

# SMCM Staff News

## What are you looking forward to in 2017?

**Charlotte Cashell-Varga** is getting married in 2017!

**Alan Lutton** is planning a big trip to Walt Disney World.



**Angie Draheim** can't wait for May when she plans to take her then 5-year old daughter to the Magic Kingdom and Animal Kingdom of Walt Disney World for the first time.

**Jim McGuire** is looking forward to the construction of the new athletics stadium and playing fields.



**Brad Newkirk** is looking forward to the day his child is not in diapers!

**Linda Ward** is looking forward to the movie release of *The Shack* in March. She loved the book - check it out!



*After the Storm* (pictured above) taken by Sandy Robbins

Thanks to all who donated time and/or treats for the Fall Staff Appreciation Event on November 10 and to all those who took the time to stop by! It was a great turnout and it was nice to see so many smiling faces.



The beautiful fall tree cake made by Lisa Smith was won by Bob Brown. Mary Johnston won the carrot cake made by Angie Draheim.



Thanks to Lisa Smith and Henry Booth for once again helping spread cheer at the family holiday party on Dec. 11



The word cloud pictured above was generated from the responses to the "What are you thankful for?" cards disbursed at the Fall Staff Appreciation Event.

It sure has been a busy semester! Thanks to everyone for their hard work and continued dedication! We hope you all have a restful and rejuvenating holiday break!

## this issue

Event Pictures/Staff Thoughts **P.1**

Staff Spotlight & New Staff **P.2**

Staff Recognition **P.3**

Professional Development Tip **P.3**

Staff Senate Committees **P.4**

Upcoming Events **P.4**

## Hats Off to Our Incredible Staff!

### Did you know...



**Sandy Robbins** is one of five photographers from the St. Mary's County Camera Club (SMCCC) with images on

exhibition at The Community Bank of the Chesapeake (just north of Chipotle on Rte. 235) until the end of the year.

### Clint Neill

and his student staff were awarded the Mid-Atlantic Outstanding Program Award for their Outstanding Multicultural Program.



**Deirdre Bulger '04** received an award for "Standards of Excellence" for Promoting Excellence & Trust in the Non-Profit



sector for her work with Compass Inc., an agency that provides services to individuals with disabilities.

**Cordell Carter** was granted an award from the Career and Professional Development Endowed Scholarship Fund, which is administered by the Staff Senate Awards and Recognition Committee.

## Kindness Corner

Major thanks to **Richard Edgar** for helping out the Admissions office in their time of need!

"Human kindness has never weakened the stamina or softened the fiber of a free people. A nation does not have to be cruel to be tough."

- Franklin D. Roosevelt

## Staff Spotlight: Charlotte Cashell-Varga Coordinator of Student Engagement



**What path led you to St. Mary's?** I graduated from California Polytechnic San Luis Obispo in 2011, with a B.A. in history and a minor in ethnic studies. I eventually found my way to Penn State where I completed my M.Ed. in higher education with an emphasis on student engagement. While at Penn State, I worked in Student Conduct and New Student Orientation. After a brief stint with Penn State's growing Orientation Program, I followed my fiancé down to wonderful Southern Maryland. I've been looking for a position that will give me the opportunity to work directly with students, try new programmatic ideas, and really just work with people who want to support their students. I'm so excited to be here. It doesn't feel like a job — I love it!

**What do you do by day?** My passion for supporting students really means that I'm there for whatever they need, which I'm more than happy to do. On paper, I supervise our Orientation Co-Chairs including recruitment and selection of the Orientation Leaders, advise Programs Board, and run the Service & Social Change Program which oversees student workers and a fellow.

**How do you like to spend your time away from the office?** In my free time, I love hanging out with my silly 14 year-old dog and my fiancé. Since David and I are both [Penn State] alums, we're big football fans (GO STATE!). I also love researching and planning trips that I may or may not ever take, but I just love reading traveler reviews; it's interesting to learn about places in the world through someone else's eyes! I also love reading fiction and am currently working through the three book set of Miss Perigrine's Home for Peculiar Children.

**What is your favorite off-campus lunch spot?** It can be nearby or far away. My favorite restaurant in the whole world is a tiny Italian restaurant called Mama's Meatballs in San Luis Obispo, California. If you're ever taking a trip up the 101 in California, call me before you go and I'll make sure you don't miss anything! I also love a good trip to Mission BBQ, and won't say no to some great French fries.

**What would colleagues be surprised to find out about you?** I am totally a crazy Penn State football fan. Crazy. I love watching football. It took me a while to fall in love but once I did, there was no going back. I yell, I scream, I cry, I cheer, I do all of the superstitious whatever's. I love it! I'm also a HUGE Stanford, 49ers, and Eagles fan- but there's less crying of joy with those teams this season.

**What is the most interesting/surprising job you've ever had?** I was a bank teller for a total of about 2 years, between several banks. Many of the procedures are really interesting from an outside perspective. Handling peoples' money is quite the experience- especially when someone hands you \$6,000 they literally dug up from the ground!

Leslie Tucker, Elaine Syzmkowiak, Michelle DiMenna, Renee Boley and Jackie Wright were the top 5 walkers for the Wellness Committee's Fitbit Challenge in Oct. The top runners were **Tom Fisher** and **Chris Coons**. **Karen Cozzens** was the raffle winner of a thirty minute massage after participating in and donating to the Thanksgiving Wellness walk. Way to work on your wellness folks!



## Welcome to St. Mary's!

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Athletics and Recreation  | <b>Kelly N. Martin</b> , Head Women's Volleyball Coach   |
| Career Development Center | <b>Kimberly E. B. Humphreys</b> , Academic and Career Adviser  |
| Institutional Advancement | <b>Gretchen D. Phillips</b> , Communications Specialist  |
| Montgomery Hall           | <b>Shelby A. Reynolds</b> , Fiscal Associate I   |
| Office of the President   | <b>Kortet Mensah</b> , Associate Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion  |
| Public Safety             | <b>Mary Bowles</b> , PS Officer/Non-commissioned<br><b>Andrew L. Mattingly</b> , PS Community Liaison/Driver<br><b>Effren Washington</b> , PS Officer/Non-commissioned |
| Registrar                 | <b>Erin N. Hall-Singleton</b> , Transfer Evaluation Coordinator  |
| Residence Life            | <b>Anya L. Patterson</b> , Assistant Director of Residence Life  |
| Student Activities        | <b>Mary E. Childs</b> , Fiscal Associate II<br><b>Charlotte J. Cashell-Varga</b> , Coordinator of Student Engagement   |
| Wellness Center           | <b>LaTarah Goodwin</b> , Office Associate I  |



## Monthly Staff Recognition Award\* Winners

**September** — *Jim McGuire*, capital project manager

"Jim went far beyond his call of duty to assure that Anne Arundel Hall opened successfully on Monday August 29th and made sure that no stone was left unturned. His dedication and commitment to this College and those who walk its grounds is amazing to watch. He truly cares!"

**October** — *Monica Armstrong*, office associate II in Residence Life

"Monica is a joy to work with! Her welcoming and hardworking personality make the Office of Residence Life a great place to work and she really holds our office together. With the recent transitions in the Office of Residence Life, Monica stepped up and took on additional responsibilities (e.g., doing much of the logistical support for Hawktoberfest even though she was not the event coordinator) and made sure other office staff were taking care of themselves, all while maintaining her bubbly personality."

**November** — *Kathy Lewin*, office associate II in Goodpaster Hall

"Since I came back from medical leave, Kathy has been my wellness buddy. She keeps me motivated and when I'm running around like crazy, she reminds me to actually stop and focus on wellness. She has consistently gone out of her way to help me set/clean up props for yoga class and is always willing to lend a hand whenever I need assistance in my campus role. I really appreciate her help, encouragement, and thoughtfulness."

**Nominate a worthy staff member today!** Winners receive 5 FREE tickets to the Great Room. Nomination forms are available in department offices and online. They are due the 3rd Friday of every month to Lisa Youngborg (layoungborg@smcm.edu or Campus Center 143).

*\*This award is supported by donations. Give Today!*

## Congratulations!

**Susan Mazuc** welcomed the birth of a granddaughter named Adeline Katherine Barrett on May 27.

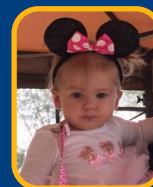


**Anna Marie Speck** married Jeff Kirby on Sept 24, after TWENTY SIX YEARS of

courtship! Several of her fellow staff members/friends were in attendance. Anna has changed her last name to Kirby.



**Jim McGuire** became a grandfather to Joseph William McGuire, Jr. on Sept 27.



**Kathy Cheek's** granddaughter, Kaylee May, celebrated her first birthday on Sept 26.

**Kate Shirey** and her husband, Justin, welcomed the birth of a son on Nov 15. Ethan Scott weighed 7lbs, 10oz. He joins big sister Josephine.



## Professional Development FYI

You do your job every day. You may be doing it exceptionally. Still, you feel there is a disconnect between your job performance, a potential for advancement, or even a possible salary increase. Unfortunately, while focusing on simply what's expected of you may be a great strategy to keep the job you have, it doesn't entice managers to view you as an indispensable employee worthy of promotion or even a salary increase. However, going beyond what's expected, and expanding beyond your current position description, can lead to new growth, promotions, raises, and more responsibilities.

Promotions and salary increases aren't about what you're already being paid to do; it's about pushing the limits of your current position through skills development, training, and being active in our diverse campus environment. To foster this idea and encourage employee growth the College, along with the help of the Local 3980, developed a "Non-Exempt Skills and Development Promotional Plan" within the current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This plan encapsulates not just a title change but also an increase to your base salary ranging between 1% to 5% when certain criteria are met with regard to training and skills development.

The development of this plan is a win-win for both the employee and the College. Non-Exempt employees have a clear understanding of how to develop their skills and advance their careers. And with a more expanded skill set, employees will be able to help the college forge ahead in this challenging economic environment. For additional information about the "Non-Exempt Skills and Development Promotional Plan" please contact Human Resources (x4309) and review the link provided about the new MOU; details of the plan are found in "Appendix B."

<http://www.smcm.edu/hr/wp-content/uploads/sites/43/2015/11/MOU-without-signature.pdf>

Share your news via the form at <http://www.smcm.edu/staff/newsletters.html> or provide your senator with an update to pass along!

## St. Mary's by the Numbers

**31** the number of colorful art panels based off Priya's Shakti, a comic book addressing gender based violence in India and around the world, now hanging on the second floor of the Library. Stop by to check them out and read the whole comic online for free at <http://www.priyashakti.com/>

**60** the number of staff, faculty and students that participated in Keti-Koti Breaking Chains: Breaking Bread dinner dialogue.



**77** the number of boxes of confidential papers disposed of at the Shred-It event on Oct 4.

### Fall Staff Appreciation Event Numbers

**20** the dollar value of a gift certificate to Shoppers Food Warehouse that was donated by a staff member to raffle off. It was won by Marsha Wilcox in Financial Aid.



**609** the number of candy corns in the jar. Jordan Zilla in International Education won with an exact guess!



**674** the number of M&Ms in the jar. Sara Renn in Advancement won with the closet guess of 675!



## Staff Senate Committees

Any staff member may join Staff Senate committees— contact chairs if you are interested!

**Professional Development**—Tommy Cable (chair)

**Elections**—Angie Draheim (chair)

**Communications**—Karen Cozzens (chair),

**Awards & Recognition**—Lisa Youngborg (chair),

**Bylaws**—Rob Maddox (chair)

**Social Connections**—Cindy Dale (co-chair), Mary Johnston (co-chair),



Senate in Sept 2016. Photo credit: Lee Capristo. Missing: Jim Cranmer, Anthony Guzman, & Sahra Grube.

## Upcoming Events

**Staff Senate Meetings.** Any staff member may attend Staff Senate meetings so mark your calendars and plan to join us! All senate meetings 10 am-12 pm in the Glendening Annex unless otherwise noted (\*in Library Boardroom). Upcoming: **1/18\***, **2/8 (Staff Association Meeting: Cole Cinema)**, **3/8 \***, **3/29\***, **4/19**, **5/10\***, **5/31**, **6/21**

**EMS Training with Events and Bon Appetit**—Thursday, January 12, 2017 @ 10am in Glendening Annex

**8th Annual American Cancer Society SMCM Relay for Life. Saturday, February 25, 2017: 6 pm—2 am;** Our goal is to raise \$30,000 this year, so we need everyone's support! We'd love a stronger faculty and staff presence at this family-friendly community event. Create a team, join an existing team, plan to walk as an individual, and/or donate today at [www.relayforlife.org/smcmd](http://www.relayforlife.org/smcmd) Direct questions to Joanne Goldwater, Casey Roberts, or Kinsey Price.

**24th Annual World Carnival**—Saturday, April 8, 2017

## Let Us Hear From You!

Email your suggestions, questions, or concerns to [mkgrube@smcm.edu](mailto:mkgrube@smcm.edu)

OR [complete the anonymous feedback form](http://www.smcm.edu/staff) available on our website ([www.smcm.edu/staff](http://www.smcm.edu/staff)).

## Day to Serve 2016

There were lots of interesting finds from the third Annual Waterfront Cleanup on Sept 16.



A group of six helped white-wash historic slave quarters at the Brome Howard Inn on Oct 6.



Susan Mazuc, Francis Titus and Elaine Szymkowiak take an annual group photo in Schaefer Hall in October.