified behavior analyst, is a clinical coordinator for Little Leaves Behavioral Services, a company that provides in-home applied behavior analysis programming for children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders. Her husband, **Daniel Link '05**, works as a senior research scientist with Science Systems and Applications, Inc., a contractor for NASA Goddard. They and their two children, Ben, age 6, and Maggie, age 4, live in Nottingham, Md.

**Hanna Gribble '05 [4]** has had her debut novel, *Steel Victory*, published. Described as a "blend of apocalyptic science fiction, alternate history, and the paranormal," *Steel Victory* was her thesis novel for her master's degree in writing popular fiction from Seton Hill University. Hanna (aka J. L. Gribble) is a professional medical editor by day and at night does freelance fiction editing in all genres. She's currently working on more tales set in *Steel Victory's* city-state of Limani. Hanna and her husband, Erik Reichenbach, live in Ellicott City, Md.

**Jessica Leonard '05** recently graduated from West Virginia

University with a doctorate in counseling psychology. What made her graduation all the more memorable was her boyfriend, Donald Smith, proposed to her, in front of family and friends. Jessica is doing a post-doctoral fellowship in Augusta, Maine as a staff psychologist at the Veterans' Administration Hospital.

**Josh Owings '06** probably will never forget the month of April 2015 as he got engaged to Jessica Jaglois on top of the Burj Khalifa in Dubai; got a new job as a sales representative for Biotek Instruments covering the states of Tennessee, Arkansas and Mississippi; and relocated to Nashville, Tenn. He also finished his Ph.D. in microbiology from the University of Virginia in 2014 and a postdoctoral fellowship at Emory University in 2015.

**Nick Iliff, Jr. '07** skippered the Block Island 40 sailboat Alaris to victory in the PHRF C class in this year's Governor's Cup. The boat, built 57 years ago, was purchased in 1959 by Nick's grandfather, who named her Alaris. It last raced in the Governor's Cup in 1982, when Nick's father, Nick Iliff Sr., also sailed her to first place in her class. Nick's father and two uncles, Charles and Jack, as well as **David Farkas '10**, were on board for this year's race. Nick works as an assistant public defender for the Maryland Office of the Public Defender in Denton, Md.

**Margaret Ingram Kendrick '08 [5]** is an account manager for The Pangburn Group. She taught elementary school for four and a half years as a member of Teach for America and recently graduated from

Louisiana State University with a master's degree in human resource education. Her husband, Richard, who she married in 2012, is the chief deputy tax assessor for West Feliciana Parish and a practicing attorney. Margaret and Richard are runners and in 2015 completed the Bermuda Triangle Challenge. They live in St. Francisville, La.

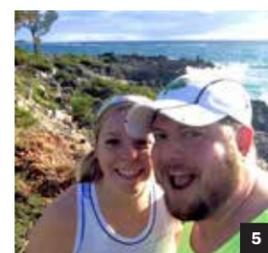
**Jeffrey Hankins '09** is the adult sailing director at Boothbay Harbor Yacht Club in West Boothbay, Maine. A certified instructor by US Sailing, he first started sailing at the Southport Yacht Club (Maine) and continued sailing and racing at St. Mary's College. He also has worked as the head sailing coach at the Salisbury School in Connecticut. When not sailing, Jeffrey is the lead member of the Breckenridge, Colo. ski patrol and is licensed for high explosive treatment of avalanche conditions.

2010s

**Brian Boyle '10 [6]** has written his second book entitled *The Patient Experience: The Importance of Care, Communication, and Compassion in the Hospital Room*. While his first book, *Iron Heart*, told the story of how, at age eighteen, he survived a horrific automobile accident, his recovery and all that he had accomplished since his accident; his new book is written from the patient's perspective to help caregivers gain valuable insight and understand new ways to provide care for patients and their families. The book, based on his recovery process, includes artwork, journal entries and writings from classes he took as a student at St. Mary's College. Since 2004,

Brian's mission has been to make an impact in healthcare through his affiliation with the American Red Cross as a national volunteer spokesman, his Huffington Post column, his many public speaking events, and now as a Johns Hopkins University graduate student pursuing dual master's degrees in health communication and business administration. Brian and his wife, Pamela, live in Southern Maryland.

**Trey Cole '10** is an air pollution solution specialist in China. After working eighteen months as a teacher at the Hunan University of Humanities, Science & Technology, he changed careers and joined HealthPro, the exclusive distributor for IQAir-Switzerland and Vogmask clean air systems and prod-



Alumni Spotlight



**Emma Prasher '09** spent the summer as a member of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Ebola Coordination Team deployed to Conakry, Guinea. Like many other young alums, Emma joined the Peace Corps after graduation and was assigned to Burkina Faso, Africa where she taught biology and geology at a secondary school. Returning to the U.S., she accepted a position with the CDC's public health associate program based in Philadelphia, Pa. Her work this summer in Conakry involved training healthcare staff and setting up triage to identify suspect Ebola patients before they entered a healthcare facility. She also went into the field with the World Health Organization as part of a door-to-door campaign to try to find hidden cases. After returning from Guinea, Emma wrapped up her job in Philadelphia, took a quick trip to Burkina Faso to see her fiancé whom she met while in the Peace Corps, and then moved to Atlanta, Ga. and a new CDC position in the division of global migration and quarantine. Working as an economist within the surveillance unit, she also is a deputy team leader on the data management team for the Global Migration Task Force. Emma will start Emory University's BSN/MSN program in May 2016 to become a family nurse practitioner.

**Mary Coy Whitmore '11** had the premiere of her new musical work for symphonic band on May 18 at her high school alma mater, Henry E. Lackey High School in Charles County, Md. The composition is entitled "Haara," which is the phonetic transcription of the Arabic word meaning "free," and is dedicated to the three Charles County high school bands. She began composing in 2009 at St. Mary's College and has had several other premieres including "Muse: Two Contemplations for Horn and Piano" and "Mirage for Orchestra" which was performed during the 2011 River Concert Series. Mary, who has performed locally and internationally as a bassoonist and a singer, is a graduate student at the University of Maryland, College Park School of Music where she received her master's degree in music composition this year and is continuing her studies as a doctoral candidate in musical arts.

**Patrick Koroma '11** works as a grants specialist for the National Academies of Sciences in Washington, D.C. He previously worked as a federal government contractor for the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas and the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program. Patrick lives in Bethesda, Md.

**Amanda Rice '12** is owner and CEO of Ember Essentials, LLC (www.EmberEssentials.com) which produces all natural, handmade soaps and shampoos. Free samples of her soap were given away at this year's Alumni Weekend 2015. Amanda also works as a federal consultant for Grant Thornton LLP and recently completed her master's degree in international relations at American University.

**Daniela Fiore '12** and **Etahjayne Harris '13**, as members of the 200-voice National Philharmonic Chorale based at the

Music Center at Strathmore in Bethesda, Md, sang in the premiere of British composer John Rutter's "Canticles of Creation" on Memorial Day at Carnegie Hall in New York City, N.Y. Both were vocal performance students at St. Mary's and are grateful for the musical experience they received. Daniela works as a government account manager for Carahsoft Technology Corporation and lives in Arlington, Va.; Etahjayne, who lived in Silver Spring, Md. while working as a legal assistant for Goel and Anderson, LLC in Reston, Va., began law school this fall at the University of Richmond.

**Maurielle Stewart '12** is the recently elected Ward 4 councilmember for her hometown, Cheverly, Md. She ran for public office because she wanted to give back to her hometown. Although this is her first elected position, Maurielle's involvement with civic engagement began at St. Mary's where she

served as the student trustee for the Board of Trustees. After graduating, she joined the staff of Representative Steny Hoyer (D-MD) and works as a constituent liaison in his Waldorf, Md. district office. In May she completed her term as vice president of communications for the Prince George's County Young Democrats.

**Katherine Morgan '13** is the program assistant for ocean planning at the Ocean Conservancy, an environmental nonprofit working to educate and empower people to defend not only the ocean and its wildlife, but also the millions who earn their living from the ocean. Building off her double major in biology and political science, Katherine is now attending Johns Hopkins University, studying for a master's degree in environmental science and policy.

**Mimi Roller '13** and **Kayla McComb '13** represented

the U.S. Virgin Islands in this year's Pan American Games, competing in the women's 49er FX sailing event where they finished fourth. Next up are the Worlds in Buenos Aires, Argentina in November where they hope to qualify for the 2016 Olympics. While Mimi competed in the 2012 Olympics in the single-handed laser radial event, she wanted a racing partner for the 2016 Olympics which will mark the debut of 49er FX as a medal event. Kayla, a California native, sailed with Mimi at St. Mary's. She moved to the U.S. Virgin Islands, fulfilled her residency requirements and has been sailing with Mimi since then. To date, they've competed in Florida, Spain, France, the Netherlands, England, Rhode Island and Canada.

**Amanda Jengo '14** is an admissions counselor at Salve Regina University in Newport, R.I. and covers two counties in Connecticut and six in

ALUMNI RETURN TO CAMPUS



What an exciting start to a St. Mary's summer this year! In June, more than 1,300 alumni and friends of the College converged on campus to celebrate the largest (and perhaps warmest) Alumni Weekend in school history and the College's 175th birthday. While a good time was had by all, at least one alum, **Jessica Paguirigan '14**, had the weekend of her life. On Saturday, June 13th, she had planned to attend a tie-dye class. However, her boyfriend, **Peter Robertson '13, MAT '14**, had other plans and asked her to come along on his birthday scavenger hunt that an anonymous friend had set up for him. After 12 hours of sweat, confusion and detective work, the hunt concluded at the Campus Community Farm where Peter revealed he was the hunt's creator and his true purpose by proposing to Jessica, who said yes.

GOLDEN & BEYOND REUNION WEEKEND

In July, the Golden & Beyond Reunion Weekend was held for members of the Classes of 1965 and earlier to come back, reconnect with friends and also commemorate the College's birthday. Alums came from eight states, Washington, D.C. and Canada. The Class of 1965 celebrated its 50th reunion while **Dr. BJ Howard-Jasper '45HS, '47JC** celebrated graduating from high school 70 years ago.



CLASS OF 1965 CELEBRATES ITS 50TH

Members of the St. Mary's Seminary Junior College Class of 1965. *Front row, from left to right: Martha "Muffy" Russell Caputo, Rose Cecil Dement, John Fletcher Jr., Sally Stanford Tribull* *Back row, from left to right: G. Thomas "Tom" Daugherty, Pamela Price Sawyer, Margaret "Peggy" Longest Crist, Linda Perkins Chakales, Carolyn Clark Sorge*

Massachusetts. Previously she worked at St. Mary's as an admissions counselor covering Western Maryland and half of Montgomery County, Md. She also re-engaged the Seahawk Alumni and Admissions Program which is helping to get alums more connected with admissions officers when they're on the road.

**Sharon Miyagawa '14** and **Brian Oakey '15** are the College's newest admissions counselors. Sharon, previously a regional recruiter, is the out-of-state admissions counselor focusing heavily on Virginia, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. She also will review all non-Maryland applicant files, is tasked with growing the College's out-of-state enrollments, and will be the office's point person for all off-campus events. Brian's recruitment territory is Anne Arundel County and the Eastern Shore. He also will help with on-campus admissions events given his experience working with the on-campus events office while a student.

**Jessica Paguirigan '14** recently was described in a Frederick, Md. News-Post article as "probably the youngest person in the Department of Aging." An AmeriCorps member trained to be a Volunteer Maryland Coordinator, she worked from September 2014–August 2015, with Frederick County's Meals on Wheels Program and is credited with expanding the program in all directions. She personally recruited volunteers; coordinated weekly meal deliveries by 250 volunteers to 150 elderly and disabled residents; and started a new service,

Friendly Visitors, to provide companionship to the more isolated residents. Her hard work was recognized by the Frederick Mayor during the third annual Mayor's Day of Recognition for National Service.

**Arianna Pray '14** writes under the pen name, Vesta Clark. She has self-published four of her works with two more to follow. Her first novel, composed while studying at Oxford University's Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, dealt with the Arthurian legend. Her next novel, *The Megarid*, was written as her St. Mary's Project and is the first in a series of novels which take place in the world of Greek mythology as seen through the eyes of Bronze Age Greeks. In June she discussed her novels at Fenwick Street Used Books and Music in Leonardtown, Md.

**Kira Schwartz '14 [7]** with Mary Hall (adjunct professor of political science) got a private tour of the U.S. Supreme Court in June when they attended a lecture there. The lecture, given on the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta, was offered by Brenda Hale, baroness of Richmond and deputy president of the Supreme Court in the United Kingdom. Kira began law school this fall at the University of Virginia.



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2015 ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIPS

ALUMNI LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP



**Matthew Kamin '19**, of La Plata, Md., is this year's recipient of the Alumni Legacy Scholarship

awarded to a new or current student who is related to a St. Mary's alum. For Matthew, it's his sister, **Kristen Kamin '14, MAT '15**. Matthew chose St. Mary's because it offered both the challenge of an honors college and the opportunity to major in physics, mathematics, and history—his three learning passions. Receiving this scholarship means he can continue the high academic standard his sister set as well as embrace the St. Mary's Way which Kristen says he already does. Matthew competed on his school's "It's Academic Team" all four years and was its captain the last two years. He also made time for community service including collecting supplies to send to U.S. troops in Afghanistan and food for the Southern Maryland Food Bank; and helping to maintain and preserve a local historical shrine and graveyard.

DON STABILE ALUMNI POST-GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP



**Craig Stauffer '04**, this year's Don Stabile Alumni Post-Graduate Scholarship recipient, is a biodesign

innovation surgical fellow at Stanford University. He became interested in biomedical device design when his father, after suffering a massive heart attack, received an implanted Abiomed ventricular assist device which allowed his damaged heart to rest. Craig believes his father is alive today, in large part, because of individuals at Abiomed who worked so hard to get the device to market. After St.

Mary's College, Craig worked for three years as a research technician at Cornell University Weill Medical College. He then spent a year as an organ procurement technician for the Living Legacy Foundation of Maryland. He did preliminary donor evaluation, medical preoperative donor management and surgical first assist during organ procurement. He worked in tandem at The Johns Hopkins University, Division of Transplantation investigating obstacles to kidney and pancreas transplantation in the African-American community. He also enrolled at the University to pursue a master of science degree in biotechnology. However, after a year, he left to start medical school at the University of Maryland where in 2012 he received the Dean's Award for Research Excellence. While interning at Stanford University School of Medicine, Craig was selected as the 2013 Intern of the year in general surgery. Today he is a urologic surgery resident at Stanford Hospital and a biodesign innovation surgical fellow at Stanford University. He chose urology as his specialty because of its storied history of attracting tinkerers and considers the operating room his intellectual laboratory. Within the confines of a junior resident on call schedule, he also is working independently on a variety of biodesign projects. Craig and his wife, **Megan Hawn Stauffer '07**, a secondary math teacher, live in Palo Alto, Calif.

DON STABILE ALUMNI DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIP



**Jordan Gaines Lewis '11**, this year's recipient of the Don Stabile Alumni Doctoral Scholarship, is pursuing

her doctorate in neuroscience at Penn State University College of Medicine in Hershey, Pa. For her dissertation, she is researching

risk factors for obesity and cardiovascular/metabolic diseases in adolescents to better understand how risk factors, such as stress and inflammation markers, are related to poor sleep quality and sleep apnea. Jordan has long been fascinated by the brain, the mind-body connection, and the pathology of diseases like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. But she also is passionate about communicating science to non-scientists. Two days before starting graduate school, she launched "Gaines, on Brains," a "blog about the brain—without the jargon!" She also writes "Brain Babble," a neuroscience column, for Psychology Today magazine; is editor-in-chief for ScienceSeeker, a science blog aggregator; and this year became the associate editor for the Journal of Science Policy & Governance. She also has written for Scientific American, the Washington Post, NBC, and The Guardian, and spoke at a TED (technology, entertainment and design) event in New York City last July. Her research and journalism have brought her over 6 million readers worldwide and garnered public recognition including Business Insider's "22 Brilliant Thinkers Everyone Should Follow on Twitter," Pacific Standard Magazine's "30 Top Thinkers Under 30," and the Society for Neuroscience's Science Journalism Student Award. Jordan also started Lions Talk Science, a Penn State student-run blog which allows her peers to practice the skill of communicating science to non-scientists. She believes her research and communication experience will prepare her for a career as a science policy advisor in Washington, D.C. so she may accurately inform and educate non-scientists including legislators on the state of biomedical research. Jordan's husband, **Christopher Lewis '10**, is enrolled in the Anne Arundel Community College/University of Maryland Baltimore collaborative physician assistant program. Both will graduate next summer.

MARRIAGES & UNIONS

**Darren Hawkins '95** and **Wendy Schultz [1]** from Adelaide, Australia were married May 15, 2015 in Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, England. But how did a St. Mary's alum end up marrying a girl from Australia in England? It turns out that Darren grew up in England but while visiting family in Maryland, he drove by St. Mary's College and decided to stop. After meeting Rich Edgar in Admissions, he took a campus tour, met the soccer coach, signed up to take the SATs (whatever they were) and nine months later started his freshman year (whatever that was). Nicknamed "Limey," Darren says his time at St. Mary's was exciting, challenging and rewarding. He worked in Washington, D.C. until 2000 when he transferred to his company's London office.



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SWEET TEA PHOTOGRAPHY

Three years later, he quit his job and travelled the world for a couple of years, including a stop in Australia where he met Wendy at an England vs Australia cricket match. When Darren was done traveling, he came back to Australia to live, started working for a small software company in Brisbane and became an Australian citizen. Then, in 2012, his company asked him to move back to England to take care of its European clients and Wendy moved with him. Next stop for the couple is Charlotte, N.C. where Darren will be starting a new office there this fall.

**Rob Mitchell '99** and **Theresa Vorreyer '00 [2]** were married July 14, 2012 at Historic St. Mary's City, Md. **Jolene Schafer '01** was the maid of honor; **Heather Jackson '00** made Theresa's dress. The couple honeymooned on the Caribbean island of Jamaica. Rob is a project manager for Priority One Services; The-

resa is a project manager for Polinger, Shannon and Luchs. They live in Laurel, Md.

**Jennifer Oliver '99** and **Robb Stout '99 [3]** were married Nov. 22, 2014 at the Antrim 1844 Country House Hotel in Taneytown, Md. Fellow 1999 alums **Kelly Gabe Alexander, Graeme Alexander, Sean Mussenden, Aaron Feinman, Elena Varipatis Baker** and **Nick Windt Seldes** were wedding guests as were 2000 alums **Michelle Lohmeyer, James Ortega, Dan Orzechowski, and Geoff Orazem; and MJ Costello '01** and **Lauren Darnell Orzechowski '03**.

The couple honeymooned on the Caribbean island of Grand Cayman. Jo is a floral designer and graphic designer at Highway to Hill; Robb is the deputy director of communications and marketing for Promontory Financial Group. They live in Washington, D.C.

**Douglas Howard '00** and **Amy Shotwell [4]** were married Feb. 28, 2015 at St. Augustine Catholic Church in Elkridge, Md. **Chad Wierschke '00** was best man; **Dan Backoff '00** was a groomsman; and **Rob Mitchell '99, Theresa Vorreyer Mitchell '00** and **James Foster '18** were wedding guests. The couple honeymooned at the Sandals Halcyon Resort in St. Lucia. Doug is employed by Charles River Laboratories as a research associate at the National Institutes of Health; Amy is a contracts paralegal in the Technology Ventures Office at The Johns Hopkins University, School of Medicine. They live in Baltimore, Md.

**Courtney Russell '02** and **Nicholas Hedrick [5]** were married May 30, 2015 in



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ACCENT PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEO

Clarksville, Va. **Katie Prothero '02** was a bridesmaid; **Erin Howard '02** was the violinist; and **Kathryn Bozarth Ulerich '05, Kate Mervis '03** and **Rachael Sanford '02** were wedding guests. Courtney works for Baltimore County, Md. public schools as a math teacher; Nicholas is a senior project manager with Ulliman Schutte Construction. They live in Monkton, Md.

**Kathryn Bozarth '05** and **Joe Ulerich [6]** were married Sep. 28, 2013 in Dewey Beach, Del. and honeymooned in Alaska. Kat is the director of operations for SYSTOLIC, Inc.; Joe is a mechanical engineer for Northrop Grumman. They live in Silver Spring, Md.

**Lauren Davis '05** and **George Hammerbacher III [7]** were married May 2, 2015 in Cape May, N.J. at the Chalfonte Hotel. Lauren works in client success and support at Finalsite, a company that hosts and designs websites for schools; George is a private investigator and still a U.S. Marine at heart. The couple lives in Baltimore, Md.

**Paul D. Shinkman '06** and **Sarah DeGrandpre [8]** were married July 12, 2014 at Sacred Heart Church in Yarmouth, Maine. The reception was held in Freeport, Maine on Wolfe's Neck Farm, Sarah's family home. **Matthew Kostkowski '06** was the best man; **Donnie Dyott '06** was a groomsman. Also in attendance were **Bridget Carlson Maddox '07, Robert Maddox '07, Jose Sabalbarro '06, Allison Muehl Dyott '07, Josh Lubben '07, Randi Zung '07, Joe Doyle '06** and **Giselle Rahn '07**. To celebrate

where they're both from, the couple got engaged near the Tidal Basin at Maine Avenue in Washington, D.C. and honeymooned at Soufriere Bay, St. Lucia. Paul is a senior writer and national security correspondent for U.S. News & World Report; Sarah oversees volunteer programs for Make-A-Wish Mid-Atlantic. The couple lives in the Eastern Market neighborhood in Washington, D.C.

**Laurie Hofmann '07** and Johann Klages [9] were married on June 21, 2014 in a beautiful civil ceremony in the Garden of Remembrance at the College. Lucille Clifton's "Blessing the Boats" was read at the ceremony. Wedding guests, shown in front of the Mae Russell Alumni House, included 2007 alums **Katherine Boyer, Allison Muehl Dyott, Liane McGillen, Megan Farley, Rachel Markey, Elizabeth Lewis, and Helen Jun;** and **Donny Dyott '06, Kevin Boyle '07** and his team from Shore Thing Shellfish shucked raw oysters during the cocktail hour. A second church ceremony, to celebrate with Johann's family, took place on June 20, 2015 in Wienhausen,

Germany. Laurie is a marine biologist at the Max Planck Institute for Marine Microbiology; Johann is a marine geologist at the Alfred Wegener Institute Helmholtz Center for Polar and Marine Research. The couple lives in Bremen, Germany.

**Elizabeth Van Fleet '07** and Timothy Sweeney [10] were married May 30, 2015 in Garrett Park, Md. **Joanna Suder '07** was matron of honor; **Jon Brönlund '07, Erica Schuetz '07, Amaly Snowdon Gillig '07** and **Brian Wyler '06** were wedding guests. Elizabeth is a publications and communications manager at Americans for the Arts; Tim is chief research scientist at BTS Software Solutions. They live in Garrett Park, Md.

**Adrienne Patterson '08, MAT '09** and Brian Kamilar [11] were married March 22, 2014 at the Deering Estate at Cutler Bay in Miami, Fla. Members of the wedding party included **Maggie Lumkes Hale '08, Meredith Nordhem '08, Melissa Pumphrey '07** and **Aubrey Lawrence '08, MAT '09.** The couple honeymooned at Secrets Maroma Beach Riviera in Cancun, Mexico. Adrienne is

the sailing director for the Key Biscayne Yacht Club; Brian is a realtor for www.condo.com. They live in Miami, Fla.

**Dakim Gaines '09** and **Rebecca Hardin '10** [12] were married June 6, 2015 in the Garden of Remembrance at St. Mary's College and held their reception on the lawn of the May Russell Alumni Lodge. **Calvin Wise '09, Dino Vilson '09** and **Chase Lynn '09** were in the wedding party. Wedding guests included **Megan Brown Vilson '07, TJ Jordan '08, Elyse Tyler Wise '08, honorary alum Rich Edgar, Perry Hardin '12, Shannon Lockwood '11** and **Barrett Enix '11.** **Laura Wigginton Moore '09** was the wedding photographer. The couple honeymooned in Candidasa, Bali and in Thailand in Bangkok and Chiang Mai. Dakim is in his sixth year as a MD/PhD student at Rutgers University Robert Wood Johnson Medical School; Rebecca is a first year nursing student at JFK Muhlenberg in Plainfield, N.J. and works full time as a leasing consultant in Edison, N.J. The couple lives in South Brunswick, N.J.

**Rebecca Tuttle '09** and Thomas Chapman [14] were married December 13, 2014 (12-13-14) in Armstrong Redwoods Reserve in Guerneville, Calif. They met in Paris, France and plan to honeymoon in November in Vietnam. Rebecca is a program officer at Equal Access International where she manages media international development projects in Africa; Tom is a research scientist working on fusion at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories. They live in Oakland, Calif.

**Sydneé Hinton '10** and Melvin Johnson [15] were married June 7, 2015 at the River Edge Conference Center onboard Naval Air Station Patuxent River. The couple honeymooned in Honolulu on the Hawaiian Island of Oahu. Sydneé is a personnel security specialist for the Department of Defense Central Adjudicative Facility; Melvin is a firefighter for Prince George's County, Md. They live in Upper Marlboro, Md.



HEINE PROESSING & MIRKO ECKHARDT



HEALY CREATIVE



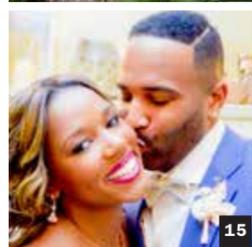
LAURA ELIZABETH PHOTOGRAPHY



PHIL C. MILLER



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## BIRTHS

To **Rob Mitchell '99** and **Theresa Vorreyer Mitchell '00**, a son, **Nathan Robert [1]**, born Nov. 9, 2013. Rob and Theresa are both project managers; Rob for Priority One Services and Theresa for Polinger, Shannon, and Luchs. The family lives in Laurel, Md.

To **Jessica Romano Zacharias '99** and Ron Zacharias, a son, **Tyler Kenneth [2]**, born March 15, 2015. Tyler, who is named for his late grandfather, joins big brother, Dylan, age 2. Jessica and Ron both work for the Fairfax County, Va. public schools; Jessica as an elementary school teacher and Ron as an electrician. The family lives in Springfield, Va.

To **Dave Elseroad '01** and Marie Elseroad, a son, **Finn Gabriel [3]**, born Dec. 21, 2014 in Geneva, Switzerland. Dave works at the International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies managing their Global Advocacy & Grants Program; Marie is a consultant for international humanitarian organizations. The family lives in Geneva, Switzerland.

To **Kathryn Holmes Sulkowski '02** and **David Sulkowski '02**, a daughter, **Leah Ellen [4]**, born July 30, 2015. Leah joins proud big brothers Tyler, age 6 and Nathan, age 4. David is a pediatrician; Kathryn is a family medicine physician. The family lives in Bel Air, Md.

**Alice Arcieri Bonner '03** and Shawn Bonner, welcome their son, **Grayson Keith [5]**, born Feb. 27, 2015. Alice is a trust and estate attorney; Shawn is a financial analyst. The family lives in Baltimore, Md.

To **Jason Lawson '03** and **Valerie Chapman Lawson '04**, a daughter, **Leah Jane [6]**, born April 8, 2015. She joins brother, Jesse, age 6, and sister, Julia, age 4. Jason is a contracts branch head for the U.S. Navy; Valerie is a stay-at-home mom. The family lives in San Diego, Calif.

To **Mia Oliver Woods '04** and **Colin Woods '05**, a son, **Cormac Thomas [7]**, born March 25, 2015. He joins big brother Oliver, age 2. Mia is a pediatric nurse practitioner at Dundalk Pediatrics; Colin is a server at RedStar and stay-at-home dad. The family lives in Baltimore, Md.

To **Brianne Coons Carter '05** and Matt Carter, a son, **Henry Brigham [8]**, born June 6, 2015. Brianne, whose students successfully bet she would have a D-Day baby, is a history teacher for the Carroll County, Md. public schools; Matt is a parts specialist for Northwest Honda in Owings Mills, Md. Brianne, Matt and baby Brigham live in Hanover, Pa.

To **Christina Hailman Gardner '05** and **Stephen Gardner '05**, a daughter, **Alice Considine [9]**, born Oct. 9, 2014. Christina is a federally licensed tax practitioner, known as an enrolled agent, who is authorized to represent taxpayers before the Internal Revenue Service; Steve works for himself as a carpenter. The family lives in Shady Side, Md.



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To **Amy Stancavitch Stanton '05** and **Mitch Stanton '05**, a son, **Reed Coder [10]**, born Feb. 9, 2015. Amy and Mitch both work in Baltimore, Md.; Amy as a kindergarten teacher and Mitch as the manager of Chesapeake Tile & Marble. The family lives in Baltimore, Md.

To **Richard Barr '07** and **Morgan Drzewicki Barr '08**, a daughter, **Olivia Jane [11]**, born Dec. 6, 2014. **Devin Carlson '07** is Olivia's godfather. Rich is the general manager for the Barr Truck Group; Morgan is a business intelligence analyst for Peninsula Regional Medical Center. The family lives in Salisbury, Md.

To **Bridget Carlson Maddox '07** and **Rob Maddox '07**, a daughter, **Raegan Nora [12]**, born April 12, 2015. She joins Ainsley, age 5, who is super excited to be a big sister! Bridget works for the St. Mary's County, Md. Department of Aging & Human Services as a program coordinator; Rob is the associate director of financial aid at the College. The family lives in Lexington Park, Md.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Anne Archer Whitaker '40HS**, of Dallas, Texas, died May 28, 2015, at age 92. She is survived by her husband, Delbert.

**Mary "Polly" Combs Barber '43JC**, of St. Mary's City, Md., died July 29, 2015, at age 91. A native of Leonardtown, Md., she and her husband Emory met and worked for the U. S. State Department in Yugoslavia after WWII. Returning to the U.S. to raise their family, they moved to St. Mary's County, Md. in 1959 and lived in two historic homes, Porto Bello and Deep Falls. In 1972 she became the first director of the St. Mary's City Commission, now known as Historic St. Mary's City. Under her leadership, the boundaries of the historic park were established, the archaeological research program was started, and a replica of the Dove was designed, funded and built. From 1982-1985 she directed the commemorative events surrounding the 350th birthday for the State of Maryland including events in all Maryland counties. The celebration culminated with a luncheon for the Duke and Duchess of Kent on the lawn of the replicated State House in St. Mary's City and a fireworks show in Baltimore's then new Inner Harbor where a number of tall ships joined the Maryland Dove. Polly was recognized in 2000 for her service to Historic St. Mary's City with the Cross Bottony Award. One time president of the St. Mary's County Historical Society and secretary of the Ark and Dove

Society, she also was an active member of the Colonial Dames of Southern Maryland, and was involved in many community projects. Polly is survived by her children, Mary, Philip, Elizabeth Barber Clark and James; seven grandchildren, one great grandchild and her four sisters, Suzanne Combs Poe, **Corrine Combs Furst '45JC**, Phyllis Combs Daniels and **Margaret Combs Steffens '57JC**.

**June Haviland Hannah '45HS, '47JC**, of Kapaa, Hawaii, died Jan. 9, 2015, at age 86. Born in Chicago, Ill., she worked as an office manager at Ithaca College. June is survived by her children, Catherine Hannah Mink, Cynthia Hannah-White, and Robert Hannah; and five grandchildren.

**Mary Witzke Bartgis '50JC**, of Catonsville, Md., died April 28, 2015, at age 84. Born in Baltimore, Md., she worked for 34 years with the Savings Bank of Baltimore, serving as a branch manager at various locations. Mary is survived by her son, Bill Bartgis and wife, Pam; a niece and nephew; four grandnephews and one grandniece.

**Lee Breckenridge Kisner '53JC**, of Glen Arm, Md., died June 9, 2015, at age 81. Lee is survived by her children, Judith, Robert, and James Vennes, and Donna Vennes Rader; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

**Dr. Patricia Reamy Buhr '61JC**, of South Bethany, Del., died Jan. 16, 2015, at age 74. Born in Baltimore, Md., she was a behavior specialist for the Harford County, Md. school district for many years. Patricia is survived by her husband, Alfred; daughter, Karlene; sister, Jane Reamy Herrick; and one grandson.

**Charles "Charlie" Ridgell '73**, of Leonardtown, Md., died March 11, 2015, at age 74. A lifelong resident of St. Mary's County, Md., he worked as a substitute high school teacher. A volunteer with the St. Mary's Hospital Auxiliary, the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department Carnival, and the local NAACP chapter, he also served on the board of directors for St. Mary's Nursing Home. Charlie loved politics; he worked on local campaigns and even ran for the offices of St. Mary's County Commissioner and Judge of the Orphan Court. He is survived by his sister, Audrey Ridgell Somers.

**William Christian Schilling '82**, of Delmar, Md., died July 20, 2015, at age 56. Self-employed in the construction industry, he also was a member of the Improved Order of Red Men, Tony Tank Tribe #149 and the Fraternal Order of Eagles. He loved to hunt and fish. Chris is survived by his mother, Barbara Stevens; sister Cinda Tindall, several aunts and uncles; a nephew and a niece.

**Mark Stine '85**, of Severna Park, Md., died June 3, 2015, at age 52. Born in Baltimore, Md., he met his former wife, **Christiane Schmitz Beavis '84**, at St. Mary's College. For the last 18 years, he was an account manager for Capital Tristate. Mark is survived by his children, **Joshua Stine '14** and Cara Stine; his parents, Joseph and Mary Ellen Stine; his siblings, Stacy Stine Mack and **Craig Stine '90**; two nephews and a niece.

**Scott Zervitz '95**, of Lake Worth, Fla., died July 29, 2015, at age 44. A native of Baltimore, Md., "Scotty Z" was the SGA President his senior year. A diehard Baltimore sports fan, a lover of Maryland-style crab cakes, and an epic Facebook updater, for a time he shared his sports-related musings on his own internet radio show, "Scotty Z's Sports Locker." He worked in technology sales. Scott is survived by his wife, Leslie Gray Streeter, the child they were caring for, his brothers Joshua and Michael; his aunt Faye Better, three nieces; three nephews, and his sister-in-law, **Lynne Streeter Childress '93**.

**Terhea LaNee Dawkins '05**, of Temple Hills, Md., died April 28, 2015, at age 31. A "miracle baby," she endured six open heart surgeries before the age of 30. After graduating with a double major in sociology/anthropology and economics and a minor in African Diaspora, she pursued her passion—culinary arts, studying first in Switzerland and then at New York University. Her dream was to provide economic opportunity and upward socioeconomic

mobility for all, low cost healthy food for those that need it most and high quality education to bolster entrepreneurship and "big ideas." Terhea is survived by her mother, Teresa Dawkins.

**Benjamin Franklin Cumbo IV '09**, of Upper Marlboro, Md., died April 22, 2015, at age 27. Born with muscular dystrophy, he was an advocate, spokesperson and former National Goodwill Ambassador for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). As a child, he appeared with Jerry Lewis on a MDA Labor Day telethon and on a cover of the Parade Magazine; and created a design for monkey bars for children with disabilities. In 2001 he and Jerry Lewis testified before a Senate Subcommittee in support of the Muscular Dystrophy Community Assistance, Research and Education (MD-CARE) Act which was signed into law and provides essential government funding needed to accelerate research and bring drugs to market for all nine forms of muscular dystrophy. Ben interned in the office of then-Senator Barack Obama. After graduating cum laude, he pursued a master's degree in Middle East studies at George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs which he completed in April 2015. He intended to pursue a career in the U.S. intelligence community focused on Middle East security issues. Ben is survived by his parents, Benjamin III and Deborah; and his sisters, Erin and Tyler.

## FRIEND OF THE COLLEGE

**Dr. Lois Green Carr**, of Eastport, Md., died June 28, 2015, at age 93. Born in Holyoke, Mass., she earned a bachelor's degree from Swarthmore College, a master's from Radcliffe College and a doctorate in history from Harvard University. Moving to Annapolis, Md. in 1954, she joined the Hall of Records, now Maryland State Archives, as a junior archivist in 1956. In 1967 she was named Historic St. Mary's City's historian, a post she held for 45 years. She began a research program and helped develop museum exhibits for Historic St. Mary's City. Working in 17th-century reconstructions, she provided the key historical evidence for identifying the Calvert family members discovered buried in lead coffins under the 1660s Brick Chapel. An economic and social historian of old Maryland and a specialist in Southern Maryland history, she created a 47,000-card file detailing the lives of St. Mary's County inhabitants. In 1977 she co-wrote the article, "The Planter's Wife," which was praised for its insights into gender and the harsh conditions of the Maryland colony. She pioneered the use of court probate records to help uncover previously unknown aspects of colonial society and she integrated archival history with archaeology and architecture. She wrote "Robert Cole's World: Agriculture and Society in Early Maryland;" "Maryland's Revolution of Government 1689-1692;" and

"Colonial Chesapeake Society;" Lois was a visiting professor at St. Mary's College in 1971; an adjunct professor of history at the University of Maryland College Park from 1982-2005; senior adjunct scholar at the Maryland State Archives from 1988-1005; and she became senior historian of the Maryland Historic Trust in 1989. In 1995, she was awarded the Cross Bottony, Historic St. Mary's City Commission's highest award; in 1996, she received the Eisenberg Prize for Excellence in the Humanities; in 2000 she was named to the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame; and in 2001 she received an honorary degree from St. Mary's College. A celebration of her life was held Sep. 19, 2015 at the Brick Chapel at St. Mary's City. Lois is survived by her son, Andrew R. Clark.



**175<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**  
**CHALLENGE:**  
*Strengthening Our Foundations*



**We hope you will be counted among those who make it happen for St. Mary's College!**



*If we can raise \$2.5 million in private funds, our state will grant us an extraordinary \$70 million for a much-needed auditorium and academic and athletic facilities.*

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## Alumni Spotlight

On May 20, days after graduating, **Cyrus Chimento, Keene Kelderman, and Graham Martin-Poteet** embarked from Washington D.C. on fully loaded bicycles, headed for Seattle, WA. Their ride, dubbed "Gear Up for a Greener Earth" was a fundraiser in support of Conservation International, a charitable organization devoted to environmental protection and sustainability.

On July 11, they reached their destination. Through their trip blog and social media friends, they exceeded their fundraising goal, raising \$10,545.



## WORKING TO PRESERVE A POET'S LEGACY

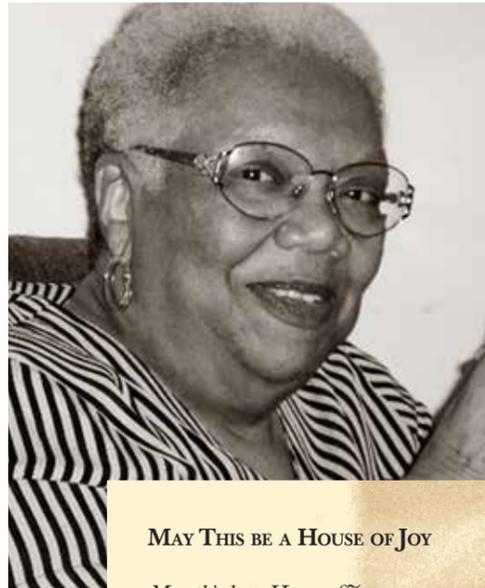
By Kent Randell, College archivist and assistant librarian

Lucille Clifton, poet laureate of Maryland from 1979 to 1985, joined St. Mary's College of Maryland's teaching faculty in the fall of 1989. She writes in her poem, *at the cemetery, walnut grove plantation, south carolina, 1989*: "tell me your names / your bashful names / and I will testify." In a 1990 *Mulberry Tree* feature, Clifton said, "that is all [poets] can do, bear witness....Poetry is about telling the truth."

The library and archives at St. Mary's have partnered with St. Mary's emeritus faculty and fellow Poet Laureate of Maryland Michael Glaser in preserving the testimony and witness of Lucille Clifton and her time at St. Mary's. In addition to organizing and performing in poetry readings, Clifton also held conversation sessions and lectures which were recorded. This past spring, the library's collection of analog audio-visual materials which feature Clifton, both video and audio, were digitized by contractor Benjamin Staisloff '14, who had worked privately with Glaser, but was then hired by the library to digitize parts of the library's collection. This preservation work is necessary and timely because the tape on analog material is degrading. The digital copies also provide valuable backups of material.

In addition to preserving the audio-visual record of Lucille Clifton, Michael Glaser also liberated important items from the waste basket when Clifton left St. Mary's College of Maryland. These items include manuscripts and teaching material. Glaser also has a collection of Clifton's digital files, as well as transcriptions and recordings of conversation with guest poets. This material will eventually be housed in the St. Mary's College of Maryland archive. About the archival and audio-visual materials, Glaser stated that he has a "desire to preserve the wonderful legacy of this wonderful woman," and that, "people will find this useful for years into the future."

*The recently-digitized Clifton materials are available to view in the Archive's Reading Room during regular business hours.*



### MAY THIS BE A HOUSE OF JOY

*May this be a House of Joy.*

*May we be open here to dreams,  
and to each other.*

*May all who enter in these magic walls  
feel love and feel respect*

*for learning and each other.*

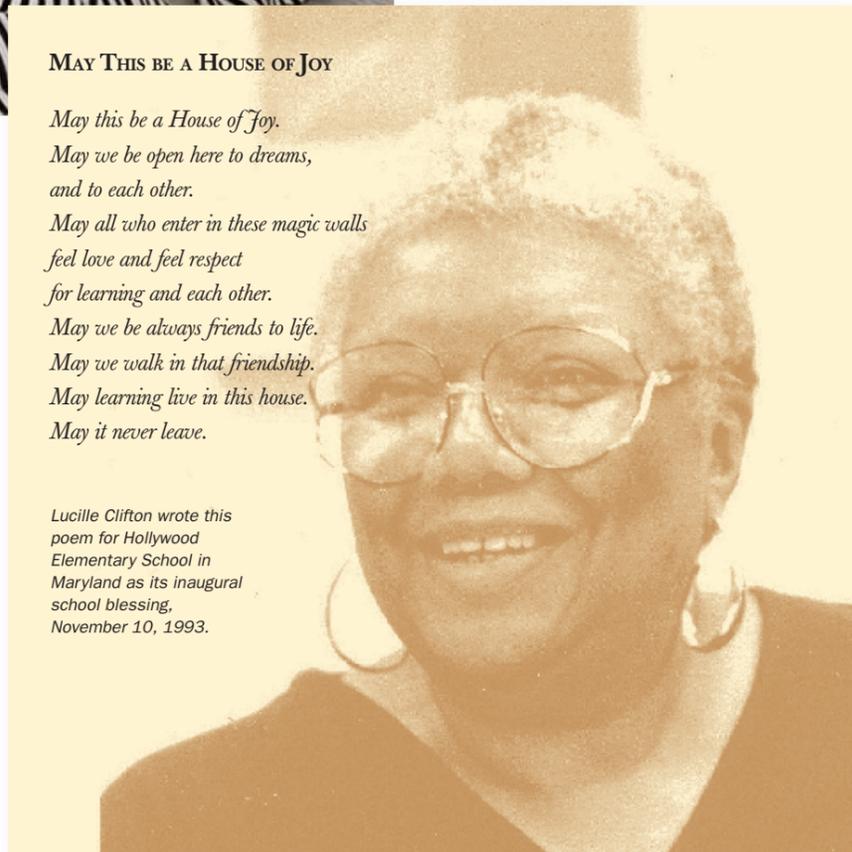
*May we be always friends to life.*

*May we walk in that friendship.*

*May learning live in this house.*

*May it never leave.*

*Lucille Clifton wrote this poem for Hollywood Elementary School in Maryland as its inaugural school blessing, November 10, 1993.*



## Points of Pride

### INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- St. Mary's College of Maryland, the state's public honors college, has been recognized as one of the "best and most interesting" schools in the 2016 edition of the *Fiske Guide to Colleges*.
- St. Mary's College of Maryland is ranked fourth on the list of the 30 Best Values in Small Colleges and ninth on the list of the 30 Best College Values in the Mid-Atlantic in *Kiplinger's Top 100 Best Values in Public Colleges* – 2015 edition.
- St. Mary's College of Maryland is recognized as having the 4th most beautiful campus by *The Princeton Review* in its 2016 edition of "The Best 380 Colleges."
- *The Princeton Review* named St. Mary's College of Maryland one of the most environmentally responsible colleges in the 2015 edition of its "Guide to 353 Green Colleges."
- In a list published in March 2015, *Money* magazine ranked St. Mary's College of Maryland among the top 25 public colleges in the nation for graduating students on time.
- St. Mary's College of Maryland is consistently named a Maryland college of distinction by the *Colleges of Distinction* publication based on student engagement, quality of teaching, and successful post-graduate outcomes.

To find Upcoming Events at St. Mary's College, please visit [www.smcm.edu/events/calendar](http://www.smcm.edu/events/calendar)



## **Smash Pumpkins. Learn Physics.**

It's common knowledge that smashing pumpkins is a popular fall sport. At the public honors college, it rises to a higher level of competition for the Physics Club. Using a digital camera and motion tracking software, kinematic motion comes to life in the form of acceleration due to gravity.

Watch it on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5fVg-6LaaNs>