Staff Senate Mission Statement

St. Mary’s College of Maryland is committed to developing and recognizing the contributions of the full range of its professionals as they work toward achieving the college’s mission. The St. Mary’s College of Maryland staff senate shall be the official representative body of the college staff. The senate offers a voice for all staff, endeavors to enhance the day-to-day work environment, and promotes a sense of community and respect across campus by fostering open communication with the college president, senior administration, faculty, students, and the board of trustees.

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 are held at 10:00 am in the Glendenning Annex unless otherwise noted. Check the SMCM calendar for details.

Admissions Open Houses; Sept 6 & Oct 25

Sept 27 & 28; Family Weekend

Oct 4; Hawktoberfest

Oct 5, 9:30am-12pm: staff and faculty are welcome to join students and members of the tri-county MD alumnae chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority as they clean up Mattapany Rd. (part of theadopt-a-highway program). Contact Marsha Wilcox at mwilcox@smcm.edu if you would like to help out with this community service project.

Check out our websites: www.smcm.edu/staffsenate, https://sites.google.com/a/smcm.edu/smcm-staff-senate/home
Welcome to St. Mary’s!

Monthly Staff Recognition Award Winners

May 2014
Stacey Goddard, office manager in admissions
As the data person, Stacey is a dedicated employee who works well in a team environment making sure the admission's application data is entered correctly. ~Nominator

June 2014
Katie Guy, office associate in Montgomery Hall
Katie is always ready to lend a helping hand, even when the tasks go well beyond her job description. She stepped up to help coordinate Boydten Gallery art display, held onto all the art storage and collected the incoming loan paperwork. Throughout the summer she opened and closed the Gallery so visitors can view the Across the Ages alumni exhibit. ~Nominator

July 2014
Elaine Syzmkowiak ’78, director of instructional support in biology
Elaine does an outstanding job working with student help training them into a cohesive, effective, cheerful team that is well organized and exhibits great camaraderie. She has been totally committed to the College for over 25 years through her work with the biology department. Her attention to detail and organizational skills planning the Tropical Biology trips are in line with the campus’ efforts to internationalize learning opportunities for the students. Her extensive work drafting a section of the department self study report was done on a volunteer basis. In addition, she directly impacts the health and well being of students, faculty, and staff who attend her weekly yoga classes. ~Nominator

Nominate a worthy staff member today! Winners receive 5 FREE tickets to the Great Room.

More Professional Development—Kudos!

- Joanne Goldwater directed the 17th annual Regional Entry-Level Institute (RELI) held June 3-5 at Rutgers University - Newark. She is the co-founder and continues to serve as the co-director of this three day Institute that focuses on helping entry-level Res Life/housing professionals develop eight core competencies. Dan Schell (area coordinator in Res Life) was one of 28 people selected for this year’s Institute (out of 75 applicants).

- 34 staff members were invited to attend the Annual Professional Development Reception hosted by the Staff Senate on June 28. It included staff who took advantage of tuition remission benefits (e.g. Kent Randall took horticulture lessons at SMCC and Ashley Stopera studied web design via Towson University), those who participated in the Tuition Remission Program for Full-time Staff at SMCC to attend Maryland Community Colleges (e.g. Juliet Hewlett took courses to learn MS Office Programs), and those who participated in professional development opportunities hosted by the Staff Senate (e.g. FAFSA, English composition, Photoshop tutorials).

Staff Spotlight: Elaine Syzmkowiak

How long have you been at SMCC? I came to SMCC in 1978. I completed my bachelor’s degree in biology in 1981, when I began my career working in the biology department. I’m starting my 34th year at SMCC.

What path led you to St. Mary’s? I can thank my mom for telling me about SMCC. I had never heard of it, but it just so happened that my cousin was planning to attend SMCC in the fall of 1978 and my mom suggested I check it out. All it took was a visit to campus and I was hooked. My interest was in biology, and I could see that SMCC had a great Biology department, even back in 1978. I transferred to SMCC after completing two years at Towson State College and a stint as a beach bum in Ocean City and ski bum in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

What do you do by day? Managing logistics and the daily happenings in the biology department is a big part of what I do. Each day is different than the next, but there is always a problem to solve, from a leak in the wet lab or other types of equipment failure, to planning or troubleshooting lab protocols, or training people to work with a variety of equipment. I coordinate the Principles of Biology Laboratory and work with faculty and teaching assistants on a daily basis. Along with our lab coordinator, Tom Brewer, and a staff of student workers, we manage the lab facilities and support the faculty and students in a diverse variety of activities.

What do you do with your evenings/weekends? I enjoy being outside whenever I get the opportunity – gardening, observing nature, walking my dog Dexter, Wednesday night sailboat racings in Solomon’s, and skiing in the winter. In addition, I practice and teach yoga, enjoy reading, music, contra and Irish set dancing, and I’m slowly learning Italian. I volunteer my time when I can. It’s always nice to get together with friends and family.

What is your favorite off-campus lunch spot? Courtney’s in Ridge, where the fish are so fresh they are still wiggling on the plate, or my house which is less than a mile from campus. (I know the chef there!)

What would colleagues be surprised to find out about you? I am very competitive when it comes to sailboat racing; I enjoy the teamwork that is required to compete successfully.

What is the most interesting/surprising job you’ve ever had? Well, I have been at St. Mary’s so long that my most interesting experiences naturally have to do with my career here. I’ve been fortunate to have participated regularly over the years with study abroad - travel to Belgium, and other tropical locations (including India) with the tropical biology class. I never tire of observing unusual wildlife, meeting new and interesting people, and observing our students in what for many is their first experience interacting with a foreign culture and observing diverse biological habitats.

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Share your news via the form at http://www.smcm.edu/staffnews/announcements.html or provide your senator with an update to pass along!
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More Professional Development...Kudos!

More on-campus professional development opportunities to be announced this year!

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Nominations are available in department offices and online. They are due the 3rd Friday of every month to Beth Byrd (bedyrd@smcm.edu or Alumni House).

Congratulations!

Clayton Hartley and his wife, Dorothy, welcomed the birth of their second grandson, Callista Mae, on June 11. She was 6lb, 7oz. & 20”. She is little sister to 5 year-old Tucker Clayton.

Joanne Goldwater celebrated her 19th wedding anniversary to Leon De- ment, Jr. on July 21. His mom, Beria Malone, worked at SMCM 20 years ago and introduced the two and they ended up getting married seven months later!

Out & About

Denise Merican, Dana Cullison, Marsha Wilcox & Lucy Meyers enjoying a girls’ night out at Wine & Design in Leonardtown.

Irene Olinick and her husband travelled to watch the Phillies take on the LA Dodgers. Even though the Phillies lost the game, she had a great time and remains a true fan.

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- Look for more on-campus professional development opportunities to be announced this year!

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

Hats Off to Our Incredible Staff!

Did you know...

Sergeant Keenan Enoch was named Officer of the Year at SMCM for 2013. On May 13, during National Police Week, he was honored at the St. Mary’s County Government sponsored 14th Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Day at the Southern Maryland Higher Education Center. The event included a very large luncheon and awards given to all the officers selected from the different law enforcement agencies around the county. He was also honored at a dinner sponsored by the Optimist Clubs of Southern Maryland where he and the other honorees were each given a plaque.

Rick Lohse passed the US Coast Guard License exam in May. You can now call him Capt. Rick!

Mary Grube earned a MS in Accounting and Financial Management from University of Maryland-Baltimore County on May 30.


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Way to go, folks! Diabetes Prevention Class.

Enjoying good food, good music, great company, a friendly game of corn hole, and sailing

St. Mary’s by the Numbers:

- 15 the number of water fountains with refillable container stations that have been installed across campus.
The Office of Planning and Facilities hopes this will reduce the number of plastic water bottles, by encouraging the use of reusable water bottles.

- 134 the number of pounds lost between 15 staff members during the Wellness Committee sponsored 8-week Simple Changes Diabetes Prevention Class. Way to go, folks!

Let Us Hear From You!
Email your suggestions, questions, or concerns to stmarysbymethatemail@smcm.edu

Check out our websites: www.smcm.edu/staffsenate
https://sites.google.com/a/smcm.edu/smcm/staff-senate/home

Staff Senate Committees

Professional Development
Tommy Cable (chair), Kelvin Clark, Stephanie Guizzo, Alan Lutton, Kelley Hernandez, Jim McGuire, Catherine Pratson

Elections
Angie Draheim (chair), Kyle Bishop, Kelley Hernandez

Communications
April Ryan (Chair), Angie Draheim, Kathy Lewin, Stephanie Somerville

Awards & Recognition
Beth Byrd (co-chair), Kyle Bishop, Dana Burke, Dana Cullison, Kathy Lewin, Shariie Wootbridge

Bylaws
Dan Schell (chair), Cheryl Colson, Angie Draheim, Adam Wartlow

Social Connections
Marsha Wilcox (chair), Dana Cullison, Faye Graves, Steve Gregory, Mary Johnston, Francis Raley, Dan Schell, Leslie Tucker

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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 are at 12:00 p.m. in the Glendening Annex unless otherwise noted.

- Sept 10, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in St. Mary’s Hall. The purpose of Staff Association Meetings is to let the staff know about upcoming Senate events and initiatives and to give staff the opportunity, without prior arrangement, to bring up items for discussion or voice suggestions about what they would like to see the senate get more involved in.

- The St. Mary’s Mentors program is well underway with the first matching of mentees to mentors having taken place in early August. We know there are several other employees who would also make wonderful mentors for mentees and there is still time to sign up for the program—just visit our website for the application!

- The Social Connections committee is working with students and staff members of the tri-county MD alumnae chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority to clean up Mattapany Rd.

- The Staff Senate is beginning its fourth year of service for the staff at SMCM. Area and at-large elections were completed in June and new senators began their terms on July 1. A full list of the FY15 Staff Senators can be found on page 4 of this newsletter. We look forward to another great year serving you. As you prepare to charge into the new academic year, here are some things to keep in mind:

- We will host three Staff Association meetings in FY15, the first meeting scheduled for Sept. 10, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in St. Mary’s Hall. The purpose of Staff Association Meetings is to let the staff know about upcoming Senate events and initiatives and to give staff the opportunity, without prior arrangement, to bring up items for discussion or voice suggestions about what they would like to see the Senate get more involved in.

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- The Social Connections committee is working with students and members of the tri-county MD alumnae chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority to clean up Mattapany Rd. Please see page 4 for details. The committee is looking for additional ways to get more involved within our local community and, of course, will be planning fun events; stay tuned.

- Thank you to the staff members who participated in our senate evaluation survey. Committees are currently reviewing your feedback to decide what suggestions can be implemented.

- Remember, all our staff senate meetings are open to every-