



**ST MARY'S**  
COLLEGE of MARYLAND

*The National Public Honors College*



SPRING 2020

**OIL & WATER**

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in Both Mediums*

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*2020 Cherry Award for  
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# The MULBERRY TREE

SPRING 2020, VOL. XLI, NO.2

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*Editor*

Lee Capristo

*Design*

Jensen Design

*Photographer*

Bill Wood

*Editorial Board*

Karen Anderson, Michael Bruckler,  
Lee Capristo, Molly McKee-Seabrook '10,  
Gus Mohlhenrich, Karen Raley '94,  
Kelly Schroeder

*Publisher*

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

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

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

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

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July 2019 — June 2020

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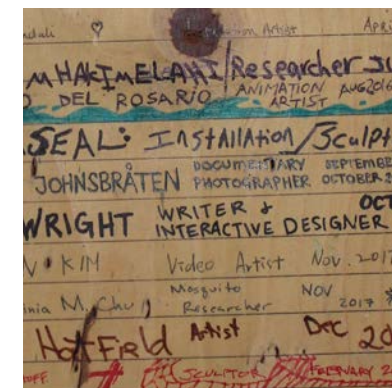
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OPPOSITE & INSIDE BACK COVER:  
*Photos from the College's collection*

## FEATURES

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### Oil & Water

**Will Hemsley '05** mixes oil painting and waterman's work to create an unconventional career. One might say it's in his DNA.

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### Jennifer Cognard-Black

What is it about English Professor **Jennifer Cognard-Black** that makes her a great teacher and how does Shakespeare play a role?

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### The Artist House

This tucked-away spot a stone's throw from campus has been a creative getaway for visiting artists of all kinds since its doors opened in 2003.

## DEPARTMENTS

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COVER: "Storm off Bloody Point" oil painting by **Will Hemsley '05**, embodies his two passions, painting and the Chesapeake Bay.



**I**N ACADEMIA, WE MEASURE TIME IN SEMESTERS — EACH SEMESTER HAS 16 WEEKS. We count hours for course credits and teacher-student interactions. To this regulated rhythm of the academic year, we insert events to punctuate milestone celebrations like Awards Convocation and Commencement. With the COVID-19 pandemic, our measure of time and our rhythm abruptly and completely changed. We have milestone events that need to happen but no firm calendar to pin them to. The same is true for classes — they must happen but cannot happen the way they did just last semester. I applaud the perseverance and resourcefulness of our campus community for finishing this semester in a meaningful way. This 2020 summer session will be fully online, unlike any previous summer session. What the fall semester will look like we do not know.

When this pandemic eases, we won't return to normal; we'll be in a new condition which is neither the old nor the current; it will evolve into a new normal. We will welcome the perceived comfort that a built-out calendar suggests but we will be in the midst of evolving to a place that requires creativity, innovation, and patience; all the while maintaining our humanity. Otherwise, who and what are we?

We must persevere and persist in this new normal. We must continue to prepare students for lives of leadership and service, just as we have yet likely differently from how we have done here for 180 years. In the same way that we know that we can depend on the rhythm of the tide in the St. Mary's River and the cycle of the moon over our heads, I know that we will weather this COVID-19 crisis and emerge on the other side stronger, more vibrant and relevant. Though when that day may come is unknown, know that it will come and that we will be ready for whatever it presents.



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

Editor's Note

**R**ECENTLY I REMEMBERED SOMETHING from 20 years ago. When spring was in peak bloom, I would drive over to the old Flattops neighborhood in Lexington Park, Maryland. Along its perimeter, the delicate beauty of the flowering cherry trees and dogwoods was achingly beautiful contrasted to the derelict Flattops. The human aspect of that scene was somber; the natural aspect of that scene, delirious with the joy of spring renewal.

This year humans are distracted, concerned by the COVID-19 crisis, yet spring burst forth wholeheartedly. Birds, flowers, trees cannot curb their enthusiasm. If only their positive intensity could be our latest contagious disease.

Positive intensity is this issue's common thread in uncommon circumstances. **Will Hemsley '05**, applies a waterman's discipline to the thousands of hours he has put into refining his work as a painter and sculptor. His advice to young artists is that this level of effort is necessary "to get to the essence of why you chose this pursuit to begin with."

Professor of English **Jennifer Cognard-Black**, winner of the \$250,000 Robert Foster Cherry Award for Great Teaching, is deservedly our College celebrity these days. Her teaching career has been one of positive intensity (read the comments by her former students on page 14), refueled on a regular basis, she insists, by becoming a student herself. In order for teaching to remain both vibrant and vital, she says, "it must make the teacher a bit insecure, unsure of how things will go, of whether this approach or exercise or discussion or assignment will work well or be a failure."

When asked for words of wisdom that their professor offers, students of Jennifer Cognard-Black share several things, but one stands out above the others for its poignancy this particular spring: "Thrive."

Good advice.

LEE CAPRISTO, *editor*

COLLEGE NEWS

CAMPUS & COMMUNITY NEWS



**T**he Board of Trustees approved a new test optional admissions policy on February 1. This means first-year applicants seeking admission to the College beginning in the fall of 2021 may choose whether or not to provide standardized testing (SAT or ACT scores) as part of the admission application process. The Board also announced a freeze in tuition, fees, and room and board costs for the 2020-2021 academic year. The decision was made after a review of recommendations from

a Board of Trustees Task Force, formed in 2019 at the request of **President Tuajuanda C. Jordan**. The Task Force studied how the College, as a public institution that is focused on providing an outstanding education, could ensure greater access to students. The effect of a one-year freeze is significant, resulting in approximately \$3,000 in savings for an in-state student over the course of four years, and more than \$4,000 in savings for an out-of-state student.

**The Board of Trustees of St. Mary's College of Maryland approved a proposal to develop and implement new varsity men's and women's track and field programs. The decision was made after a review of recommendations from a Board of Trustees Task Force, formed in 2019 at the request of President Tuajuanda C. Jordan. Modifications to the current track begin this summer to make the surface compliant with NCAA regulations. The track is expected to be ready for varsity competition to begin fall 2020. The varsity field programs will roll out at a later date. A \$400,000 gift to the College's Foundation by William Seale is being used for the track renovations. Seale is a member of the St. Mary's College of Maryland Board of Trustees and a former member of the SMCM Foundation Board of Directors.**



**On April 3, in response to the COVID-19 crisis, the Board of Trustees approved a mechanism for reimbursement of room and board that will reflect the prorated charges for room, board, mandatory fees, and parking, to cover the period of March 23 through the end of the semester.**

Associate Professor of Biology **Kevin Emerson** jump-started a **campus-wide initiative** at St. Mary's College of Maryland to provide the St. Mary's County Health Department with essential supplies for medical personnel working the front lines to care for those infected with COVID-19, and to help stem the spread of the disease. Emerson solicited donations from the biology, chemistry, and physics academic departments, as well as the athletics department and The Wellness Center, which, in turn, provided to the health department approximately 8,000 protective gloves, 50 exam gowns, 100 surgical masks, 50 n95 masks, 500 alcohol swabs,

and 15 bottles of hand sanitizer.

St. Mary's College of Maryland's Office of Institutional Advancement, led by **Vice President Carolyn Curry**, won **four awards** in the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Educational Advertising Awards sponsored by Higher Education Marketing Report. Hawktoberfest earned a silver award in the Special Event category and Giving Tuesday earned a bronze award in the Fund-Raising Campaign category. **Two awards** were submitted on behalf of St. Mary's College by its marketing agency Creative Communication Associates. Under the category of Total Recruitment Package – including the College's viewbook, travel piece and LEAD brochure – a silver award was earned. A silver award was also earned for the Fall Open House Campaign. Additionally, in the Collegiate Advertising Awards, the Apply Now postcard series earned a gold award and the admittance packet pocket folder earned a silver award.

**PRESIDENT'S NEWS**

St. Mary's College of Maryland has been named to the 2020-21 cohort of First-gen Forward Institutions by The Center for First-generation Student Success, an initiative of NASPA – Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education and The Suder Foundation.

The First-gen Forward designation recognizes institutions of higher education who have demonstrated a commitment to improving experiences and advancing outcomes of first-generation college students. "The Center is so pleased to welcome St. Mary's College into the 2020-21 cohort of First-gen Forward institutions. Through the

application process, it was evident that St. Mary's College is not only taking steps to serve first-generation students but is prepared to make a long-term commitment and employ strategies for significant scaling and important advances in the future," said Sarah E. Whitley, senior director of the Center for First-generation Student Success.



**President Tujuanda C. Jordan** with poets *Naomi Shihab Nye* and *Danusha Lamereris*. *Nye and Lamereris read original works during the "Nurturing the Compassion Community: An Evening to Honor the Legacy of Lucille Clifton" on February 29.*

**The Office of the President**

presented "Nurturing the Compassionate Community: An Evening to Honor the Legacy of Lucille Clifton" on February 29. The event was co-sponsored by the VOICES Reading Series and featured poetry readings and reflections to honor St. Mary's College's former Distinguished Professor of the Humanities Lucille Clifton. Naomi Shihab Nye and Danusha Lamereris performed original works of poetry during the event.

Nye is the author of numerous books of poems, including "The Tiny Journalist" (BOA Editions, 2019); "Voices in the Air: Poems for Listeners" (Greenwillow Books, 2018); "Transfer" (BOA Editions, 2011); "You and Yours" (BOA Editions, 2005), which received the Isabella Gardner Poetry Award; and "19 Varieties of Gazelle: Poems of the Middle East" (Greenwillow Books, 2002), a collection of new and selected poems about the Middle East.

**Danusha Lamereris's** first book of poems, "The Moons of August" (2014), won the 2013 Autumn House Press poetry contest. She was born in Massachusetts and raised in California. She earned a bachelor's degree in fine arts at University of California, Santa Cruz and studied at the Squaw Valley Writers Workshops and with the poet Ellen Bass.

**Lee Capristo**, director of publications, and **Janna Thompson**, assistant professor of educational studies, both received the President's Lucille Clifton Award. Nominated by senior students, faculty and staff of the College, the President's Lucille Clifton Award is given to employees who best embody the spirit of caring, compassion and nurturing that characterized Lucille Clifton's tenure at the College.

**FACULTY, STAFF & STUDENT NEWS**

Professor of History **Christine Adams'** new book, "The Creation of the French Royal Mistress: From Agnès Sorel to Madame Du Barry," (2020, Penn State University Press) is now available. Her current book is co-authored by her sister Tracy Adams, professor of French in the School of Cultures, Languages and Linguistics at the University of Auckland, New Zealand.

**Ivy Antunes '20** and **Nhu Chau '20** were recently admitted into the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB) Honor Society. ASBMB selects students who demonstrate exceptional achievement in academics, undergraduate research, and science outreach.



**Betül Başaran**, professor of religious studies, was awarded a Fulbright Global Scholars Award for research during

spring 2021 in England and India. She will be doing research for a book project on the legacy and impact of Princess Niloufer (1916-1989), who was condemned with the rest of the Ottoman dynasty to life-long exile in 1924 following the collapse of the Ottoman Empire. Başaran was a Folger Institute Fellow during 2018-19 in Washington, D.C.

Professor of history **Adriana Brodsky** was awarded a summer stipend of \$6,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities to complete the book-length monograph titled "Jewish Argentine Youth, 1940-1976." As Jews were persecuted and murdered in Europe, Argentine

Jews looked to the youth for salvation. This manuscript traces how Argentine Jewish youth responded to that and other calls to action as they lived through defining global and local moments. Through their responses, Argentine Jewish Youth played a central role in modernizing their community(ies) in Argentina, and in shaping ethnic identities both in Argentina and in Israel. Brodsky did research for the project in Israel on a Fulbright Senior Scholar award in 2018.

Professor of Biology **Jeffrey Byrd** published "Guidelines for Biosafety in Teaching Laboratories Version 2.0: A Revised and Updated Manual for 2019" in the Journal of Microbiology & Biology Education, along with colleagues Elizabeth Emmer of Salisbury University, Robert Maxwell of Georgia State University, and Heather Townsend of Rhode Island Community College. Byrd, who serves as the safety editor for that journal, said prior to 2012 there weren't any concrete biosafety guidelines for teaching laboratories as there have been for research labs. Byrd was on the ASM Task Committee that developed the original guidelines and chaired the committee for the revised version.

**Emily Casey**, assistant professor of art history, has been selected to participate in the Attingham Trust's Royal Collection Studies course in London this fall. The course focuses on the collections of Britain's monarchies from the sixteenth century through the present. Casey's participation will contribute to her current research on the role of visual culture in propagating and supporting the aims of empire in the early modern Atlantic World. She received a

scholarship from the American Friends of Attingham to support her participation.

Baylor University in Waco, Texas, has named **Jennifer Cognard-Black**, professor of English at St. Mary's College of Maryland, the 2020 recipient of its Robert Foster Cherry Award for Great Teaching. Awarded biennially, The Cherry Award is a prestigious national teaching award – with the single, largest monetary reward of \$250,000 presented by a college or university to an individual for exceptional teaching. The award program is designed to honor great teachers, stimulate discussion in the academy about the value of teaching and encourage departments and institutions to recognize their own great teachers. See more on Jennifer Cognard-Black on p. 12.

**Karen Crawford**, professor of biology, has been awarded a Whitman Fellowship from the Marine Biological Laboratory. The award will be used to cover laboratory space and housing at MBL in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. Crawford is using the award to continue her sabbatical research project investigating the use of CRISPR-Cas9 genome editing to knockout specific gene functions in developing embryos.

**Todd Eberly**, professor of political science and public policy, has a new book. "How Trump Happened: A System Shock Decades in the Making" (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, March 2020), focuses on the 2016 election of President Donald Trump, but is also relevant to the current democratic primary and why Senator Bernie Sanders again failed to win the nomination.

**Jeff Eden**, assistant professor of history, was interviewed in March on Radio Free Asia - Uyghur for his recent book, "Warrior Saints of the Silk Road." A recent review of the book in the Journal of Asian Studies concluded that the book "will surely become required reading for those who work on Central Asian history, hagiography, or Uyghur studies."

**Kevin Emerson**, associate professor of biology, was published in Parasites and Vectors journal. In the article, Emerson and colleagues show that there is variation in traits associated with malaria transmission and biome-of-origin, temperature, and family genetics. These are important factors to be considered for future mosquito control strategies.



**Misty Frantz** and **Kate Shirey** of the Career Development Center will present a workshop at this year's NACE conference, taking place in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in June. The focus of their interactive workshop, "The Real Problem with Career Services," will explore the model St. Mary's College has adopted to incorporate career readiness into the liberal arts while highlighting necessary tools for other institutions to develop an equitable system of career readiness within the college experience.



Professor of Music **David Froom's** clarinet concerto, "Canzoni di Notte" won first prize at the Riverside Symphony's National Composers Competition. As the winner, this work receives its premiere performance in Alice Tully Hall (New York City), conducted by George Rothman and featuring clarinet soloist Narek Arutyunian.



Musician-in-Residence **Brian Ganz** kicked off the spring semester's musical offerings on January 23 with an all-Chopin recital on the theme of Musical Gardening. The recital was a preview of the next installment of his years-long "Extreme Chopin" series at the Music Center at Strathmore, located in Bethesda, Maryland.

**Liza Gijanto**, associate professor of anthropology, recently published an article in The International Journal of Historical Archaeology. "Interpreting West Ashcom: Drones, Artifacts, and Archives," is based on work at Cremona Estate in Mechanicsville, Maryland, and draws on field work completed by St. Mary's College students as part of archaeology field schools in 2016 and 2018, as well as students from the anthropology department's Research Methods course.

**Cassie Gurbisz**, assistant professor of environmental studies, received her second grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Maryland Sea Grant program. The \$71,023 grant will fund a two-year project titled "Effects of

Oyster Aquaculture on Submersed Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Habitat." Gurbisz is a coastal ecosystem ecologist who takes a holistic approach to studying the environment. Her research has been published in journals such as BioScience and Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, as well as recently featured in the Baltimore Sun.

The annual Reeves Lecture with **Jeffrey Hammond**, professor of English and George B. and Willma Reeves Distinguished Professor in the Liberal Arts, took place on February 12. "The Snow Woman: Some Reflections on Masculinity, Morality, and Art," comes from a memory of a not-so-innocent childhood incident which prompts Professor Hammond to meditate on the insistently male-centered bias of the Western artistic tradition. By tracing the story of Pygmalion and his statue as it came down from the ancient Roman poet Ovid through medieval and early modern times, he reflects on the story as an example of art's capacity to establish and reinforce inequities of power relating to gender.

**Angela Johnson**, professor of educational studies, has been awarded a \$103,473 grant from the National Science Foundation in support of her project titled: "Centering Women of Color in STEM: Data-Driven Opportunities for Inclusion." The two-year grant began in September 2019, and will fund a continuation of Johnson's collaborative research with Apriel Hodari of Eureka Scientific, Inc. to identify and share what helps women of color thrive in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields. Johnson and Hodari have worked with SMCM students **Rose Young '20** and **Elizabeth Mulvey '20** to conduct and analyze interviews with faculty, staff, and students at

SMCM and two United Kingdom institutions. Results were shared at the winter meeting of the American Association of Physics Teachers in January 2020.



**Sue Johnson**, professor of art, is one of 10 artists who have been awarded a VMFA Visual Arts Fellowship in the professional category for 2020-21. This is an \$8,000 award to be used by the artist to support their creative practice, and also includes opportunities for fellowship recipients to exhibit their work at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and other museum sites. She also has recently been awarded a fully-funded residency fellowship by The Millay Colony for the Arts in upstate New York. Johnson is one of only 30 visual artists, composers, and writers selected from more than 800 international applicants for this highly competitive fellowship. She will be in residence for the month of June 2020 during which time she will continue work on her project, "Hall of Portraits from The History of Machines." Works completed during the residency will be part of Johnson's upcoming one-person exhibition at VisArts in Rockville, Maryland, opening in September 2020.

**Katherine Koch**, associate professor of educational studies, has published a new textbook titled "EMS Response to Patients with Special Needs: Assessment, Treatment, and Transport" (Fire Engineering). The textbook is the first compre-

hensive resource of its kind to address the emergency prehospital needs of people with disabilities. Koch is currently working on an audiobook version as well as instructor materials for potential courses associated with the text.

Associate Professor of Mathematics **Emek Köse** has been appointed chair of the student chapters committee of the Association of Women in Mathematics (AWM.) Her two-year term began in February. The AWM is a leading society for women in the mathematical sciences and is one of the societies comprising the Conference Board of the Mathematical Sciences.



**David Kung**, professor of mathematics, teamed up with The Great Courses to host a new video that

helps explain the disease spread of the novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2. The 15-minute program is called "How Math Predicts the Coronavirus Curve." Kung also has two full-length course offerings through The Great Courses.

**Sarah Latchney**, assistant professor of biology and neuroscience, had an article published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. In the article, Latchney and colleagues used advanced brain imaging techniques to examine the role of peripheral B cells that infiltrate into various brain areas associated with long-term motor and cognitive function following stroke. Latchney was also published in the journal of Behavioural Brain Research. In this second article, Latchney and colleagues examined changes in specific brain regions following exposure to the opiate morphine.



Assistant Professor of Physiology **Jessica Malisch** presented "Should I Stay Or Should I Go Now? Predictors of Facultative Altitudinal Migration in Mountain White-crowned Sparrows (*Zonotrichia leucophrys oriantha*)" at the Annual Meeting for the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology, held January 3-7, in Austin, Texas. During the conference, **Ava Chrisler '20** and **Ivy Antunes '20** presented posters of progress on their current St. Mary's Projects. Additionally, SMCM alumna **Melanie Kimball '19** presented her St. Mary's Project as a talk at the conference. Malisch and Kimball co-authored an article that was published recently in General and Comparative Endocrinology. The article's title: "Across time and space: Hormonal variation across temporal and spatial scales in relation to nesting success."



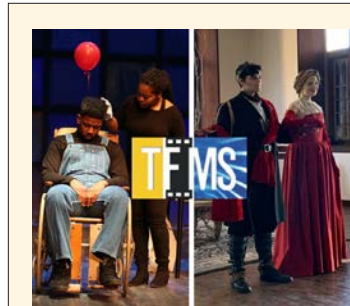
**Emily Rudo '23**, an environmental studies and public policy studies double major, educational studies minor from Howard County, Maryland, was one of four invited panelists at the biennial NOAA Chesapeake Bay Environmental Literacy Forum held on January 22, 2020, in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. Rudo offered a student perspective on meaningful watershed educational experiences (MWEEs).

**Lisa Scheer**, professor of art and Steven Muller Distinguished Professor of the Arts, presented "Finding Form: A Sculptor's Story," on February 24. Scheer's one-and-only Steven Muller Distinguished Professor of the Arts Lecture was of particular significance as Scheer is retiring after nearly 40 years of teaching at the College. In her lecture she addressed both the inspirational and the pragmatic in her art making practice by sharing insights into, and examples of, her sources and process. At the reception, she posed for a photo with Muller's widow, Jill McGovern and **President Tuajuanda C. Jordan**.



Assistant Professor of Chemistry **Troy Townsend '07** had an article published in the Journal of Advanced Materials Interfaces about a radically new method of electroplating they call "electrostamp-ing." Traditional plating involves submerging parts in a coating bath, but this method is bathless and can form bright fluorescent metal films. **Dillon Waters '20**, a biology major, was recently awarded \$1,020 from Cove Point National Heritage to support his St. Mary's Project, in which he is researching more efficient ways to monitor changes in aquatic biodiversity in Maryland streams.

**Elizabeth Nutt Williams**, professor of psychology, has a book chapter in the recently published "Bringing Psychotherapy to the Underserved: Challenges and Strategies" (Oxford University Press) by Jeffrey



Several students and faculty of the Theater, Film and Media Studies department represented the College at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCATCF) region II, January 14-18 at the University of Maryland, College Park. KCATCF, a national theater program, awarded two certificates of merit to the TFMS fall production of "Macbeth." Assistant Professor of Scenography **Leah Mazur** and Assistant Professor of Theater **Amy Steiger** received one for production concept and execution, and Visiting Fight Choreographer **Mallory Shear**, received one for fight choreography.

Additionally, students **Jeremiah Pearl '21**, **Joan Devonish '22**, **Jeanette Warren '20** and **Nadia Gaylin '22** were selected to audition for prestigious Irene Ryan scholarships during the festival. Warren and Gaylin auditioned with their scene partners, **Sarah Butters '20** and **McKenna Johnson '20**. Warren and Butters were among 32 pairs to advance to the semi-finals.

Zimmerman, Jeffrey E. Barnett, and Linda F. Campbell. Williams' chapter explores current research strategies and considers additional, less often employed methodologies, in the area of mental health disparities.



St. Mary's College of Maryland's Black Student Union presented MK Asante on February 13 as the third Annual Elizabeth Barber Walker Lecture guest speaker. Asante is a best-selling author, award-winning filmmaker, recording artist, and distinguished professor. He is the author of "Buck: A Memoir," which is a multi-year Washington Post bestseller and winner of numerous literary awards. "Buck" is currently being

made into a major motion picture. The Elizabeth Barber Walker Lecture Series honors St. Mary's College's first Black graduate, **Liz (Barber) Walker '64**. The Inaugural Elizabeth Barber Walker Lecture Series featured guest speaker April Ryan in 2018. Brittany Packnett was the 2019 guest speaker.

Three St. Mary's College of Maryland faculty members were selected to participate in the U.S. Navy's Summer Faculty Research Program at Naval Air Station Patuxent River (NAS Pax River). The awarded fellowships will fund **Joshua M. Grossman**, professor of physics and physics department chair; **Charles Adler**, professor of physics; and **Daniel Chase**, assistant professor of chemistry, during research at NAS Pax River in the summer of 2020. The 10-week program is run through the U.S. Navy Office of Naval Research.



# OIL & WATER

WILL HEMSLEY WORKS IN BOTH MEDIUMS

BY LEE CAPRISTO, EDITOR

Will's family on the Eastern Shore of Maryland dates back to the War of Independence and includes the settlers of Tilghman Island in the Chesapeake Bay (Will's full name, William Tilghman Hemsley V). He grew up on Kent Island. His parents now live in the house built by Will's grandfather on Wye Island. With his wife Stacy Hemsley and their three children, Will lives in nearby Centreville, where he has his studio. He hopes to install foundry equipment in the studio so that he can pour his own bronze casts. During the



**Will Hemsley** with his boat, *Breezin' Thru*, at the Rock Hall Railway Marina. LEFT: "Storm off Bloody Point" oil painting on canvas.

COVID-19 pandemic, he offered online live-streamed art classes for both children and adults.



Will transferred to St. Mary's College after a year at Stevenson University. Will's father, Tilghman Hemsley III, studied art at Pratt and then Maryland Institute College of Art. The waterman's memorial sculpture on Kent Island, dedicated in 2003, was done by Tilghman Hemsley (with a teenaged Will helping on occasion). The idea for the "Fallen Star" memorial that has gained Will national attention was a vision that came to his father in a dream.

Will and his father are charter boat captains. His father started out as a mate to Captain Harry Carter onboard Breezin' Thru, the boat Carter had built at Rock Hall in 1949. Carter signed the boat over to Tilghman Hemsley when he retired at age 87. As a child, Will and his brothers spent their free time running around the Rock Hall Railway Marina, where the boat was kept. "This was my playground when I was a kid," he recalls. Will worked as a mate to his father at age 11 and became a licensed captain at 21. Together, they now run two boats and 500 charter trips per season from Rock Hall to Tilghman Island. They offer lunch and dinner cruises that include fishing for rockfish. Tilghman Hemsley is famous for sketching people's portraits while the boats are docked.

"While it can be difficult from a logistics standpoint," says Will, "I've been able to balance fishing and art pretty well. I love waking up before the sun and watching it crest over the island as the boat is pulling out of the marina. The experiences I get to share with clients and charter guests are great motivators for my work once I step off the boat."

Will's medium is oil and his style American Realism. Many of his paintings adorn corporate offices and private homes. His painting is showcased in a wall mural at the Roy-Pitz Barrel House in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he also created the brewery's beer labels. The "Nice Dreams" label placed fifth in a nationwide beer label art contest in 2019. Just a few blocks from his studio in Centreville, Maryland, is a mural he painted on the outside wall of the American Legion Post 18.

"Michelangelo said sculpting made him a better painter, and I think that's true for me as well. Sculpting gives me the sense of three dimensions and that transfers into my painting."



TOP: "Pier at Smith Island" oil painting on canvas.  
MIDDLE: "Fallen Star" sculpture commemorating Major General Harold Greene and fallen soldiers in the Afghanistan and Iraq wars jointly created by Will and his father, Tilghman Hemsley.  
BOTTOM: Mural at the Roy-Pitz Barrel House in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

His first commission for sculpture was in Laurel, Maryland, for a four-story atrium in a business complex. "The client wanted bronze geese," Will recounts. "Good thing I've been a hunter all my life; I pulled a goose out of my freezer to study its form." Other commissions include a bronze sculpture, "Last Drop from the Stetson" to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Stetson Hat Company.

The "Fallen Star" sculpture was dedicated in September 2015 at Aberdeen Proving Ground office complex outside of Baltimore, Maryland. Jointly created by Will and his father, "Fallen Star" was dedicated to honor Major General Harold Greene and fallen warfighters of the Afghanistan and Iraq wars.

The Connecticut Fallen Star Memorial on the campus of Goodwin College in East Hartford, Connecticut, was dedicated on November 9, 2019. U.S. Rep. John Larson (D-1<sup>st</sup> District) of Connecticut got the idea to have one for Connecticut after attending the dedication of "Fallen Star" at Aberdeen Proving Ground. The one in Connecticut is twice the size of the one at Aberdeen Proving Ground. Made of polished stainless steel, it weighs 6,000 pounds and reaches a height of 23 feet. It was trucked in pieces to the site and welded together there. Veterans on motorcycles escorted it to the site from the Connecticut state line. It honors the more than 30,000 fallen men and women of Connecticut from all wars from the War of Independence. Both installations include benches and three bronze figures, representing those who pay tribute to their loved ones at the memorial. A proposal for a similar memorial in Texas is under consideration as is a federal proposal to create a version for each state.

"I was overwhelmed by the effect the work had on the attendees at the unveiling on Veterans Day weekend," Will remembers. "I stood and watched silently as people came in and embraced in front of the memorial, reflecting on loved ones no longer here. At the end of the ceremony, there was a couple waiting around until everyone left. When the venue was nearly empty, they approached me and hugged me and cried and wanted to show me pictures of their son who had died overseas. They had driven 3½ hours to attend the unveiling. The mother gave me a hand-painted American flag. I was pretty much reduced to tears and the impact of what good public art can be hit me in a way I had not yet experienced."



JAY FLEMING '09

"Turning Winds" for Greenleigh at Crossroads community in Middle River, Maryland, was dedicated on September 25, 2019. Made of brushed stainless steel and 20 feet tall, Will says, "I'm proud of the design – the shapes are derived from a leaf, yet when they are twisted and formed in the final product, the sculpture invokes different forms from different angles – as good contemporary sculpture should. My fabricator, Matt O'Connell, in Cambridge, Maryland, developed a great strategy for the oversized pieces. We even built our own machinery to allow us to roll the long sheets of stainless steel."

"I get an incredible rush when I move a contract off the table for a large-scale sculpture," he admits. "Knowing that a client has entrusted me with a large project is very rewarding. Big projects involve many other people, and I've been able to develop a close circle of friends that are involved in all phases, so it's exciting for all of us." His ideal schedule is to have one big sculpture project per year with painting in between. "Painting is a stress reliever," he says.



TOP: Fishing underneath the Chesapeake Bay Bridge on the Hemsley's charter boat, Breezin' Thru.  
ABOVE: Will at work in his studio.

His biggest inspiration for his work comes from his children. "Ten years ago, discovering I was to be a father, provided a degree of urgency that made me work harder and longer to seek the success that would provide stability for my family. The arts are not the easiest path to pursue, but I committed to being workman-like about it. I view it as a trade that demands long hours, proper

marketing and relationship building. On another level, watching my three children paint and sculpt clay reminds me of how I was influenced as a child, sketching comic books on the floor of my father's studio while he painted."

As for advice to aspiring artists, Will offers this: "If you are considering a career in the arts or are committed to that pursuit you should focus on that alone. The reality is if you are doing something unrelated during the day to pay the bills, you are going to have a hard time finding the energy to put in the thousands of hours required to be proficient in your chosen medium. Above all else, now that you have been trained and your head is bursting with theory and history and so-on, now you must start to unlearn the complex theories and remove the voices of your peers that linger in your head as you paint or draw. Try to get to the essence of why you chose this pursuit to begin with. If you are sincere and genuine in your craft it will show and it will resonate." ❖



# JCB is Cherry Award Pick for Great Teaching

BY OLIVIA SOTHORON '22, English major and Professional Fellowship Program intern in the Office of Integrated Marketing

Growing up with two parents who have PhDs in Renaissance literature caused **Jennifer Cognard-Black** to try and pursue a different career path, given that children often balk at following in their parents' footsteps. As a double major in both English and music – with a specialization in piano – Cognard-Black graduated with a BA from Nebraska Wesleyan University with the decision to take graduate courses at Iowa State University in student affairs administration, while working as an accompanist on the side. Enjoying her position as resident assistant during her senior year of college pushed her in the direction of becoming either a future director of residence life or a vice president for student affairs. Once she started on the coursework, however, Cognard-Black found that she did not like it, apart from the one English class she had signed up for each semester “just for fun.” Soon, Cognard-Black was indeed following in the footsteps of her parents, pursuing a master’s degree in English.





### RECOGNIZING AN EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATOR:

“You know from the first moment you walk into her class that she expects a lot from you, but she’s also going to give you 110% back...Even characteristically lazy students will ‘do it for her.’ Because of course you do. Because when you walk in that room with her, you are seen. You are valued.”

#### Katelyn Mattingly '16

(now a teacher in Austin, Texas)

### NO ORDINARY CLASS:

“Watching her work was not like watching a martyr, but rather like jumping onto a moving train and experiencing the speed and thrill of her ongoing adventures.”

#### Toby Wilson-Bates '06

(now an assistant professor of English at Georgia Gwinnett College)

### WORKING WITH AN EXEMPLARY TEACHER:

“She seemed to treat every student paper as if she were a professional copy editor and the two of you were working on publishing something. I cannot imagine how much time and energy she has invested in marking papers.”

#### Toby Wilson-Bates

### JCB AND THE ST. MARY'S EXPERIENCE:

“I was lucky to have many smart, invested, and enthusiastic professors at St. Mary's College, but in JCB's classes, I knew I was also going to have fun. We were going to be joyful and laugh while we learned.”

#### Stacey Hamlet '05

(editor for *LexisNexis* and now for *ProQuest*)

### FAVORITE COURSE:

Creative Writing course with JCB in Slovenia – “This course was my first contact with the world of creative writing and I absolutely loved it. It changed how I wrote my own pieces and also how I read literature, how I thought about it, how I understood it.”

#### Estera Deželak

(JCB's student at the University of Ljubljana during her first Fulbright in 2012, then a Slovene exchange student at SMCM who now works as a translator)

### JCB'S LONG-LASTING LEGACY:

“She shaped my time at St. Mary's in the best possible ways: offering interesting courses and discussion, gently pushing me to become a better thinker and writer, and supplying her guidance and friendship in the years following graduation.”

#### Stacey Hamlet

### LINGERING MEMORIES:

“More than having a favorite memory, I remember how she would articulate the main topic at hand, the gestures she used, her body language. She would stand rather than sit, she would move around and draw the whole classroom into the center of the action.”

#### Estera Deželak



“I found myself living for my lit classes,” remarked Cognard-Black. During her first year of graduate school, Cognard-Black took a course on American Comedy with Jane Smiley, who won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 1992 for her novel based on Shakespeare's “King Lear,” entitled “A Thousand Acres.” “I was so smitten by her seminar,” Cognard-Black explained, “that I decided to pursue a master's in creative writing under her tutelage, and so I sidled over from student affairs to English and completed my degree in creative writing at [Iowa State University].”

After graduating from Iowa State, Cognard-Black spent the next six years pursuing a PhD in Anglo-American literature by women writers of the nineteenth century and feminist literary theory at The Ohio State University. “I loved reading, writing, and thinking about books, and so graduate school was the right fit for me, and I guess I felt I was still ‘rebellin’ against my parents (at least a little) because I was a Victorianist and a creative writer, not a Shakespearean scholar!”

Two weeks after presenting her dissertation, Cognard-Black gave birth to her daughter Katharine, and began looking for a job. “I applied that fall to 88 college teaching jobs in literature, women's studies, rhetoric, creative writing, and writing program administration, with the hopes that I could land something in order to feed and clothe our newborn baby,” she explained. Fortunately enough, for both Cognard-Black and St. Mary's College of Maryland, an opportunity presented itself at the small liberal arts college in Southern Maryland.

“Honestly,” Cognard-Black stated, “I was terrified to teach full time. I didn't think I'd be very good at it – certainly not as good as my own parents.” However, ever since Cognard-Black began her career at St. Mary's College, she has not once regretted following in the footsteps of her parents as educators. “Literature and writing opens minds – as well as hearts,” she said. While providing the St. Mary's College English Department with a strong addition, Cognard-

## “I was raised in the ‘Church of Shakespeare.’”

### Jennifer Cognard-Black

Black's position as an educator has also allowed her to better develop her personal teaching philosophy, which is to “never underestimate what your students can achieve, but as you hold the bar high for them, do everything in your power to help them reach it.”

Throughout her twenty years at St. Mary's College, Cognard-Black has done just that. She holds high expectations of her students, but does everything in her power to help them to reach those objectives. Across these two decades, Cognard-Black has advised 46 St. Mary's Projects, held two Fulbright Scholarships, published five books, and inspired many. Her love for her work and her dedication to her students is prominent both within and outside of her classroom.

While at St. Mary's College, Cognard-Black has held many administrative positions as well, including serving as chair for the English Department (2018-2020) and coordinator of the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program (2007-2011), and also directing the VOICES Reading Series (2014-2015). As the English Department Chair, Cognard-Black explained that “you must be a strong advocate – a powerful voice – for your departmental colleagues as well as your majors and minors...[:] being Department Chair was simultaneously the most challenging job I've held, as well as the most rewarding.”

Yet Cognard-Black further noted that it is her time in the classroom that has defined her career more than shaping curricula, hosting events, or supporting colleagues. “[The students] are the beating heart of St. Mary's, and the reason all of us who teach here continue to love our jobs.”

Her work as an educator has inspired many of her students to become educators themselves, carrying her enthusiasm and love of writing and reading into their own classrooms.

One of the most well-known courses on campus is Cognard-Black's “Books that Cook” English topics class, which analyzes how recipe narratives present food for various rhetorical aims.

This topic emerged while in graduate school with one of Cognard-Black's “long-time collaborators and friends,” Dr. Melissa Goldthwaite.

Cognard-Black explained that, as graduate students, she and Goldthwaite swapped food novels back and forth, sometimes cooking the meals mentioned in the novels. After earning their doctorates, they both implemented their own versions of the “Books that Cook” seminar at their respective universities – Goldthwaite's focused more on poetry and essays at Saint Joseph's University, while Cognard-Black's is more focused on fiction and film. The two educators, recognizing the lack of textbooks for food literature classes, developed their own, bringing “Books that Cook: The Making of a Literary Meal” into being in 2014 with New York University Press. This collection includes poetry, short fiction, and essays that all include recipes, and it runs the gamut of contributors, from those with national recognition (such as Maya Angelou, Sherman Alexie, Nora Ephron) to those who are members of the St. Mary's community, including poems by **Karen Leona Anderson** and **Michael Glaser**, as well as two additional works by **Caitlin Newcomer '05** and **Cheryl Quimba '05**.





PHOTO COURTESY OF OLIVIA SOTHORON '22

As someone whose cooking and baking is well-known to anyone who has had the opportunity to take a class with her, Cognard-Black's relationship with food has been deepened by her research and understanding of how food literature impacts readers. "I now understand [food] as something much more potent than mere sustenance or enjoyment," she mentioned. "Food is identity. It's ritual, religion, history, family, community, memory, politics, justice, economy, entertainment, commodity, and the most important environmental resource we have other than water and sunlight." She has also become more aware of the need to ensure humanity's access to healthy food, explaining that plentiful food is a "fundamental right of everyone on the planet – not just those who have the monetary means to procure it." It is for this reason that Cognard-Black encourages her "Books that Cook" students to take part in service-learning projects for social change to ensure that all people have access to nourishing food.

ABOVE: **Jennifer Cognard-Black** poses with her students during the 2019 Shakespeare summer study tour to Stratford-upon-Avon. OPPOSITE: Students taking Jennifer Cognard-Black's "Books that Cook" course prepare and enjoy a meal together at the May Russell Lodge.

Cognard-Black's dedication to studying food literature and how it influences readers has been broadened on her numerous trips abroad, allowing her to explore the roles of food across different cultures. Over the years, Cognard-Black has taught abroad in Stratford-upon-Avon, England; Alba, Italy; Ljubljana, Slovenia; and she was teaching in Amsterdam, the Netherlands in the spring of 2020 until Fulbright brought its scholars home due to the COVID-19 pandemic. "I often teach abroad because it puts me in the position of a student," she noted. "My own knowledge broadens, and I am challenged...[;] that is what teaching really must be in order for it to remain both vibrant and vital: it must make the teacher a bit insecure, unsure of how things will go, of whether this approach or exercise or

discussion or assignment will work well or be a failure." Even in her classes on the St. Mary's College campus, Cognard-Black brings the perspective of cultures outside Anglo-America into her lessons, reminding her students that it is important to consider global perspectives, which are often different from their own.

Aside from teaching, Cognard-Black's publications – from short fiction, to essays, to critical analyses, to anthologies and a writing textbook – have also allowed her to expand her understanding of the world around herself. "I write to learn, I write to know, and I write to understand," she explained. "I cannot imagine my existence without reworking it through words, for I agree with Anaïs Nin that 'we write to taste life twice.'" Currently, Cognard Black is working on crafting a second volume of food writing with Goldthwaite, this time focusing on the genre of ethical eating essays, tentatively entitled "Just Food: Perspectives on Ethical Eating." She hopes that this anthology will be international, reflecting writers outside of the United States as well as from within. "It's my hope that it will include a piece or two by Dutch authors, possibly one of my own students," she remarked. Cognard-Black is also currently working on her first novel, "fictionalizing part of the actual, lived life of novelist Edith Wharton," who was the first woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for fiction.

As a result of being the recipient of the 2020 Cherry Award for Great Teaching, Cognard-Black will spend the fall 2020 semester teaching at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, where she will teach both sophomore-level as well as senior-level undergraduate students in addition to helping to advise senior projects and master's theses. After spending the fall at Baylor University, Cognard-Black will take a sabbatical in the spring of 2021. Her absence will be greatly missed around the St. Mary's College campus, but her colleagues and students are also excited for the phenomenal opportunities that lie ahead for her. ❖

# “Thrive.”

Jennifer Cognard-Black



NICHOLAS MCINTOSH



# THE ARTISTS HOUSE

BUILT FOR FOSTERING CREATIVITY

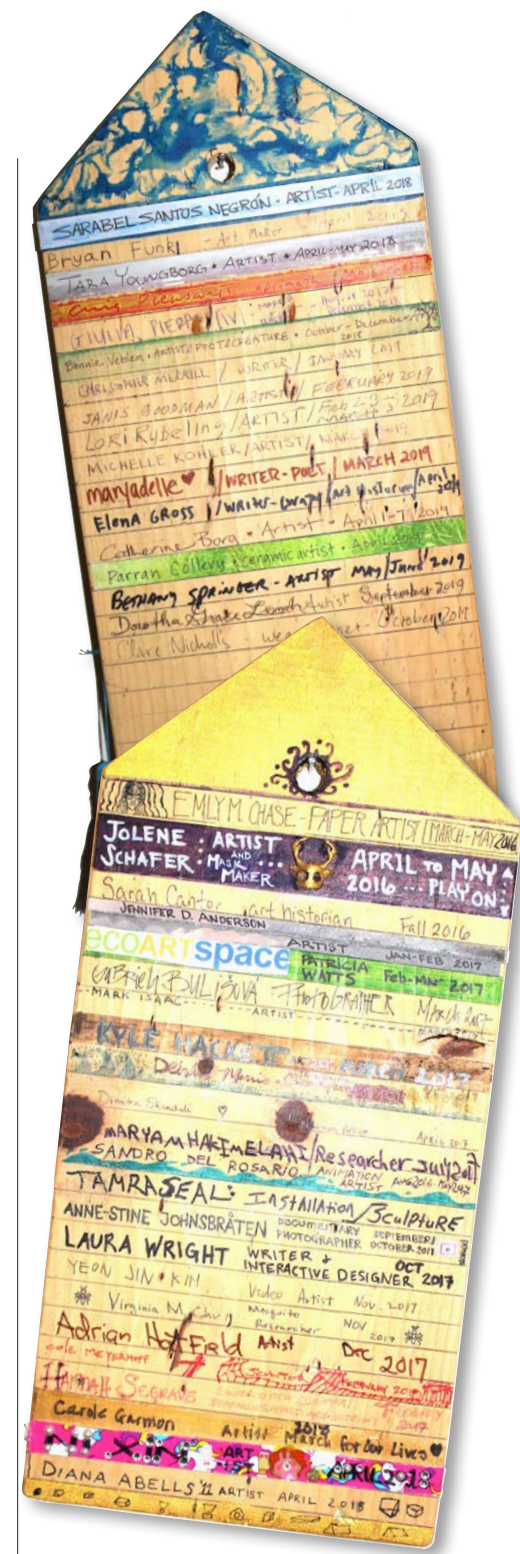
BY OLIVIA SOTHORON '22, ENGLISH MAJOR AND PROFESSIONAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM INTERN IN THE OFFICE OF INTEGRATED MARKETING  
PHOTOS BY LEE CAPRISTO

Established in 2003 by co-founders Professors **Sue Johnson** and **Michael Glaser**, the Artist House at St. Mary's College of Maryland continues its mission to support the arts by serving as a residency program to regional, national and international arts professionals and practitioners: visual artists, art historians, critics, curators, scholars and writers and poets. The resident artists get time and space to create new work; the campus and broader community benefit from planned programming and workshops given by the artist during their residency.

During the fall of 2019, the Artist House served as a temporary home to four artists: Dorotha Grace Lemeh (artist, poet and educator); **Clare Nicholls '10** (weaver, artist and educator); Miriam Schaer (abstract artist, educator and writer); and Valerie Hardy (painter and educator).

Dorotha Grace Lemeh's residency took place from Sept. 9 through Oct. 5. As a visual storyteller, Lemeh conveys the message of the underestimated strength of women through the use of female figures – often her own – and powerful quotes. Her work has been featured in museums and exhibitions around the world. Lemeh's main intentions with her work are to tell her own story and to help young women feel empowered. "I want to have strong, powerful, beautiful images of women," she explained.

During her stay at St. Mary's College, Lemeh most enjoyed being able to focus solely on her art, for she seldom can while teaching at Wilkes Honors College in Jupiter, Florida. She also appreciated the opportunity to deliver lectures to various classes and student groups. Additionally, Lemeh conducted studio visits with art students completing their St. Mary's Projects in art, providing insight and feedback to the students on their works in progress.



Two of the "guest logs" made of wood and hanging on the walls in the Artist House, where visiting artists record their stay with a creative flourish.

**Clare Nicholls '10** majored in art, and currently lives and works in Baltimore, Maryland. It was during graduate study at Maryland Institute College of Art that her interest in fabrics and weaving developed. "Something about the process of turning the warp made a switch flip in my head that was like, 'this is it,'" she stated.

During her time in the Artist House, Nicholls focused her attention on a piece that will eventually be developed into a book made entirely out of her weavings. The pages of the book are made from the weavings she completed herself by a technique known as "double-cloth." The book will feature ten poems written by Nicholls, and each letter is woven into the product to create a fascinating work of colors and words.

She remarked that it felt great to return to campus because she continued to feel the support of the faculty members who helped develop her into the artist she has become. "When I was here as an art student, I went to the artist talks by visiting artists, so it was so nice to be back and to participate in this thing I experienced on the other side," Nicholls explained.

Miriam Schaer, a Brooklyn-based interdisciplinary artist who focuses her attention on the exploration of feminine, social and spiritual issues, spent two weeks at the Artist House. She uses books, garments, photography, installation and collage to pursue these truths. At the Philadelphia College of Art – which is now the Philadelphia University of the Arts – Schaer majored in fibers and took a book arts class in the printmaking department. The class exposed her to the process of making a book, which she says "really spoke to me!"

On Saturday, Nov. 10, Schaer led a workshop at SMCM co-sponsored by the Arts Alliance to promote the beauty of bookbinding and excite

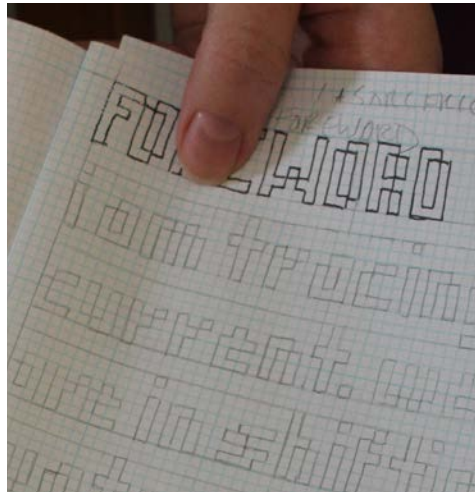


# ALUMNI CONNECTION

others about a technique with which she feels a strong connection. Each participant had the opportunity to follow along with Schaer as she led them through the process of creating a book, leaving them with their own personalized finished book. **Delilah Parks '20**, who made her own book during the workshop, said “Miriam Schaer spent a lot of time with the class in addition to her workshop, sharing what book-making meant to her and how it could influence our lives in meaningful ways. Book-making is a special skill to have, not only for making art, but as a time for self-reflection and creating a way to document.”

Valerie Hardy served as the Artist House Teaching Fellow, a full semester residency that also comes with the opportunity to teach an art class and participate in the life of the Art and Art History Department. She has been a painter “from life” as she describes herself for 45 years and has experience teaching painting at the college level. Upon her arrival on campus, she re-entered the teaching field after a 15-year retirement. Hardy spent the fall 2019 semester teaching ART 206: Introduction to Painting to a class of students with little to no art experience.

Teaching a class at SMCM while also creating new works in the Artist House studio, Hardy finds that as she instructs, she is able to better herself as both an artist and as a professor. “I like to think that what I do affects their work,” she stated. Hardy emphasized to her class the importance of training the eye to observe how light impacts and alters one’s perception of an artwork. She also encouraged her students to become more comfortable with constructive criticism and feedback on works in progress. The critique in art is “just a part of learning,” expressed Hardy, and it allows her students to better comprehend the language of art.



LEFT: **Clare Nicholls '10** shows a detail of one of her poems, hand-drawn into a pattern for weaving.

MIDDLE: *Stitching signatures together during Miriam Schaer's bookmaking workshop.*

BOTTOM: **Carol Morris '20** (left) and an Arts Alliance member working on their books during the workshop.

Several artists were scheduled to take part in the residency program during the spring semester, but just two were able to come before the COVID-19 crisis closed the campus: art critic and curator Saul Ostrow and conceptual artist **Michelle Kohler '01**.

SMCM’s Artist House Residency Program offers the opportunity for artists at all stages in their careers to set aside their everyday lives and dedicate time to concentrate solely on their creative and scholarly work. Program Director and Professor of Art **Sue Johnson** explains “it’s a two-way street – the residents are given the time and space to focus on their work and in return each resident engages with the SMCM community in diverse ways through arts programming, class visits, lectures, workshops and informally meeting with students, faculty, staff and community members.” Johnson adds that the visiting artists “also serve to demystify the creative and scholarly process. Our students are able to interact with the residents and gain their insight and advice for the future.”

The Artist House also hosts a program known as CoLab, in which an SMCM faculty member can invite their research or collaborative partner for a residency to facilitate their collaborative projects. Throughout its time, the Artist House has served as a home to diverse artists, art historians, critics and curators, scientists and scholars across many disciplines, and there are sure to be more artists to visit in the future. ❖

## CLASS NOTES

### 1980s

During the first week of November, **David Riegel '86 [1]** rode his bicycle solo from San Francisco to San Diego, California. It took eight days, averaging 75 miles per day for 620 miles and a total of 26,000 feet of climbing. When he left San Francisco, it was 44 degrees; when he arrived in San Diego, it was 90 degrees. It was a fantastic trip with only one flat tire and a shredded rear derailleur cable. He hopes to do the rest of California next time.

### 1990s

**Tricia Green Zadjura '90** recently started a new position as foundation events manager for Howard Community College (HCC) in Columbia, Maryland. The HCC Foundation (HCCEF) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) that provides funds for scholarships, grants, and programs that benefit students at HCC. Tricia currently resides in Ellicott City, Maryland.

**Meredith E. Davis, PhD '92** is the new associate vice president of student engagement for Syracuse University’s Division of Enrollment and Student Experience in Syracuse, New York.

**Robin Reale Flanigan '92 [2]** has published “M is for Mindful,” a children’s book which teaches the importance of respect for diversity through vibrant paintings. The book has received numerous endorsements from celebrities, including Arun

Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi; Golden Globe-winning actress Andir MacDowell; and Sharon Salzberg, New York Times best-selling author.

Flanigan has received numerous awards, including the Dean Gysel award for best newsroom writer in 2005, the Democrat and Chronicle Quarterly Newsroom Award for Feature Writing in 2004, and the The New York Newspaper Publishers Association Distinguished Community Service Award of Excellence in 2004. She currently resides in Rochester, New York, with her husband and daughter.

**Jonathan A Steinberg '94** was promoted to captain at the Moran Towing Corporation, a tugboat operating business in Baltimore, Maryland. Jonathan has been working at Moran since 2015 as mate/relief captain.

**Willem van Waay '97** was a finalist for US Sailing’s annual Rolex Yachtsman of the Year Award.

### 2000s

**Jayson Williams '03** and **Matt Newcomer '05** of Maryland Strategic Consulting and Mayson-Dixon Properties, connected two of their business clients – one who had access to medical supplies and the other that does facility management for hospitals, senior centers, nursing homes and government facilities – enabling them to pick up and deliver to a distribution center 100,000 FDA certified surgical masks in March to help fight the COVID-19 pandemic. They were shipped to facilities in Maryland and New York. Jayson is also a new board member for the Pride of Baltimore.

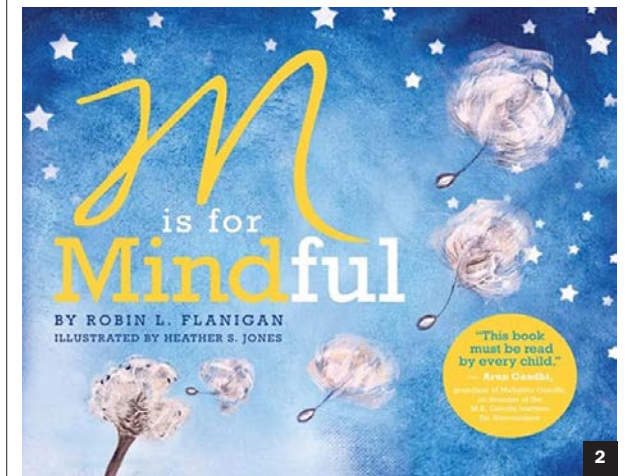
**Jay Rhame '04 [3]** rang the opening bell at the New York Stock Exchange on January 15, 2020. Jay, CEO at Reaves Asset Management, rang the bell to celebrate the four-year anniversary of the company’s ETF, ticker symbol UTES.

**Mark Allegrini '05** recently started a new job with United Way of Greater New Haven, Connecticut, working as a senior director of marketing and engagement.

**George Jakuta '05** is an education program supervisor at PHILLIPS school, a private, specialized education and counseling provider in Laurel, Maryland. He lives in Baltimore with his wife **Kate Jakuta '07**.

**George Connelly '06** is a freelance nonprofit professional while also working as director of government affairs and outreach with the Chesapeake Regional Association of Realtor Brokers in Annapolis, Maryland. He also is a board member of PFLAG for civil rights and social action in Southern Maryland. George earned a master’s degree from the George Washington University Graduate School of Political Management and a master’s degree in international global studies from Morgan State University.

**Alexandra Rizzi '07** started a new position as international student adviser at Institute of International Education working in the Washington, D.C. metro area. Previously, Alexandra was self-employed as a professional development consultant and a senior subject teacher, trainer and curriculum developer for SDE Seadragon Education. Alexandra received a master’s degree in teacher education and professional development from Walden University in 2017.







**Benjamin Toll '07** is dean of admissions at the George Washington University, where he has worked for the past eight years. Ben completed a master's degree in project management from The George Washington University School of Business.

**Cassie Ruiz Verile '07** is employee engagement specialist at Charles River Laboratories in Mattawan, Michigan, where she has been employed for more than 12 years. She is a licensed medical research specialist, a member of the Society of Lab Animal and Vet Techs and has published guidelines for training program standardization.

**Sara Rubenstein '08** works at Athelas Institute in Columbia, Maryland, as program manager for its "experiences unlimited" day program, providing meaningful activities and programs for people with significant disabilities. Sara is currently finishing her second master's degree in leadership in disability services at the University of Delaware.

**Renee Angelo '09 [4]** is a mentor coordinator with U.S. Dream Academy, and was featured on WBALTV's "TV Hill" with Jason Newton, along with Dale Smith, a mentor, and Sadiq Ali, executive director of Maryland Mentor, a program that helps young people have someone to turn to for advice.

**Susan Beaudoin '09** has been promoted to senior special projects and initiatives associate at the Food Research & Action Center, a public policy group in Washington, D.C. She has worked with the organization in various positions since 2012. She completed an executive certificate from Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy in 2017.

**Jake Larrimore '09** was promoted to manager, data and analytics, at CapTech Ventures Inc., where he works in Denver, Colorado.

**Camilla Paquette '09** is managing director at FinTech Aera, Amsterdam, Netherlands, where she previously was director of international business development. Camilla earned an MBA in international business from Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University, in 2018.

**Kerri L. Smith '09 [5]** was the elected member at Silverman, Thompson, Slutkin and White in December 2019. She concentrates her practice on commercial and residential real estate, contract litigation and financial disputes. She has a broad range of experience in state, federal and appellate courts. Kerri is also very active in the legal community and was awarded the Presidential Award by the Bar Association of Baltimore City in November 2019. This award recognizes an "unsung hero" who selflessly undertakes community, civic and/or charitable service which brings honor to the profession.

## 2010s

Congratulations to **Taylor Burgdorf '10** for starting a new position as environmental sustainability analyst with Under Armour. His most recent prior employment was as sustainability manager with HITECH Assets in Baltimore, Maryland. Taylor completed an MBA from the University of Southern Maine with a concentration in sustainability in 2018.

**Kait Hines '10** is currently working as a UX designer for Alexa for Everyone/Alexa North Star in California. Kait was recently recognized by Amazon Advocate for Universal and Inclusive Design, receiving the Voice Experience of the Year Award from Project Voice.

**Alexis Lygoumenos '10 [6]** recently returned to the East Coast from Los Angeles to pursue her PhD in performance studies at the University of Georgia. Under the stage name Alexis Nichols, she continues to work in the film and television hub of Atlanta and is represented by the SAG-AFTRA franchised agency BMG Mod-

els & Talent. After the success of playing three different characters in the Netflix original series "Little Witch Academia," she is mainly focusing on recording voice overs but continues to work as an actress, writer, and model while taking on doctoral coursework.

**Ross Wixon '10** is marketing and development director at Washington Revels, as well as a composer and trumpeter. He has been able to leverage his performing arts experience as a composer, trumpet player, and concert producer to solve the fundraising and communications challenges facing modern arts organizations. Alongside his role as marketing director for Washington Revels, he is a founding member of District New Music Coalition in Washington, D.C.

**Kelly Wilbur '10** recently started a new position as assistant vice president/associate consultant at SEAK Inc. Kelly attended the University of Massachusetts School of Law, where she earned her juris doctorate degree in 2015.



**Laura Brandon Berry '11** received her master's degree of public health in the area of health programs management in 2014 at University of South Carolina. She is currently working as pediatric quality improvement manager at South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.

**Roz Kreizenbeck '11** started a new position as manager of gallery learning at the Walters Art Museum. Roz has worked in the museum industry in other settings including as an educator of community engagement for the National Building Museum, as an education manager for Historic Newton, as an education specialist for the Harvard University Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, and as a visitor assistant at the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston. Roz completed her MAT in museum education at The George Washington University in 2014.

**Shannon Burns, BCBA '12**, who is assistant clinical director at the Language and Behavior Center in Silver Spring, Maryland, has started a new position as assistant volleyball coach at Virginia Juniors Volleyball Club.

**Eric Gronbeck '12** started a new position as managing associate/financial planner at Thompson Financial Group in Baltimore, Maryland. Eric has held other finance-related positions, including financial planner for Prudential Financial in Hunt Valley, Maryland, and financial advisor with Merrill Lynch.

**Emily Burdeshaw '13** is a pro bono committee member at Washington Women in Public Relations and is also currently working as an Account Manager, Public Relations with REQ in the D.C. metro area. She completed a certificate in viral marketing and how to craft contagious content in 2016, a certificate in content marketing in 2016, and inbound certification in 2016.

**Thomas Rados DPT '13** is a physical therapist at Rose Physical Therapy Group, working in the D.C. metro area. Thomas attended Touro College School of Health Science and completed his doctor of physical therapy degree in 2019.

**John Rohe III (J.T.) '13** is regional vice president/partner at Phoenix Private Wealth in Columbia, Maryland. John's career in finance has also included regional vice president for Equitable, regional vice president for AXA Advisors, and founding partner of Hialeah Capital Associates. He also is currently serving on the Board of Howard County Chamber of Commerce.

**Hannah Vogel '13**, who is currently a learning center instructor at Mathnasium, the Math Learning Center in Columbia, Maryland, has earned her master's degree in information systems at the University of Maryland Baltimore County.

**Gabriel Young '13** is pursuing a Ph.D. in history and Middle Eastern studies at New York University, with a broad interest in critical political economy, development, and cities in the modern Middle East. His prospective dissertation will explore the relationship between urbanization, state formation and transnational political economy

in the Persian Gulf region. This opportunity came up because he was awarded a language training fellowship through the Center for Arabic Study Abroad, which at that time was administered by Harvard and supported by the United States Department of Education.

**Naomi Garcia '14** started a new position as analyst at TD International LLC, where she works in the D.C. metro area. She has held multiple positions in international work, including U.S. protection intern with UN-HCR UN Refugee Agency, editorial assistant with the National Bureau of Asian Research, editor-in-chief for SAIS China Studies Review, and program coordinator intern with the US-China Strong Foundation. Naomi completed a master's degree in 2019 in international economics from Johns Hopkins University's Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS).

**Brendon McFall, CSPM '14** started a new position as technical engineering manager at Northland Controls where he has been employed for more than five years. Brendon's professional credentials certifications/licenses include CCured 9000 System installer/maintainer, Lenel certified associate and certified security project manager.

**Laura Rodriguez '14** is a financial analysis adviser for CGI Finance at Cigna, working in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Laura earned her MBA from D'Amore-McKim School of Business at Northeastern University in 2019.



**Christy Coombs '15** started a new position as technical assistant/office assistant at General Dynamics Information Technology in Frederick, Maryland. She worked previously for 3DiF in Reston, Virginia.

**Lindsey Leitera '15** started a new position as technical writer and editor at Kudu Dynamics LLC located in Chantilly, Virginia. Before that, she worked as technical writer for BlueVoyant and content developer with CyberVista. Lindsey completed a master's degree in security studies at Georgetown University in 2017.

**Nnenna Onwukwe '15** started a new position as credentialing assistant at the National Association of Corporate Directors in Arlington, Virginia. Previously, she worked as the digital content manager.

**Lauren Schoene '15** is a research program coordinator at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. Lauren earned a master's degree in clinical research administration from Walden University in 2018.

**Matthew Solano '15** started a new position as I-9 analyst at Georgetown University and recently completed a master's degree at the University of Maryland University College in human resources management and services.

**Rebecca Wenker '15** started a new position as CRCP scientific data manager at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. She completed a master's degree in 2019 in marine sciences from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

**Stephen Adams '16** started a new position as in-house clinical research associate at ICON PLC, working in North Wales, Pennsylvania. He started his career with this company as a clinical trial assistant.

**Aman Afsah '16** is the deputy campaign manager at Brandon Scott for Baltimore. Prior to this job he was employed as a regional organizing director with Beto for America in Las Vegas, Nevada.



## Alumni Council Spotlight: Geoff Cuneo

By Molly McKee-Seabrook '10

While at St. Mary's College, **Geoff Cuneo '10** spent his extracurricular time sailing. He was a member of the keelboat team all four years and its captain for two. Always willing to take friends out to teach them how to sail, he says those skills came in handy when he was a sailing instructor for three years after graduation. Geoff was a history major and museum studies minor and is currently senior sales executive at Howard W. Phillips Insurance.



Although insurance might not directly connect with history or museum studies, Geoff credits the research skills he learned during his time at St. Mary's College with helping him better serve his clients. He believes his liberal arts education makes him well-rounded and allows him to connect with his clients and provide them with a better experience.

Geoff joined the Alumni Council because he wanted to give back to the school and stay connected. He currently serves as treasurer on the executive committee and is involved on the alumni recognition committee and serves as the admissions liaison for the council. "St. Mary's is obviously a special place for me," he says. "It's where I met my wife, (**Hannah Martin '10**) where we got engaged and where we got married. St. Mary's is my 'happy place' and I always love coming back." Geoff and Hannah live in Annapolis with their dog, Indy.

In May 2019, **Amanda (Mandy) Bernard '16** was awarded a two-year scholarship to the Catholic University of America (Washington, D.C.) to study library and information science. As a graduate library preprofessional, she is employed on a full-time basis by the University Archives and receives tuition remission for her coursework. She hopes to continue working as an archivist at the university upon her anticipated graduation in the summer of 2021.

**Katelyn Kean '16** is registrar at Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in St. Michael's, Maryland. She also started a new position as member of the Board of Directors at Edward H. Nabb Research Center at Salisbury University.

**Mariah Leffingwell '16** began a new position as legal and regulatory consultant at Clark Hill Law, working in Washington, D.C. Mariah completed a law degree from Roger Williams School of Law in 2019.

**Lina Mann '16** started a new position as White House historian at the White House Historical Association. Lina's employment with this organization started in 2017 as a public history research fellow and transitioned to public historian independent contractor. Lina has also served as a digital education intern for the Maryland Historical Society Internship program. Lina completed a master's degree from American University in Public Applied History in 2019.

**Paige Cohen '17** started a new position as bilingual member experience specialist at Inspire and works in the Greater Philadelphia area. Prior to this job,

Paige was employed as a paralegal with HIAS Pennsylvania.

**Sarah Danihel '17** started a new position as senior administrative coordinator at the Johns Hopkins University's Department of Anesthesia and Critical Care Medicine. Sarah began working for JHU as a patient services coordinator.

**Noni Ford '17** has been promoted to chorus manager at Children's Chorus of Washington where she was previously employed as a production assistant.

**Meg Gesner '17** is now director of boards and commissions for the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Meg's previous jobs were marketing and social media assistant at Speedpro Imaging, deputy finance director with Jim Shea for Maryland, and finance director for Andy Beshear for Governor in Kentucky.

**Ivan Hernandez '17** started a new position as natural resources and environmental

team analyst trainee with the U.S. Government Accountability Office in Washington, D.C. Ivan has also served as natural resources specialist for the Bureau of Land Management. He attended Clark University for a graduate degree program in environmental science and policy and is currently enrolled at the Johns Hopkins University Advanced Academic Programs, where he is pursuing a master's degree in environmental science and policy.

**Dylan Smith '17** received his master's degree in biotechnology in May 2018 from the Johns Hopkins University. He is currently employed as a research fellow at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Dylan has been accepted to Marshall University School of Medicine to pursue a medical career; however, he is still waiting to hear from other schools.

**Kaitlin Aaby '18** started a new position as environmental scientist at Avanti Corporation, working in Alexandria, Virginia. Prior to this position, she worked as an aquatic field technician for Great Basin Institute Research Associate Program in Vale, Oregon, and also spent her first year after graduation working as the SMCM sustainability coordinator.

**Demilade Adebayo '18** has been promoted to production lab development studio fellow at New York University. She is pursuing a master's degree at the NYU Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development.

**Eathan Brown '18** started a new position as layout technician at Ecotone Inc. working in Forest Hill, Maryland. He began his employment there in 2018 as a restoration technician.

**Kathleen Carmean '18** started a new position as project coordinator in Columbia, Maryland, for ICF. She works in their energy efficiency division that supports BGE's Smart Energy Savers Program. Prior to this job, Kathleen worked for Morgan Stanley as a business analyst. She completed an Excel Core certification in 2017.

**Taylor Fogg '18** started a new position as senior employment specialist at Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore, Maryland. Prior to this position, Taylor was employed as a human resources professional in the Baltimore area.

**David Fritz '18** started a new position as mortgage loan professional at Primary Residential Mortgage, working in Baltimore, Maryland. His first professional position after graduating from SMCM was with NewDay USA, first as an account executive and then as a captain of loan origination.

**Sean Goodie '18** started a new position as weapons system manager at UICGS/Bowhead and works at the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Harford County, Maryland. Prior to this job, he was working as a consultant for Booz Allen Hamilton in its Lexington Park, Maryland, location.

**Christopher Graham '18** started a new position as software tester at ManTech. Since graduating, he has also been employed as a mathematics teacher in both St. Mary's County and Charles County, Maryland.

**Patrick Martin '18** began a new position as security assistant and correspondence manager in the Office of Security Cooperation at SOS International LLC. Most recently, he worked for Intellware Systems in the D.C. metro area. Patrick

is continuing his higher education at the American Military University studying special, irregular warfare and counterintelligence operations.

**Layla Ibrahim Shaw '18** started a new position as marketing coordinator at SemaConnect. Her career in marketing has included working as a digital marketing manager with Jamon Foundation, and multiple jobs with Transcend Marketing & Events. She earned a graduate certificate in business analytics from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and is currently working towards a master's degree in marketing analytics at American University.

**Sabrina Wood '18** is starting a new position as media assistant at GMMB in Washington, D.C. She is currently enrolled in a master's program in political communication at Dublin City University to be completed in 2020.

**Kevin Glotfelty '19** is production assistant at International Monetary Fund in Washington, D.C. Most recently Kevin was a field operator for Geonmi Mapping in Frederick, Maryland.

**Sophia Fei Macek '19** recently started working at a new position as senior development coordinator for Blue Jays Unlimited at Johns Hopkins University and Medicine Development. Since her graduation last year, Sophia has worked as a development coordinator for the Johns Hopkins University's Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS).

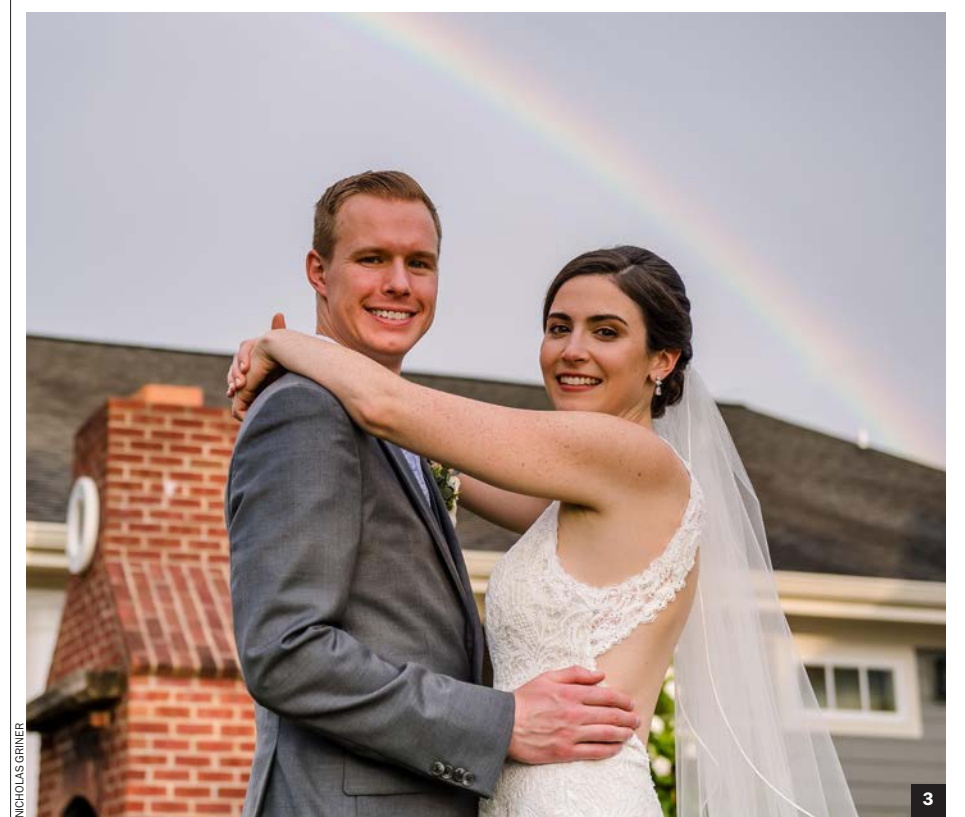
**Rie Moore '19** will compete in the upcoming 2020 Cliburn International Amateur Piano Competition in Fort Worth, Texas, as an outstanding non-professional pianist.

## MARRIAGES & UNIONS

**Galen Brew Brown '08 [1]** and William Brown were married on November 9, 2019 at Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. Alumni in attendance were **Maggie Lumkes Hale '08** and **Ted Hale '08** and **Meredith Nordhem Ewenson '08** and **Nick Ewenson '11**. The couple honeymooned in France. They reside in Vineyard Haven, Massachusetts.

**Elizabeth LeBlanc Wilfong '08 [2]** and Christopher Wilfong were married on March 16, 2019 at the Army and Navy Club in Washington, D.C. Alumni who attended the wedding were **Kristi Truver '08** and **Catherine Krikstan '08**. The couple honeymooned in Europe. Elizabeth also received her master's degree from Georgetown University in security studies. The couple resides in Washington, D.C.

**Katherine Serfling Forest '12 [3]** and **James Forest '14** were married on August 2, 2019 at Chesapeake Bay Beach Club in Kent Island, Maryland. Alumni in the wedding party were maid of honor **Megan Kelley '12** and groomsmen **Billy DeBoissiere '13**. Other alumni in attendance were **Cameron Hedquist '13** (his daughter Hailey was flower girl), **Katelyn Grue '13**, **Joe Kelly '13**, **Carly Legg Wood '12**, **MAT '13** and **David Wood '14**, **Molly MacDonald '12**, **Rosa Trembour Goodman '11** and **Chris Goodman '04**, **Brian Oakey '15**, **Chris Carpino '15**, and **Logan Riley '13**. The couple honeymooned in Avon, Colorado. Katherine is a human capital consultant at Deloitte. They reside in Ellicott City, Maryland.





**Victoria Narducci Banis '13** [4] and David Banis were married on October 26, 2019 in Bristow, Virginia. Alumni in the wedding party were bridesmaid **Abby Vandegrift '13** and best man **Joseph Norman '11**. The couple honeymooned in Cancun, Mexico. They currently reside in Springfield, Virginia.

**Kelsey Kuszmaul Stottlemeyer '13** [5] and **Jesse Stottlemeyer '13** were married on October 12, 2019 at the Cloisters Castle in Lutherville, Maryland. Alumni in the wedding party included maid of honor **Kristen Diehl '13**, bridesmaid **Molly Sachs '20**, best man **Ryan Thompson '13**, groomsmen **Dan Garman '13** and **Sean Jenkins-Houk '13** and groomswoman **Katie Boyle '14**. So many Seahawks attended that they used a St. Mary's College flag as their guestbook. The couple honeymooned at Disney World. They reside in Westminster, Maryland.

**Gabriela Principe Shepherd '14** [6] and **Bradley Shepherd '11** were married on July 20, 2019 at Woodlawn Estate in Ridge, Maryland. Alumni in the wedding party included best man **Michael Hubbell '10**, **Jacen Killebrew '10**, **Jonathan Gill '10**, **JP Debrowski '10**, **Barrett Enix '11**, **Andrea Alemán '14**, **Elizabeth Dunwiddie '15** and **Mae Rukstals '15**. Alums in attendance were **Pierre Zibi '14**, **Michael Bender '14**, **Matthew Baden '11**, **Elaina Baden '14**, **Hannah Rizkallah '14**, **Mikaela Greer '11**, **Joanna Purich '13**,

**Shannon Lockwood '11**, **Michael Bowden '11**, **Allie Bowden '09**, **Kacie Whitty '11**, **Mathew Becraft '11**, **Adam Shenk '11**, **Greg Weidner '11**, **Theodore Scharfenberg '12**, **Grant Burgess '16**, **Zach Lilley '16**, **Michael Speer '16**, **Nick Urso '12**, **Don Redmiles '19**, **Matthew Braun '15**, **Ali Leonard '14**, **Fernando Maldonado '16**, **Harold Lee '95** and **Jake Wohl '15**. The couple honeymooned in Paris, Nice, and Rome. They currently reside in Columbia, Maryland.

**Jessie Vislay Bauer '19** [7] and **Sebastian Bauer '17** were married on November 17, 2019 at Historic Waverly Mansion in Howard County, Maryland. Alumni in the wedding party were groomsmen, **Chris Lynch '17** and **Kelton Tupper '16**. Other alumni in attendance were **Esteban Caballero '18**, **Sally McFadden '18**, **Annie Lowry '19**, **Lauren Thompson '04**, **Michael Anania-Bernal '18**, **Sean Jeffers '17** and **Matt Smeriglio '17**. The couple honeymooned at Riviera Maya, Mexico. Sebastian works on the Patuxent River Naval Base and Jessie works as a public services librarian at Calvert Library in Prince Frederick. They reside in Great Mills, Maryland.



**BIRTHS & ADOPTIONS**

**Kathleen Stephanos '05** [1] and **John Stephanos '06** welcomed their third child, a girl, Keira. She joins big brother Thomas and big sister Margaret. The family resides in Rochester, New York.

**Rachel Lashof Cutrufello '06** [2] and **Nick Cutrufello '04** welcomed a son, Orin Nicholas Cutrufello, born on April 8, 2019. He joins big brothers Augie, age 7, and Enzo, age 4. The family resides in Sandia Park, New Mexico.

**April Pavis-Shroeder '09** welcomed Maybelle Lynn Shroeder on January 4, 2020. Maybelle Lynn joins big sister Harper Marjorie, age 3½.

**Ali McIntosh Sheppard '13** [3] and **Louis Sheppard '09** are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Sebastian Mac Sheppard, born on August 2, 2019. The family resides in Queenstown, Maryland.

**Allison Wengler Kenyon '15** [4] and **Wesley Kenyon** welcomed a daughter, Nora Louise, born on September 19, 2019. The family resides in Bel Air, Maryland.



**IN MEMORIAM**

**Patricia Louise "Patti" Hudson '53** died December 22, 2019, in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, at the age of 86. Patti was known as "The Gingerbread Lady" because she taught classes in making gingerbread houses at the Smithsonian Institution for eight years and wrote the book, "Gingerbread Ideas" in 1995. She

was featured on the front page of the Wall Street Journal after publication of her book, which is now in its fifth edition. She is survived by her husband of 65 years, R. Suter Hudson, her daughter, three grandchildren and her sister.

**Martha Louise (Maggie) Healy Miller '66** died April 9, 2019 at her home in West Ocean City, Maryland. Maggie was 72 years old and the co-owner of Somerset

Jewelers in Ocean City. During her career as an entrepreneur, she often traveled to Mexico for her silver jewelry business. Raised in Montgomery County, Maryland, she was a graduate of Gaithersburg High School. Maggie is survived by five of her siblings and their families. A memorial service was held September 7, 2019 by the ocean on Fenwick Island, Delaware.

**FRIENDS OF THE COLLEGE**

**Eric Kafka** died December 3, 2019 at his home in Lewes, Delaware. He was 81 years old. Originally from Queens, New York, Kafka earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from State University of New York in Albany. He completed his doctorate from Michigan State University. He worked for more than 30 years with the state of Maryland, first at the University of Maryland,

then at Prince George's County Community Mental Health Clinic, and finally at St. Mary's College. He was the director of counseling services for St. Mary's College from 1993 until his retirement in 2003. After retiring, he and his wife, Dorothy Cartegena, settled in Lewes where he ran a private psychology practice until 2013. Kafka is survived by his wife, three children and five grandchildren.



# WE SHALL CARRY ON!

By Lee Capristo, editor

The original Calvert Hall was destroyed by a devastating fire that started in the basement furnace room on January 5, 1924. J. Frederick Fausz recounts the tense days following the fire in his history, "Monument School of the People: A Sesquicentennial History of St. Mary's College of Maryland 1840-1990," summarized here:

Only four months on the job, school principal Miss M. Adele France returned from winter break only to hear someone say "St. Mary's Seminary's burned to the ground!" as her bus pulled into Leonardtown. She arrived on campus in time to see the raging fire finish off the old building. Her response was "We shall carry on!"

The next morning she called teachers and students to tell them the school would not reopen on the following day as scheduled. The next evening, Maryland Governor Albert C. Ritchie and the State Board of Public Works gave preliminary approval to construct temporary housing on campus (the "barracks"). The barracks, built down the hill from the ruins of Calvert Hall, were completed in three weeks, allowing the school to reopen on February 2, just one month late.

On August 3, 1924, 80 years to the day from the cornerstone laying of the original building, a crowd of 1,500 persons gathered to lay the cornerstone for the new Calvert Hall. They were joined by the oldest living alumna, 85-year-old Cecelia Coad Roberts, a member of the Seminary's original class of 1846.

Construction of the new Calvert Hall ran behind schedule and an outbreak of scarlet fever in January 1925 forced the school to close for a time, but somehow, the students returned and finished the semester. They moved into the new building in June, just two weeks before graduation.

The new Calvert Hall was furnished mostly by benefactors who, for \$200 per room, could have an inscribed brass plate placed on the door of the dormitory room identifying the donor and the loved ones they were memorializing by their gift. By 1926, 31 rooms had been furnished this way.

The brass plates are no longer on the doors of these former residential rooms of Calvert Hall, but the Archives has a "stack" of them. Here are inscriptions of four:

Furnished by The Thomas Johnson Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, Mrs. David M. Robinson, Regent

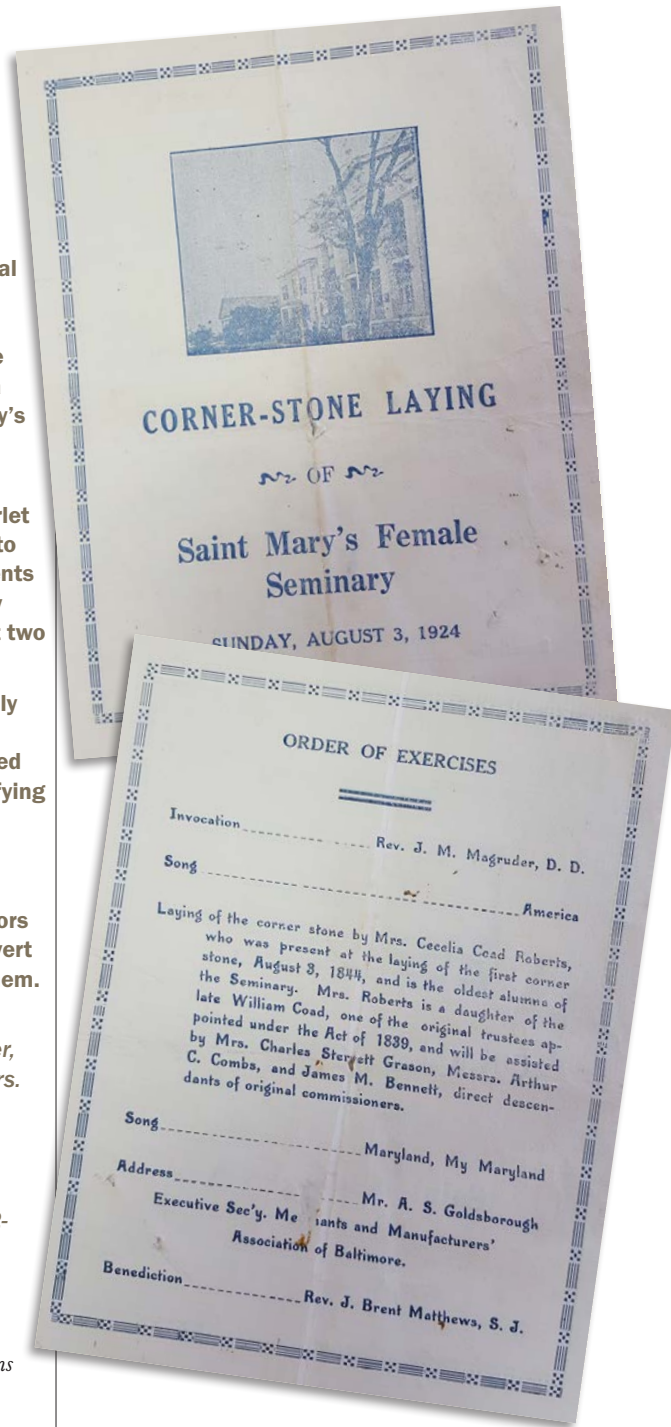
In Youth We Mold the Coming Nation.  
Margaret A. Albright

In Memory of Cecilia Dent Harrison, 1792-2853, by Her Descendants. Donor: J. E. Harrison

In Memory of Mrs. Lilburn, Principal

(SOURCE: file A262-Markers-26: Memorial Rooms of Calvert Hall, College Archives)

LEFT: typical dormitory room furnished by donations in rebuilt Calvert Hall from p. 69 of Fausz's book; RIGHT: program cover and page from 1924 cornerstone laying ceremony.



## Calendar of Events

**Governor's Cup Yacht Race**  
July 31 – August 1

**First Day of Classes**  
August 31



**Admission Open House**  
October 3 @ 10:00 a.m.  
Michael P. O'Brien Athletics & Recreation Center Arena

**Admission Open House**  
October 24 @ 10:00 a.m.  
Michael P. O'Brien Athletics & Recreation Center Arena

**Admission Open House**  
November 14 @ 10:00 a.m.  
Michael P. O'Brien Athletics & Recreation Center Arena

**Giving Tuesday**  
December 1

For information on these and other upcoming events, visit [www.smcm.edu](http://www.smcm.edu) and click on EVENTS. Events are subject to change.



## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

We are here for our students through the COVID-19 pandemic, the recovery, and the new academic year ahead. Together, with your support, we can help reduce some of the ensuing financial hardships and obstacles facing our students and institution.

To make a gift, visit the site below:

**GIVE NOW:**



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ST. MARY'S COLLEGE OF MARYLAND

# RECOVERY FUND

ST. MARY'S  
COLLEGE OF MARYLAND





# WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

ST MARY'S  
COLLEGE of MARYLAND

Joshua Ajanaku '22 produced this message of hope to the SMCM community during the COVID-19 crisis. Watch it on the platforms listed to the right or scan the QR code with your phone to be taken directly to the video.

We are here for our students through the COVID-19 pandemic, the recovery, and the new academic year ahead. Together, with your support, we can help reduce some of the ensuing financial hardships and obstacles facing our students and institution.

To make a gift, please visit  
[smcm.edu/giving](https://smcm.edu/giving)



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