

WINTER 2014

**A HISTORY OF  
CREATIVITY**

**PLAYING  
HIS CARDS**

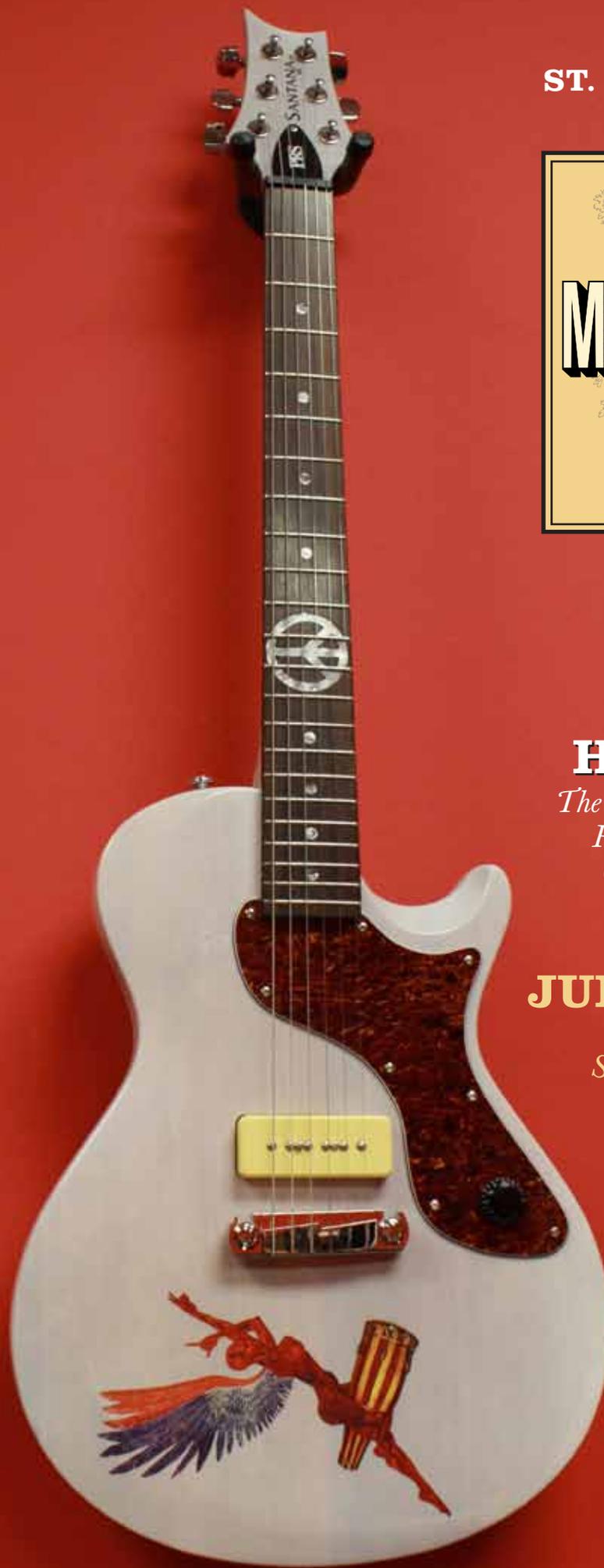
*The Legacy of [Former Student]  
Paul Reed Smith and the  
Guitars that Built Him*

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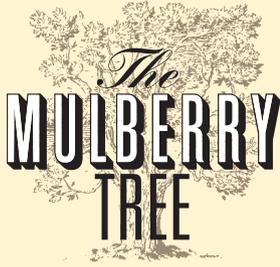
**JUMPSTARTED!**

*Alums Share How the  
St. Mary's Project Helped  
Their Careers*

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ST. MARY'S COLLEGE  
*of Maryland*



WINTER 2014, VOL. XXXV, NO. 1

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

The magazine is named for the famous mulberry tree under which the Calvert colonists signed a treaty of friendship with the Yaocomico people and on the trunk of which public notices were posted in the mid-1600s. The tree endured long into the 19th century and was once a popular meeting spot for St. Mary's students. The illustration of the mulberry tree on the cover was drawn in 1972 by Earl Hofmann, artist-in-residence when St. Mary's College President Renwick Jackson launched the magazine.

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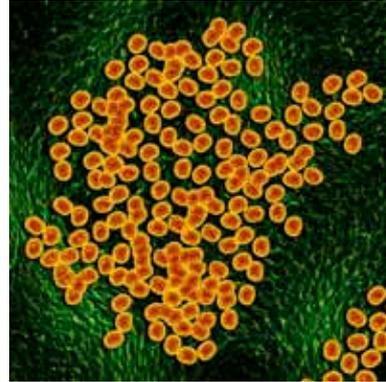
Cathy Hernandez Ray '77

#### Western Maryland:

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Lawrence MacCurtain '11



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*Photo by Ashley Stopera*

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## AN ATTAINABLE GOAL

**L**OOKING OUT OVER THE RIVER ON A LOVELY SUNNY AND CLEAR winter day, I marvel at the beauty of the St. Mary's setting. It is one of the reasons why our students fall in love with our College. And, as I have quickly discovered, there are many other reasons for our attractiveness – our faculty, our staff who do so much for our students outside of the classroom, and our own students' successes.

This fall, we were gratified to learn that the federal Department of Education statistics ranked St. Mary's third highest of all public

**Graduating on time has many benefits! It is this "value proposition" that means so much in these difficult economic times.**

colleges in the nation for graduating our students on time. To my mind, this one statement encapsulates what is great about the College. Our faculty and students have a very close relationship, and the faculty and staff do everything possible to help the students achieve success. Many other liberal arts colleges have small classes and close interaction with faculty. But none (the two ranked above us were military academies) have our record of success. There is something going on here that is real and measurable.

A corollary to this achievement is our low ratio of student debt. Although our tuition is much higher than all of the other public Maryland universities and four-year colleges, our students have the least amount of debt. Graduating on time has many benefits! It is this "value proposition" that means so much in these difficult economic times, and you can be certain that we let prospective students and their families know this.

Finally, a few words about our enrollments. Our new Vice President Gary Sherman has built on the innovations this summer to implement the latest techniques for recruiting students and for converting applications into admitted students and, finally, into students attending. It is early yet, but many indications are positive. Admissions staff are using social media a great deal – texting, Facebook, Twitter and the like. Students communicate in many ways (they think that email is impossibly slow!) and they use the web. Nationally, some 70% of high school students search for a college with their smartphones. It is a new world.



IAN NEWBOULD

*Interim President, St. Mary's College of Maryland*

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### Editor's Note

**L**IBERAL ARTS INSTITUTIONS AND supporting organizations like the Phi Beta Kappa Society spend a lot of time defending the value and relevance of the liberal arts. It seems that no matter the economic climate, the liberal arts as a value proposition are always under scrutiny.

At St. Mary's, a capstone experience in the senior year of study was envisioned in 1995 and implemented as the "St. Mary's Project" beginning in 1997-98. In its planning stages, Provost Mel Endy argued that by having students "choose and refine a topic or creative project, assemble the necessary resources, carry out in disciplined fashion the required tasks alone and/or with others, and present and defend publicly the results, the College [would] be inculcating the leadership skills that are a fundamental purpose of a liberal arts education."

Patrick Meade '14 is doing his part in defense of the liberal arts: his St. Mary's Project is on whether or not the liberal arts are still relevant in America. Patrick participated in a campus meeting of the Middle States Self-Study working group this past October. At this meeting, we discussed how we'd assess if College operations, on a daily basis, are informed by the stated mission and values. Patrick's interest was in learning how we felt invested in the mission and values. He'll complete his SMP in the spring, responding to the question of whether or not the liberal arts in America are still relevant through a series of nonfiction essays he's writing, plus an oral history he'll put together with the help of his faculty adviser, English Professor Ruth Feingold.

What can you do with a liberal arts degree? Anything you like. Read about the SMPs and the careers of 10 alumni who are living their bliss and the faculty advisers who mentored them along the way. Read too, about Paul Reed Smith, world-famous guitar maker, who found his calling through a one-semester independent study with a professor who believed in the power of the liberal arts.

LEE CAPRISTO, *editor*



## MURAL ART PROJECT SHOWS WHO WE ARE

A visual representation of the College community is the newest mural art project on campus, located between the Alumni House and the site of the former Anne Arundel Hall. Inspired by community art programs such as the Mural Arts Program in Philadelphia and UrbanPromise in Camden, New Jersey, the project was facilitated by Carrie Patterson, associate professor of art, whose “Art for Educators and Community Activists” class organized the project.

## College Ranked as Leading Institution for Study Abroad

The Institute of International Education’s latest Open Doors Report in International Education Exchange ranks St. Mary’s among the nation’s top 20 for under-graduate study abroad participation and among the nation’s top 40 for total number of students going abroad. In 2011-12, a total of 358 St. Mary’s students studied abroad.



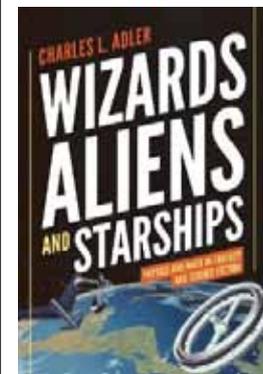
## McDaniel and Rawlings-Blake Join Board of Trustees

Governor Martin O’Malley approved two new trustees to the St. Mary’s College of Maryland Board of Trustees. Ann L. McDaniel is senior vice president at The Washington Post Company. She previously worked for Newsweek for 17 years as managing editor and editor in chief. McDaniel has an undergraduate degree from Vanderbilt University and a master of studies in law degree from Yale Law School. Stephanie Rawlings-Blake is the current mayor of Baltimore. She serves in the U.S. Conference of Mayors and was appointed secretary of the Democratic National Committee in 2013. Rawlings-Blake has an undergraduate degree from Oberlin College and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Maryland School of Law.

## Adler Gets Book Published

Charles Adler, professor of physics, has written his own version of “Myth Busters.” In February, Princeton University Press will release Adler’s new book, “Wizards, Aliens, and Starships: Physics and Math in Fantasy and Science Fiction.”

Adler says the book is about the scientific criticism of the genre. “I wrote the book to my 15-year old self, a voracious science fiction reader. I always wanted to know more about the science in any book I was reading.” Two of his favorite chapters are “Why Hogwarts is So Dark,” concerning the problems of lighting a huge castle using only candles; and “Why Computers Get Better and Cars Can’t (Much).”



## Witman and Garrett to Study Abroad

Jenna Witman ’16 and Allegra Garrett ’15 have been awarded the Gilman Scholarship for study abroad to The Gambia for the spring semester. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, the scholarship financially supports students studying outside the United States. Witman and Garrett are two of nearly 700 undergraduate students from 341 institutions of higher learning who were selected to receive the Gilman Scholarship for the spring.

## Cara Simpson '13 won the Best Undergraduate Oral Presentation Award for her St. Mary's Project (SMP), "Modeling blue crab growth in the Chesapeake Bay."



Left to right: Molly Malarkey, Justin Rattey, Coach Michael Taber (holding the Bowl), Michael Abrams, Cameron di Leo. Missing from photo is Nikki Drake.

## Ethics Bowl Team Places Second at Regional Competition

A strong performance by the Ethics Bowl Team at the 2013 Mid-Atlantic Regional Ethics Bowl at Clemson University puts the team in the National Ethics Bowl to be held in late February in Jacksonville, Florida. The team beat Georgia Regents University, Georgetown, Clemson, and University of Maryland, Baltimore County and narrowly lost to Duke University in the finals. The team is comprised of **Michael Abrams '16**, **Nikki Drake '14**, **Cameron di Leo '16**, **Molly Malarkey '15**, and **Justin Rattey '15**, and is coached by **Michael Taber**, assistant professor of philosophy.

## Slocum Earns Prestigious GRO Award



**Clint Slocum '15**, a biochemistry major from Essex, Md., has been awarded the 2013 Environmental

Protection Agency's Greater Research Opportunities (GRO) Undergraduate Student Fellowship. The \$50,000 award will be used over the next two years in support of his education at St. Mary's as well as in support of a summer internship with the EPA. Slocum hopes to investigate the role of plants in pollution remediation, doing lab and field work to apply chemical analytics to the biological world. He plans to pursue a doctorate in ecological sciences, botany, or silviculture.



## Students and Alumni Present Research at CERF Conference

Nineteen current students and alumni presented their research at the 22nd Biennial Conference of the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation (CERF) held in San Diego this past fall. Biology professors **Chris Tanner** and **Bob Paul** also presented their research, "Empowering undergraduate students through participation in coastal restoration." **Cara Simpson '13** won the Best Undergraduate Oral Presentation Award for her St. Mary's Project (SMP), "Modeling blue crab growth in the Chesapeake Bay."

**Mike Kuschner '11** won the Best Graduate Poster Award for his work at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. **Hannah Coe '13** presented her SMP, "Beyond spat: Faunal colonization of oyster reef restoration materials." **Elizabeth Lee '13** presented her SMP, "Comparison of substrates for St. Mary's River oyster reef restoration." **Julie Walker '13** presented her SMP, "Is seagrass the solution? The effect of eelgrass on Eastern oyster biomineralization." **Olivia Caretti '14** presented her SMP, "Settle down!: Crab larvae settlement preferences in shifting coastal ecosystems."



Left to right: Julie Walker '13, Hannah Coe '13, Liz Lee '13, J.J. Walker '14, and Kristin Hay '13.

COURTESY OF THE CALVERT MARINE MUSEUM



Visitors enjoy watching the playful river otters at the Calvert Marine Museum.

## College Faculty and Students Lead Renovation of CMM Exhibit

**Kenneth Cohen**, assistant professor of history and coordinator of the Museum Studies Program, is part of a team at the Calvert Marine Museum, located in Solomons, Md., that has been awarded a \$150,000 grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services to renovate that museum’s estuary biology exhibit. Cohen will lead the assessment and evaluation of the project and will help integrate human history into the exhibit’s storyline. Cohen and **Chris Tanner**, professor of biology, will co-teach a course at St. Mary’s with Calvert Marine Museum staff in the fall 2014. Students in this course will produce guides for the refurbished exhibit, which is scheduled to open to the public in the fall.

## A Top Choice for Veterans

St. Mary’s ranks fourth on U.S. News & World Report’s 2014 “Best Colleges for Veterans” list in the national liberal arts colleges category. The College is certified for the GI Bill and participates in the Yellow Ribbon Program – two federal initiatives that help veterans with the cost of education. The College is also a member of Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges Consortium, a group that works to simplify credit transfers and give credit to veterans for military training and national tests like the College-Level Examination Program.



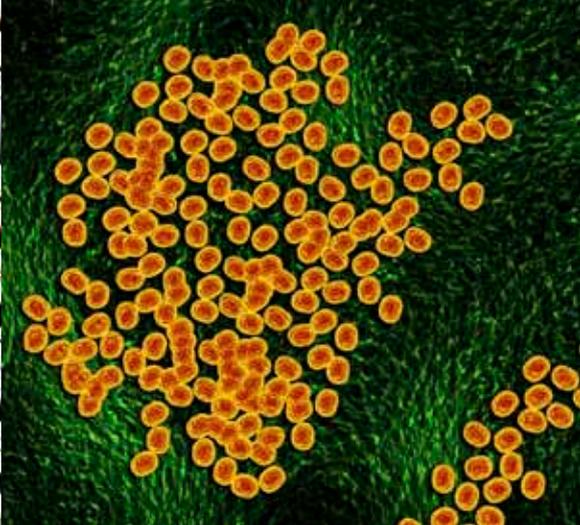
## STUDENT ATHLETES HELP COMMUNITY AT LARGE

The women’s field hockey team held its annual “Play for a Cause” game during Hawktoberfest at Family Weekend in October, raising nearly \$1,000 for the Southern Maryland Food Bank in Hughesville, Md. The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) continued the athletics effort with its annual food drive through November, collecting 558 pounds of food for St. Cecelia’s Parish in St. Mary’s City. The Seahawk women’s basketball team contributed by supporting “Play4Gray” in late November, a fundraising event to support King’s College (Pa.) women’s basketball head coach Brian Donoghue, who was diagnosed with brain cancer this past summer. Gray is the color used to signify brain cancer awareness. In December, the SAAC co-sponsored a toy drive to benefit the U.S. Marine Corps’ Toys for Tots Foundation.

Field hockey senior team captains (Rachel Heiss and Claire Kortyna #9).

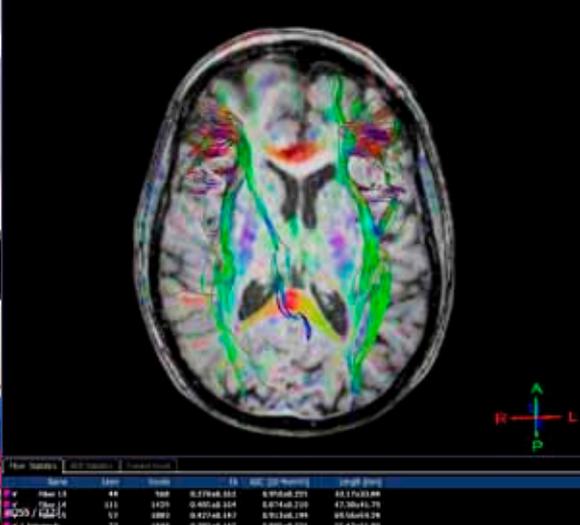


PHOTO: BILL WOOD



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**ACT**  
**NOW**



# THE ST. MARY'S PROJECT

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BY LEE CAPRISTO, EDITOR

HAVING BEEN NAMED MARYLAND'S HONORS COLLEGE IN 1992 BY STATE LEGISLATION, Provost Mel Endy began the change process during 1993-1994 that would introduce the "St. Mary's Project." In a summary document he wrote on the honors college curriculum, Endy said the St. Mary's Project was "the culmination of the whole of the student's education and not simply the capstone for the major," and was thought of as "emphasizing the practical value of a liberal arts education and preparing students for a variety of roles after college" with a supposition that the outcome would answer the question, "What field does not need practitioners who can set goals, develop and carry out a strategy for reaching them, and communicate persuasively the results?"

In 1995, Endy assigned a team of faculty (led by Wes Jordan, professor of psychology) to develop the honors college curriculum with the St. Mary's Project as the capstone experience. The team looked at Princeton, Reed, Wooster, and New College, each of which had a senior project.

In April 1996 the faculty approved the Honors College Curriculum, of which the St. Mary's Project was a part. An implementation plan for achieving 100% participation was embedded in the College's strategic plan for 1997-2003. The first SMPs were done by a handful of seniors in the Class

of 1998. But just a year later, the state of Maryland ordered the College to reduce the credit requirements in the general education curriculum from 59-60 credits to not more than 48 credits. This forced the SMP out of the GEC and made it a requirement of the major. In the fall of 2001, faculty voted to allow departments to decide whether SMPs would be required or optional for majors within the departments. When the GEC was replaced with a new Core Curriculum in 2006, the SMP remained untouched and unchanged. This year, 10 of 23 majors require an SMP.

# EXPLORE A PASSION



**NEIL IRWIN '00**  
*(political science)*

Senior Economic Correspondent for The New York Times; former columnist and economics editor for The Washington Post; Author, "The Alchemists: Three Central Bankers and a World on Fire" (2013, Penguin Books)

**SMP TOPIC:**

**Political economy of the international monetary fund action in Russia, 1991-1999**

**Explain the connection/thread from SMP to where you are now.**

I have always been deeply interested in economics but without the quantitative skills to be a professional economist. I'm much better at being a storyteller and a translator of concepts in economics and economic policy for a broad audience.... In my SMP, I was trying to explain the interplay of politics and economics in 1990s Russia through one multinational institution. In the last six years I have aimed to explain the interplay of politics and economics in the United States and Europe through a different set of institutions, in this case the central banks.

**When you were a student working on your SMP, you told your economics professor, Asif Dowla, that you wanted to be a journalist specializing in economics reporting and write books on current topics. Your book, "The Alchemists," is a New York Times best-**

**"BY THE TIME I REACHED MY SENIOR YEAR, I had pretty well determined the career path I wanted to pursue. I had no idea it would lead to covering a massive global financial crisis, or to the front row seat I had for it as the reporter covering the Federal Reserve for The Washington Post."** – Neil Irwin '00

**seller about the efforts of the world's central banks to combat the financial crisis and its aftermath. It was shortlisted for the Financial Times-Goldman Sachs Business Book of the Year Award. Have you lived your dream?**

Definitely. There were plenty of ways in which I was lucky, but I also had the benefit of a first-rate education from [Prof. Dowla] and other St. Mary's professors, which gave me the intellectual tools to take advantage of the opportunities when they arose.

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**BRENDAN MCCARTHY '12** *(history)*

PhD candidate at The Ohio State University, ancient history

**SMP TOPIC:**

**Ethnicity and the Administration of Roman Spain: From Scipio to Caesar**

**Explain the connection/thread from SMP to where you are now.**

I wouldn't be where I am now if I hadn't done that SMP. I was applying to graduate schools the semester I was finishing my SMP and used it as a writing sample for every application.... The SMP must have worked because I not only received a full stipend and tuition waiver from the history department at Ohio State, I also received a fellowship from the university. *(Brendan and classmate Frank McGough, were two of 21 applicants to the OSU program in 2012 and two of three admitted.)*

**What do you think it was about your SMP that caught the notice of the review board at OSU?**

I hesitate to say exactly what Ohio State saw in my SMP, but I suspect the mere fact that I had done it was pretty noticeable. My bibliography was five pages full of the best stuff out there on Roman imperialism (thanks to Prof. Hall). My conclusions weren't revolutionary, but the SMP showed that I was capable of the work they expected in grad school.

LINDA HALL, HISTORY PROFESSOR AND  
BRENDAN'S SMP ADVISER:

**What particularly interested you in working with Brendan on his SMP?**

*Brendan proposed a topic that was very different from the usual discussion of the Romanization of Spain. Instead of viewing this process as coming directly from Rome and being imposed on the Spanish, Brendan suggested that the actions of the Spanish, whether they were compliant or rebellious, affected the tone and force of the imposition of Roman power.*



# AFFECT OTHERS

## *Through Actions and Words*



**FRANK MCGOUGH '12**  
*(history)*

PhD candidate at The Ohio State University, ancient history

SMP TOPIC:  
**Byzantium and the West: Byzantine Imperial Ideology and the Ruin of Empire**

### What led you to your SMP topic?

I took just about every ancient and medieval history course that St. Mary's offered, and I supplemented this with courses through the Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies in Oxford, England during my junior year. I felt myself drawn to and fascinated by the Byzantine Empire, in particular the emperors Justinian (early 6th century) and Alexios Komnenos (11th-12th century). In looking at these two figures, I saw remarkable parallels that seemed not to have been addressed in current scholarship: both were viewed as highly successful during their reigns, both were deeply embroiled in conflicts that involved Western Europe, and Byzantium suffered catastrophic losses less than a century after each of their deaths.

LINDA HALL, HISTORY PROFESSOR AND FRANK'S SMP ADVISER:

### **How did Frank's SMP change over time and what did those changes suggest, in your view, about the maturing scholarship of the student?**

*In fact, his project did not change. He compared and contrasted the interactions of two Byzantine emperors Justinian and Alexis in the 6th and 11th centuries AD with the rulers of the West and how their misunderstandings of the West caused disaster for the East. I tried to get him to focus on just one of these emperors and he was adamant about keeping the dual focus. I argued with him at every SMP meeting and he stood firm. In the end, he won me over so the person who changed was I, not he. I decided that showed he could handle a doctoral program just fine!*



**ELIZABETH VAN FLEET '07** *(English)*

Manager of Publications and Communication, Americans for the Arts, Washington, D.C.

SMP TOPIC:  
**Readers Like You: Culture and the Magazine in combination with Spot, the Magazine**

### How did your SMP directly benefit you in your first job after college?

I graduated from St. Mary's on May 12, 2007. I started my entry-level communications and marketing job at Americans for the Arts on May 21... I very distinctly remember that in my interview, our chief operating officer, whom I now adore, asked me pointedly, "So, you don't actually have any experience doing this?" I meekly pointed to my work on Spot, the Magazine and Avatar (prose editor) and the Point News (music colum-



nist). They were my life lines, and I know without a doubt that without them I wouldn't have been able to be confident in that moment.

### **You have experience as a writer, editor, and publisher. Given this array of skills, how have your studies and skills from college and your SMP transferred to what you do now?**

St. Mary's as a whole, and my SMP especially, taught me how to work with people. You could never disappear at St. Mary's, and guess what? You can't do that at work, either. And that's what no one really tells you about getting a job – almost 90 percent of it is how you deal with people. Sure, you've got skills. Everyone does. But how you listen to people, how you talk to them, how you see things from their perspective, is essential.

**EMILIE HOFFMAN DELESTIENNE '04** *(biology)*

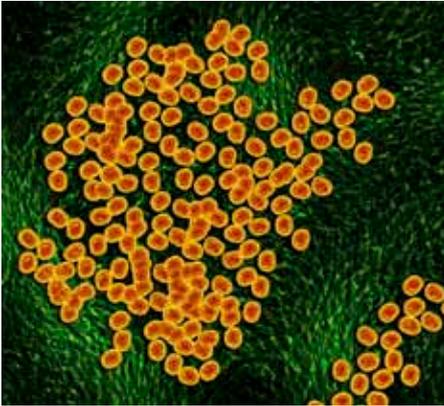
Public Health Policy Advocate, Birthing Doula, Pittsburgh, Pa.

SMP TOPIC:  
**Evolution of Variola major and the vaccinia vaccine: trends in vaccination and vaccine adverse event epidemiology**

### What led you to your SMP topic?

The seed for pursuing a public health-related St. Mary's Project was planted in Prof. Roberts's "Cultural Anthropology" class when an individual from the St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD) came to speak to our class. [Later,] Prof. Roberts facilitated a meeting between me and the SMCHD, during which I shared my background and interests and they shared their needs: bioterrorism preparedness, planning and education. More specifically, and as a result of President Bush calling for smallpox vaccination to protect against smallpox as a possible agent of bioterror, they needed to develop and subsequently educate first responders about the vaccine so that individuals could make an informed decision as to whether to get the vaccine. ... The SMCHD was willing to gamble on the help and skill of an undergraduate biology student and thus the topic of my SMP was born.

## Affect Others



**You have worked in public health at the National Institutes of Health and at West Penn Allegheny Health Systems, and now as a birthing doula. Did you always know public health would be your career?**

At the NIH, [my supervisor] challenged me to gain direct experience in my areas of interest in order to help me determine what my next step would be. As a result, I realized that public health was my passion.... Following the NIH, I worked at a federal relations consulting firm in Washington, D.C. where... my job was to [translate] the work of clients and the requests of clients to be understandable and relevant, to make members of Congress care, fund or legislate related to a given issue.... I pursued my master's of public health... and then I worked in policy and advocacy for a five-hospital health system in western Pennsylvania.

The birth of my son in May 2012 was the catalyst for my becoming a birth doula. Long interested in women's health and eager to return to



**“I FOUND MYSELF REALLY INTRIGUED BY THE question of how to help students who had ‘uneasy’ relationships with language, in general, learn another language. It seemed like a plausible topic to explore in my SMP the following year.”** – *Katy Arnett '00*

direct health education, as a birth doula I... support women and their partners as they prepare for birth, give birth and transform into parents.

JEFFREY BYRD, PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY AND EMILIE'S SMP ADVISER:

*Emilie's SMP was "over the top" in ambition and success. She produced an expansive literature review on the history of both smallpox and the vaccine.... In addition, she analyzed data on the complications that arose during previous inoculation events and compared them against data that was being generated at the time of her SMP. At 141 pages and over 120 citations it is a piece of work that she can be very proud to have produced.*



### **KATY ARNETT '00**

*(International Languages & Cultures)*

Associate Professor of Education, St. Mary's College of Maryland

"Language for All: How to Support and Challenge Students in a Second Language Classroom" (Pearson Education Canada, 2013)

SMP TOPIC:

**Learning Disabilities and Foreign Language**

#### **What led you to your SMP topic?**

By the end of my first year at SMCM, I knew that I wanted to be a French teacher. I'd started my education coursework and was progressing in the French major. I [also] started working as a tutor for other students in French. The first student I tutored was a senior who needed to pass French 102 to graduate. It was his third time through the course, and by his account, the reason the course was such a struggle for

him was because he had dyslexia. It wasn't an option for me to think that his dyslexia could "prevent" him from graduating; I had to figure out a way to make French accessible to him enough to get through 102. I'd try all sorts of things to make French make sense to him. A lot of it was trial and error, since there weren't a lot of resources and research out there about how to help students with such learning needs navigate another language.

I found myself really intrigued by the question of how to help students who had 'uneasy' relationships with language, in general, learn another language. As it was my junior year, it seemed like a plausible topic to explore in my SMP the following year. I figured this project would help me be a better teacher.

#### **Was your current career route always the plan?**

Nope. I pursued my M.A. and Ph.D. with the intention of remaining a high school French teacher. My initial contract at SMCM was for a three-year visiting position, and I intended to return to the high school classroom after that time.

# JUMPSTART AN INNOVATIVE CAREER



A variety of influences shaped my decision to remain in teacher education; one of them definitely was my ability to continue to research/explore/learn about this topic. I know that staying on this path was what enabled me to write my book.

**You are now in a role where you advise SMPs. How does that role reversal make you feel?**

In a nutshell, humbled and inspired.... I'm not shy in telling my students to never underestimate what the SMP can do for them in their careers, and I point to the black binders and index card boxes in my office that represent my project as a reminder of its power.

JACKIE PASKOW, FRENCH PROFESSOR (EMERITA) AND KATY'S SMP ADVISER:

*The American with Disabilities Act and Katy's accommodations for students with disabilities or simply with difficulties became the impetus and core of her SMP. For her SMP, which later turned into a PhD project, she of course heavily supplemented her practical approaches with extensive research on pedagogical theory and studies pertaining to this new field of teaching.*

*Katy is a born teacher.... She combines extraordinary compassion, devotion and enthusiasm in her interaction with students, such that, in the final analysis, I would say that her belief in what her students can achieve contributes as much to their learning as do her carefully thought out approaches and "accommodations."*

**BEN WYSKIDA '99**

*(self-designed in media and performance)*

Senior Vice President, BerlinRosen Public Affairs, NYC (a PR firm for political causes and public interest organizations which recently led Bill de Blasio's winning campaign for NYC mayor)

**SMP TOPIC:**

**Directing for change: Foregrounding environmentalism in postmodern performance**

**What led you to your SMP topic?**

Growing up I was obsessed with politics, especially the stagecraft of it: how rallies, protests, speeches and political conventions were all a performance.

I decided for my SMP I would look into how the dramatic arts were "handling" environmental issues. Especially with the new millennium approaching (it was 1999) I felt like I was coming across a lot of literature that dealt with the end of the world, and that there was a lot of new dramatic writing about the environment.

So for my SMP I had the chance to do something very exciting, which was write an academic paper about these issues, but then also direct one of the plays I was writing about ("Marisol"), on the main stage as part of the Department of Dramatic Arts (now TFMS) season.

**Explain the connection from SMP to where you are now.**

At the heart of my SMP was a curiosity about how culture can impact the political debate. All of my work has come back to that question: how can we use culture and media to make change? Besides the de Blasio campaign, two clients of mine right now are the Elton John AIDS Foundation and the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation; both are using culture of different kinds to affect change.



**Was your career route always the plan?**

I think I've always planned to work in politics. But the exact path has been surprising. For instance, the organization I'm with right now is, technically, a PR firm. If you'd asked me 15 years ago if I would want to do that, I would have imagined something terrible – or maybe a scene from "Mad Men." But being in the social change field, and working at the border of politics and media, has always been the plan.

**Why did you choose Joanne Klein as your SMP adviser?**

She is one of those amazing professors (St. Mary's has so many) who are in it with you if you're willing to work hard – making suggestions and making connections. She reads up on her students' own research like it was her own. Joanne was tough – she sent me some brutal edits on my thesis paper. But she is a real ally, someone who is incredibly invested in her students' work.

JOANNE KLEIN, PROFESSOR OF THEATER AND BEN'S SMP ADVISER:

**What was it that interested you in working with Ben on his SMP?**

*For me, the project provided a welcome opportunity to indulge in performance scholarship that theorized practices of place and space. This research was on the cutting edge of performance scholarship at the time, and I had no doubt that Ben would succeed in advancing it, both in writing and on stage as a two-phase SMP. The success of his study – a portion of which he presented at a national conference of PhD scholars – and his theatrical production of "Marisol" – which was fully mounted as part of our main-stage season – was characteristically outstanding.*

## Jumpstart an Innovative Career

### GEOFF COOPER '12

*(public policy and sociology)*

Energy and Transportation Policy Analyst, Institute of the North (Alaska) and now Director of Logistics/Personal Aide to Mead Treadwell on his run for US Senate

#### SMP TOPIC:

**Liquefied natural gas: siting recommendations for U.S. import/export terminals**

#### What led you to your SMP topic?

During my junior year studying abroad in Australia, I got the chance to work on a research project that [looked] at the impact development was having on turtle habitats. I choose to look at the policies and regulations that were in place for the development of a liquefied natural gas (LNG)



terminal being built on a Class A Nature Reserve and one of the largest turtle hatcheries in the world. What I found was that not only did the development not destroy the hatchery, but it also provided massive amounts of scientific research as well as more affordable and cleaner energy to people around the world.

Upon returning to St. Mary's, I knew that I wanted my SMP to... look at the siting policies on domestic LNG import/export facilities.

#### How did the Lt. Governor of Alaska come to read your SMP?

While I was finishing up my SMP, I was also trying to do as many informational interviews as possible to get career advice and suggestions on what I might want to do after graduation. One of the people that I interviewed with suggested that if I was interested in critical infrastructure

“I GOT TO KNOW MEAD REALLY WELL AND HE introduced me to the beauty, potential, and importance of Alaska. This is why when he announced that he was running for the US Senate, I knew that I wanted to be a part of it.” – Geoff Cooper '12

development that I look at something in Alaska. He agreed to send my SMP and resume to the Lt. Governor of Alaska, Mead Treadwell.

Mead [later] suggested that I come to Alaska, and he introduced me to the managing director of a think tank, called the Institute of the North, that focuses on Arctic policy including energy and transportation. I was able to spend that summer interning at the Institute and was then offered a job.

Over the next year I got to know Mead really well and he introduced me to the beauty, potential, and importance of Alaska. This is why when he announced that he was running for the U.S. Senate, I knew that I wanted to be a part of it. So now I am working as his director of logistics/personal aide.

#### Was working in Alaska on public policy matters related to LNG always your aim?

Never in my wildest dreams would I have imagined that I would be working in Alaska. But when the opportunity to spend a summer in Alaska continuing to work on similar issues as my SMP, I couldn't say no. I had some hesitations, but after some helpful nudging from some professors and faculty, I jumped on the opportunity.... If it had not been for that project in Australia and my SMP, I would have not figured out what I was so interested in.

TODD EBERLY, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND GEOFF'S SMP ADVISER:

#### What was your interest in working with Geoff on his SMP?

*I really liked his topic. As a professor who teaches energy and environmental policy, I realize how crucial natural gas is to our future. Many folks just get caught up in the*

*politics of natural gas or hydraulic fracturing and refuse to see the role that natural gas will serve as we transition away from dirtier and more carbon heavy energy sources like coal.*

*What I liked was that Geoff never had an agenda. Rather he was curious about the topic and wanted to learn more. He never shied away from politically sensitive topics.*

#### Did you expect Geoff's SMP to lead to the career he's in now?

*I remember telling him that it was great SMP and that he should use it as a writing sample, but that it would directly lead him down the incredible career path that he's on? Well that's something that, as a mentor, you always wish for.*

### JOHN GREELY '07 *(biology)*

Safety and Emergency Preparedness Team, MedStar St. Mary's Hospital, Leonardtown, Md. and now Director of Decision Support/Operations Improvement/Materials Management



PHOTO: NIKKI STRICKLAND, MEDSTAR ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL



SMP TOPIC:

**Pandemic influenza preparedness in hospitals**

**What led you to decide on your SMP topic?**

An internship with St. Mary's Hospital and an interest in virology led me to my SMP topic. During my junior and senior years at SMCM I interned at St. Mary's Hospital, specifically to help enhance their emergency preparedness program which included pandemic preparedness. The global interest in "bird flu" had increased and the onus was placed on hospitals to prepare accordingly in the event there was a pandemic situation.

**How did your SMP directly benefit you in your first job out of college?**

The SMP provided me an avenue to research the healthcare industry. Most of the research centered on healthcare emergency preparedness but this gave me a perspective on the industry as a whole. Prof. Byrd was instrumental in helping me focus and develop the topic into a project. Research as a skill is absolutely vital in most/all career paths. The time at SMCM definitely helped me move quickly into my current field.

JEFF BYRD, PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY AND JOHN'S SMP ADVISER:

**How did your role as SMP adviser play out in John's case?**

*When John's internship [at St. Mary's Hospital] became a reality we quickly began to design a project that would work in both settings. . . . Since John was working with the hospital to design their flu preparedness plan we had to work hard to broaden the nature of the project beyond just the hospital's plan. This is how the analysis of preparedness plans of the four regional hospitals was developed. . . . By analyzing the issues that other hospitals had putting together their plans, I believe helped John realize that he liked to use his critical thinking skills on a daily basis to solve emergency management-related issues.*

**ANGY KALLARACKAL '06**

*(psychology and Nitze Scholar)*

PhD in neuroscience from University of Md., Baltimore and now postdoctoral research fellow, University of Utah

SMP TOPIC:

**Effect of apamin, a small conductance calcium activated potassium (SK) channel blocker, on a mouse model of neurofibromatosis 1**

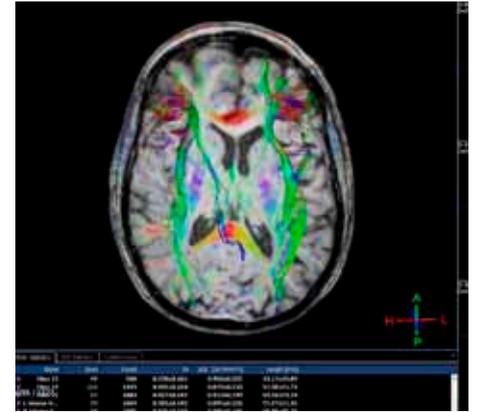


**What led you to decide on your SMP topic?**

I came to St. Mary's with a vague interest in neuroscience that really developed in my first few years there. I was also fortunate to get accepted to the Neuroscience Research Experience for Undergraduates, an internship that created a partnership between St. Mary's students and the University of Maryland, Baltimore. I found a lab at UMB that was studying memory deficits in the disease neurofibromatosis. Prof. Bailey and I decided that the biochemical studies I could do in the UMB lab would nicely complement the behavioral memory research her lab was set up to do. At this point I had really grown fascinated with the idea of how seemingly small molecular changes could lead to large scale changes in behaviors like learning and memory.

**Explain how one thing led to the next, from your SMP to where you are now.**

The work I did for my SMP focused on understanding how a change in one protein can change how neurons communicate with each other and ultimately affect cognition. . . . While I



was in grad school [I attended a lecture by a neuroscientist whose] lab was able to identify novel genes involved in mammalian cognition by studying the model organism *C. elegans* (a type of worm). I was so fascinated in fact, that after defending my thesis at UMB a couple years later, I moved on to a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Utah, where I now study cognition using *C. elegans*. It's kind of crazy to think that I went from being a psychology major to neurophysiologist and worm geneticist, but somehow it forms a clear path in my head.

**You and Prof. Bailey worked together and got your SMP published in 2013 in the journal of Behavioral Brain Research. What was it like to work on that (with your SMP adviser) seven years after graduation?**

Most of the work had been done by the time I finished my SMP, but with the craziness of graduate school and Prof. Bailey's packed schedule it was hard to find time to reformat my SMP so that we could submit it to a journal. . . . I'm really glad that we could share our interesting findings with the rest of the world.

AILEEN BAILEY, PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY AND ANGY'S SMP ADVISER:

**Did you expect Angy's SMP to lead to the career she's in now?**

*Yes! Angy was already interested in science and neuroscience in particular. I think that her research experiences at SMCM including her SMP only strengthened that desire to pursue additional degrees so that she could continue to work on scientific questions once she left SMCM. I was lucky enough to continue to collaborate with Angy once she left SMCM. ❖*



# PLAYING HIS CARDS

## The Legacy of Paul Reed Smith and the Guitars that Built Him

BY TED PUGH '14, ENGLISH MAJOR  
PUBLICATIONS AND MEDIA RELATIONS FELLOW

**I**N MY SECOND SEMESTER AT ST. MARY'S College of Maryland in the spring of 2011, the art of music finally became clear to me. I can remember my private instructor telling me that to be a guitarist, you had to lock yourself in a room and practice. You had to master one musician's bulk of work and move on to the next if you wanted to know the licks that would some day make you a great player. Each time you did that, he said, you were learning a language.

What wasn't so clear was how much the physical composition of a guitar is part of that equation. That semester, I brought with me one of my most prized possessions – my Paul Reed Smith (PRS) Custom 24 electric guitar. Looking back on each note I've played on its strings, it's humbling to know how superior craftsmanship can impact one's sound.

And that's the truth. There's nothing like a

great guitar, and that's exactly what you'll get with a Maryland-made PRS, the brand considered among the best in the industry. Paul Reed Smith, founder and managing general partner of Paul Reed Smith Guitars now located in Stevensville, Md., won't tell you his secrets when it comes to quality instrument-making. But he's sure to raise the bar – every time.

When I asked him what he searches for in a guitar, the answer came effortlessly; "That you put an amount of energy into it by plucking it and almost all of it comes back." Smith is in search of nothing short of unparalleled precision. A guitar with the right components, he says, should turn a musician's skill into a "big, powerful, beautiful, subtle, yet loud musical instrument that's making this beautiful musical sound."

By now you may already know his story. While a math major at St. Mary's College in

1975, Smith built his first guitar during the second semester of his freshman year in the basement of Calvert Hall. A challenge to his music professor in exchange for independent study credit, the project tasked Smith with taking a pile of wood he purchased off a violinmaker and turning it into a playable instrument. He did it, and the experience in which he modeled his creation after the famed mahogany-bodied, single-cutaway, single-pickup guitar earned Smith an "A," four credits and a new sense of direction.

After selling a guitar he built that summer, Thanksgiving break was spent building a neck for one of Aerosmith guitarist Joe Perry's electrics. It was an achievement that helped Smith to make up his mind about where he was headed. After only 18 months of school, 'the rock guy,' as he was known on campus, who organized jam sessions in Dorchester Hall,

## By 1981, Smith had already been commissioned to build for Ted Nugent, Peter Frampton, Carlos Santana, Al DiMeola, Neal Schon of Journey, Howard Leese of Heart, and others.

and was the first to perform at The Green Door, dropped out to pursue his dream.

“It started in the basement of the Art Department, and the school gave me a shot and I appreciated it,” Smith said.

Today, Smith’s company is thriving. Last year it brought in \$43.5 million in revenue and its 230 employees produce for some of today’s top musicians from within a newly expanded 90,000 square-foot facility on Kent Island. PRS artists include Dave Navarro, Derek Trucks, Orianthi, Carlos Santana, John Mayer, Mark Tremonti and Dave Weiner of the Steve Vai Band.

While Smith’s products remain the epitome of perfection, his journey was far from it. Picture moving out of your parents’ house and into an attic on 33 West Street in Annapolis to live in and start your business. After St. Mary’s, that’s what Smith did, repairing instruments for local musicians and noted players like Danny Gatton to pay the bills.

But he didn’t give up. Hand-making custom guitars on the side, the young luthier managed to assemble an impressive clientele. He’d often secure orders by persuading the roadies at D.C.-area concert venues to let him show off his products to the guitar legends backstage. The deal he always gave the players was if they weren’t satisfied, they’d get their money back, even if that meant he couldn’t pay rent. By 1981, Smith had already been commissioned to build for Ted Nugent, Peter Frampton, Carlos Santana, Al DiMeola, Neal Schon of Journey, Howard Leese of Heart, and others.

In response to many quality issues that arose in the mid-1970s at premier manufacturers like Fender and Gibson, Smith paid attention to the details in the so-called ‘golden era’ guitars of the 1950s and 60s, the older Stratocaster and Les Paul models that found their way onto his workbench. When it came to his guitars, Smith was all about tradition. “I wasn’t trying to make them different. I was trying to absorb as much from the vintage guitars as I could. There’s a long list of things, and really good vintage guitars miss almost none,” he said.

There was a lot to study: from the size, shape and thickness of the headstock to the shape and weight of the neck and body; from the varieties in finish and the ways pick-ups



*Meghan Efland '03, Paul Reed Smith, and Ted Pugh '14 pose in the PRS wood library. Below, Paul shows off two of his early guitars. Opposite: guitars in staining (top), and in assembly (bottom) at the Stevensville factory.*

were wired to the types of wood that offered both beauty and resonance – things that comprise what Smith calls the ‘blood of the guitar.’ As art forms like this made it into his designs, the goal was to make a guitar that not only sounded great, but that also looked and felt great when played.

“It’s a language,” Smith said. “Nobody cheers until all the parts are playing beautifully together.”

But even Smith needed help. He attributes much of his early success to the people who taught him the tricks of his trade and how to improve upon them. From the beginning, he reached out to mentors that ranged from violinmakers, carpenters, engineers, machinists and inventors like Ted McCarty, who starting in 1986 consulted Smith on the building techniques he implemented as president of Gibson from 1950 to 1966.

Though he never finished his degree, perhaps Smith’s path attests to the practicality of a St. Mary’s education. If I’ve learned anything



PHOTO COURTESY PRS

from him, it’s that there is value in taking the time to explore and in taking risks. In the liberal arts, the gains lie in the experience even if it’s just one class. As in music, practice and you’ll build yourself up piece by piece, note by note. At a 2012 talk he gave to a crowd at Washington College in Chestertown, Smith spoke about playing the cards you’re dealt in life. “You have to take advantage of the good [cards] and fix the bad ones,” he said. “My favorite card [is] the courage card – when you’re scared and you do it anyway.”

PRS Guitars, which has diversified its product line to include amplifiers and high-end acoustic guitars, is now the third largest electric



guitar manufacturer in the U.S. To compete, Smith surrounds himself with a dedicated team of professionals that puts its individual talents to work to surpass industry standards in excellence. Meghan Efland '03, purchasing manager for PRS Guitars, is a valued member of that team and can tell you just what it takes to bring the best possible instrument from the factory floor to you.

Efland doesn't play the guitar but has learned the minutia of how one is made. Her dad was already working on the line building guitar necks when she started at PRS in 2004, taking a job as loss control coordinator. While there, she got to know every piece and part of the guitar and the challenges the crew on the factory floor faced. As her knowledge grew, her roles did, too. In 2007, she became purchaser for maintenance, repairs, and operations. By 2009, she was the material sourcing manager. Through it all, she has developed an appreciation for the innovations PRS has contributed to an industry that is less than a century old.

"You're part of that history. You're part of that progress, and that's amazing," Efland said.



In her current buying role, Efland and her team manage all purchases and inventory at PRS with the exception of wood. Serving as a liaison between suppliers and the company, Efland is behind all the hardware that comes with a PRS. She ensures that things like mother-of-pearl inlay, strings, bridges, tuners, cases,

electronics, fret wire and pick-ups are all designed to PRS's exacting specifications. In her job, she reverse engineers how vintage guitars were made, a skill set that traces back to her summers dating and cataloguing artifacts in the field school at Historic St. Mary's City. As many of those makers lack the records of how

*Ted Pugh recreates the vibe, playing his PRS Custom 24 in the basement of Calvert Hall, the same place where Paul Reed Smith built his first guitar in 1975.*

things were made, and as materials and equipment have changed over time, Efland considers the input of every department at the Eastern Shore plant to test and develop new products.

“We are constantly working to improve our products, and a lot of times that starts with trying to figure out how it was done before, learning from the past and using technology to improve it,” Efland said.

One of these incremental changes that PRS has implemented to enhance the functionality of the electric guitar is a jeweler’s grade finish on the plating of its hardware. Thick like chrome, this decorative plating protects from corrosion the metals in parts like bridges and tuners, allowing the instrument to stay in tune longer and improving its tone.

And as Efland will tell you, the skilled craftsmen on the production team are an integral part of maintaining this level of quality. A gorgeous instrument with tone, playability, intonation and ability to stay in tune is also possible through PRS because of the care put into each one by technicians. With QC checkpoints at every stage of production, each guitar on the factory floor is checked meticulously for touch-ups. If problems arise at any point, the guitar does not move forward. If a guitar is defective, it is cut up and discarded. Walking along the line you’ll see guitars that are constantly being handed off from person to person because the opinions of the crew are valued from the moment dried lumber is cut, to the moment a guitar is cased and shipped.

“It’s a good group of people,” Efland said. “They really care about the product.”

Speaking as a guitar player, it is this mastery and attention to detail that produces a memorable end product. When the guitar I custom-ordered from PRS came out of the case for the first time in 2010, I was speechless. Staying in tune and having a well-intonated instrument were rarities in the guitars I grew up playing. But the Custom 24 in its ‘Blue Matteo’ finish over a flamed curly maple top proved to be the exception. It was the culmination of Smith’s years spent testing every part of the electric guitar. With a fully machined tremolo bridge, string saddles that don’t move and PRS’s spe-



## **A guitar, if everything’s right, is a mutual expression of thanks between talented individuals and the cards they play.**

cially designed locking tuners, every note holds to pitch. The pick-ups give me a spectrum of sound, capturing Telecaster, Stratocaster and Les Paul tones in one instrument and the mahogany neck and body are sleek and contoured for playing.

To this day, my Custom 24 holds up and is a powerhouse of versatility. It is meant to fit into any performance setting. It’s something I played in both the St. Mary’s Jazz Band and Combo in the fall of 2010, and it is something that enables me to be a more effective teacher to my guitar students. I take it everywhere.

As Smith says, “A guitar is a tool to do a job, and if somebody’s going to be interested in your tool over somebody else’s tool, it’s because it’s doing a better job.”

At the end of the day, Smith, at 57, is content with the trip he’s been on. He says he wouldn’t have changed a thing. “There’s nothing easy

about business, and I’ve been graced with the people that knew how to fix the things I didn’t know how to fix.”

In a way, I don’t think Paul Reed Smith ever really left St. Mary’s. The energy he’s put into his vision has made an impact on musicians everywhere, and even came back to the place where it all began. A guitar is more than a tool with which to make music. It’s something passed down that connects people, bringing them closer together – because a guitar, if everything’s right, is a mutual expression of thanks between talented individuals and the cards they play – between builders, buyers and musicians alike. It’s a language that comes back in the form of meaningful relationships that are built to last. ❖

*Hear the sounds of a PRS Custom 24 at [www.smc.edu/mulberrytree](http://www.smc.edu/mulberrytree).*

# ALUMNI CONNECTION

## CLASS NOTES

### 1970s

**Dave Morehead '72** and wife Carolann have moved to Raleigh, N.C. and report they love living there. They want to say “hey” to all their friends at St. Mary’s College.

**Patrick O’Neill '73** spent most of his career as a restoration carpenter on Long Island, N.Y. before retiring to Harbeson, Del. with wife Johanna. Pat was a member of St. Mary’s College’s first lacrosse team, and one of only three players who knew how to play. He and the late **Bill Chapman '72** helped **Jim Wible '75** start the short-lived *St. Toad’s Journal*, which Jim says was envisioned to be like the *Harvard Lampoon* magazine. Pat, a photographer for the *Point News*, took photos and Bill helped with the writing. As Pat remembers, they got faculty secretaries to mimeograph 100 copies of the magazine which they passed out by hand on campus. After graduation, Jim started a science fiction and fantasy magazine again short-lived and again named *St. Toad’s Journal*, this time with **Wolf Forrest '72**.

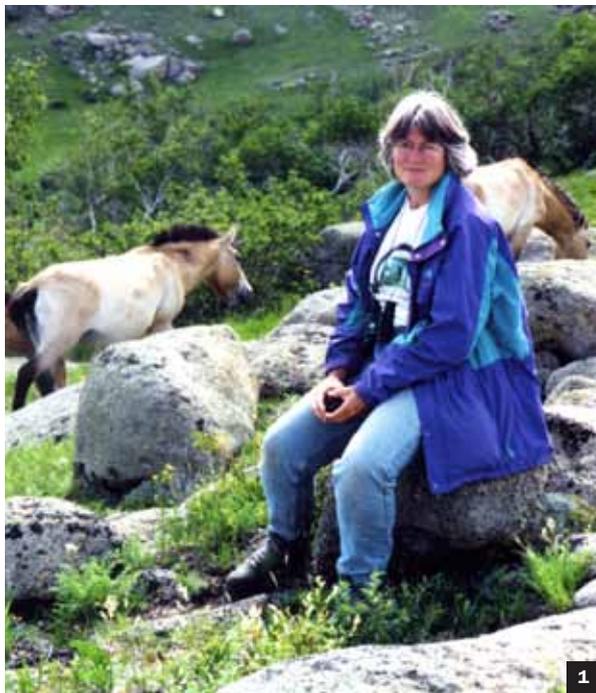
**Lee Boyd '77 [1]** has been a biology professor at Washburn University in Topeka, Kan. since 1982. After earning her master’s of science degree from the University of Wyoming, she moved to Topeka to study the behavior of Przewalski’s horses at a local zoo, finishing her doctorate from Cornell University in 1988. These horses, considered to be the last wild horse species and

the closest surviving relative of domestic horses, had been extinct in the wild since 1967. After they were reintroduced in Mongolia in 1992, Lee visited the country a number of times to study the horses’ behavior in the wild so she could compare the behavior with those she had studied in captivity. She says the Mongolian landscape reminds her of Wyoming while the people are as friendly as her fellow Kansans. Lee lives in Lawrence, Kan. and serves as the Przewalski’s Horse Coordinator for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

**Lenett Partlow-Myrick '78** is an adjunct faculty member in the English and World Languages Division at Howard Community College in Columbia, Md. and a guest instructor for Goucher College’s Educational Opportunity Program Summer Bridge Program. She also is a

visual artist, poet and writer whose work has gained national attention. Lenett and her family live in Baltimore, Md.

**James O’Donnell '79** is the dean of the School of Arts and Letters and professor of music at Truman State University in Kirksville, Mo. Before joining Truman, he worked as a faculty member, department chair, honors program director, and dean at institutions in Tennessee, Indiana, and Nebraska. James is an institutional peer reviewer for the Higher Learning Commission and has served for the National College Honors Council as a standing committee member and workshop facilitator for new honors programs directors and the Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences as a session leader. James, wife **Emma Cash O’Donnell '79**, and sons, Kyle, age 16 and Shane, age 13, live in Kirksville, Mo.



*Boyd in Mongolia with Przewalski’s horses.*

PHOTO: IAN TAYLOR

1

### 1980s

**Keith Brace '80** and wife, **Denise Brace '82** live in Baltimore, Md. and have two young adult children still pursuing their academics. Keith is a pharmacist and photographer while Denise is an author, illustrator and teacher. Her first juvenile fiction “‘Tis Himself: The Tale of Finn MacCool,” was published in October 2013 under her pen name Maggie D. Brace. Denise is still an avid athlete, participating in basketball, soccer, and lacrosse leagues.

**Jennifer Yeo Dotson '86** had her debut poetry collection, “Clever Gretel,” published in April 2013 by Chicago Poetry Press and chosen by *The Journal of Modern Poetry* for its first book award. She moved to Chicago, Ill. after receiving her MFA in drama from the University of Virginia and has been writing since. In 2009, *Poets & Patrons* awarded her poem “Theater” first place in its free verse category. Jennifer, husband David and children Sam, age 16 and Miranda, age 15 live in Highland Park, Ill. where her day job since July 2007 has been as the executive assistant to Highland Park’s deputy city manager. Jennifer is the founder and program coordinator for [www.HighlandParkPoetry.org](http://www.HighlandParkPoetry.org) and teaches creative writing and memoir classes in a local continuing education program.

**Peg Fowler '89** works at Dulles Airport in Virginia supervising a customer service program and providing tours of the airport for school groups. Back in school for the third time, she’s working on a master’s degree in higher education leadership to add to her undergraduate degrees in biology and second-

ary science education. Peg lives in Sterling, Va.

### 1990s

**Susanne Morton Blankenbaker '92 [2]** is a family nurse practitioner serving in the U.S. Navy. Recently promoted to the rank of commander, she is stationed at the U.S. Naval Hospital Rota, Spain. This is her third overseas assignment as she was stationed for three years in Sicily, Italy and deployed to Kuwait for one year. Susanne, husband Justin, and sons, Grant and Garrett are enjoying Rota, Spain.



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3

**Andrew Kipe '94 [3]** is the new executive director of the Louisville Orchestra. Since graduating from St. Mary’s College, he has been orchestra manager for the Annapolis Symphony Orchestra; general manager of the Portland Symphony Orchestra in Maine; executive director of the Maryland Symphony Orchestra and general director of the Phoenix Symphony where

he was able to eliminate the orchestra's \$2.5 million deficit, end fiscal year 2013 with a budget surplus, rebrand the orchestra and revitalize relationships with the musicians. His newest job brings similar challenges as the Louisville Orchestra has faced budget deficits, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in 2010, cancelled the 2010-11 concert season, and lost, through resignation, 30 percent of its musicians. When interviewed about the challenges he'll face in his new job, Andrew said, "As an executive, I think one of the best things you can do is to create environments where people can do their best work—whether they be board members, staff or musicians. That's what I do."

**Mary Behre '95** has scored a two-book deal with Berkley Sensation/Penguin Group. Her debut paranormal romance, "Spirited," will be published in April as the first book in the Tidewater Series. A lover of ghost stories, she says writing a paranormal romance book complete with a psychic love-connection was a natural fit for her. Mary lives in King George, Va. with husband Christopher and sons, Nick and A.J.

**Lindsey Plaut Cosimano '95** has retired from a successful real estate career to write young adult fiction under the pen name Elle Cosimano. Her debut book, "Nearly Gone," will be published this spring by Penguin Random House Books for Young Readers and is already getting rave reviews as a "Bones" meets "Fringe" thriller. The sequel, "Nearly Lost," should be published in 2015. Lindsey lives with husband, **Tony Cosimano '94**, and their two sons, Connor and Nicholas, in Northern Virginia.

**Tim Healy '95** and his crew from Newport, R.I., won the 2013 BMWJ24 World Championship last summer in Ireland. Sailing onboard Helly Hansen, they had three race wins and five top-five finishes in the 10-race series. This championship win is Tim's second as he previously won in 2010. Tim lives in Jamestown, R.I.

**Laura Resau '96** spent her first two years after St. Mary's working at a small university in Hualuapan, in the Mixtec mountains of Oaxaca, Mexico. During her two years there, she wrote down the stories she heard and learned about the culture. She used that material when she wrote her first novel for children, "What the Moon Saw," while earning a master's degree in cultural anthropology at the University of Arizona. The book was published by Delacorte/Random House after five years of revisions. She's gone on to write "Red Glass," "Star in the Forest," "The Indigo Notebook," "The Ruby Notebook," "Queen of Water," and her latest, "The Jade Notebook." Laura lives in Fort Collins, Colo. with her husband and son.

**Andrew Kitchenman '98** is a healthcare writer for *NJ Spotlight*, an online news service focused on issues impacting N.J. residents and businesses. A graduate of Columbia University's School of Journalism, he has covered healthcare, business, local government and education issues for more than 10 years. Prior to joining NJ Spotlight, he worked for New Jersey's weekly business journal, NJBIZ, and The Times of Trenton newspaper. Andrew lives in Philadelphia, Pa.

## 2000s

**Neil Irwin '00** is a columnist for the Washington Post and economics editor of Wonkblog, ([www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog)) the newspaper's site for policy news and analysis. He started his career at the Post as a summer intern after graduating from St. Mary's. From 2007-2012, he covered economics and the Federal Reserve. His book "The Alchemists: Three Central Bankers and a World on Fire," published in April 2013 by the Penguin Press, focuses on Ben Bernanke (Federal Reserve), Mervyn King (Bank of England) and Jean-Claude Trichet (European Central Bank) and how they have responded to financial crises in the U.S. and Europe. Neil served as a College trustee from 2007-2013 and delivered the College's 2013 Benjamin Bradlee Distinguished Lecture in Journalism in November. He lives in Washington, D.C.

**Matthew Fishel '01** was one of seven emerging artists awarded a solo show through Arlington Arts Center's Fall 2013 Solos program. His proposal was one of 200 applications selected by a jury of Molly Donovan, associate curator of modern and contemporary art at the National Gallery of Art, and artist Dan Steinhilber. The project, entitled "Relaunch," reimagines Arlington Arts Center's historic Tiffany Co. stained glass as a triptych of animations, converting the Center's gallery space to a triple-screened movie theater. Since graduating from St. Mary's, Matthew earned his master of fine arts degree from the Maryland Institute College of Art in 2010. He has exhibited nationally, including solo shows in 2011 and 2013 and also taught a section of Intro to Drawing at

St. Mary's in 2012. He currently lives and works in the Remington neighborhood of Baltimore, Md. Matthew's online portfolio may be viewed at [www.matthewfishel.com](http://www.matthewfishel.com).

**Rob Friesel '01** has sold his first piece of fiction, a short story titled "Where the Air is Sweet and the Clouds Are a Different Shape." It will be published this spring in a collection called "Please Do Not Remove." Rob also is celebrating his 10th anniversary with Dealer.com where he works as a software engineer. He lives in Essex Junction, Vt., with wife **Amy Chess '00** and their two sons.

loves planning dream vacations for her clients and staying home with her children, Sebastian, age 3 and Lily, age 2. Her website is: [www.ShipShapeVacation.com](http://www.ShipShapeVacation.com). Jeffrey is the business administrator at Tidewater Dental. The family lives in Avenue, Md.

**Erin Taylor '03** earned her doctorate in health economics last August from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania and now works at the RAND Corporation in Santa Monica, Calif. on a variety of projects related to health care programs, including Medicare. Erin also lives in Santa Monica.



**Jessica Sosnowsky Tomcsik '01** and husband **Jeffrey Tomcsik '99** [4], in July 2012, became the proud owners of a CruiseOne franchise. After nine years of teaching in St. Mary's County public schools and achieving national board certification, Jessica changed careers to that of self-employed business owner and travel agent. She

**Nathan Crowe '03** is a tenure-track assistant professor of history at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. He teaches classes in the history of science, putting to good use his biology and history degrees from St. Mary's College. After two years as a post-doctoral fellow at the Center for Biology and Society at Arizona State University, Nathan and wife Stephanie are excited to be back

on the East Coast. He's particularly happy to be living on the water and at yet another school with a Seahawk mascot.

**Melissa Deveney '04** has published the book "SAIL ON: Insights About Life and Leadership From Wind and Water." Written for the sailor and non-sailor, the book describes ancient Chinese wisdom through the art of competitive sailing. She also founded the company Mind Over Gray Matter Brain Coaching Services, LLC which is a culmination of her experience as a social worker, a specialized focus in neuroscience, and a second master's degree in transformative leadership and social change. As a brain coach, she uses practical neuroscience to teach clients brain-based techniques to help them achieve their greatest potential. Melissa lives in Annapolis, Md.

**Greg Fisher '05** has been writing a humor blog, Open Letters to My Enemies ([www.openletterstomyenemies.blogspot.com](http://www.openletterstomyenemies.blogspot.com)) for two years. He has a loyal following on five continents including many alums and no shortage of things and people who irritate him. Each week, he posts a new "open letter" to the person or inanimate object he believes has wronged him. For example, he's been wronged by the "Insanity Workout DVD," men who wear retro tank tops, beachgoers who dare to drive on Route 50 through his home town of Easton, Md., and even brand new alums who took all the campus housing for St. Mary's College's 2012 Alumni Weekend. When he's not blogging, Greg works as a resort front desk manager and says the hospitality industry is a great source of material for him.

**Darrell Keller '05** has written a book about his family entitled, "The Keller Family: Six Generations of the Descendants of Anthony Keller, 1710-1783," first published in 2008 and re-released by Amazon.com in 2013. His own story starts in 1993 when he enlisted in the U.S. Naval Reserves to pay for college. After graduating in 1996 from the University of North Carolina Asheville with a bachelor's degree in history, he entered the Naval Flight Officer Program and was commissioned an ensign. He deployed to Afghanistan where he flew 19 combat missions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Transferred in 2002 to the Naval Research Laboratory's detachment at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, he also enrolled at St. Mary's College to pursue a bachelor's degree in philosophy. While at Patuxent River, he flew into tornado systems, chased hurricanes and flew to Antarctica to help calibrate NASA's ICESAT system that measured melting ice caps. After graduating from St. Mary's College, he went to sea onboard the USS Ronald Reagan where one night in 2005, while the ship was deployed to the Middle East in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, he sat down with all the notes he had collected about his ancestry and got bitten by the genealogy bug. Three years later his notes turned into a book. Today, Darrell is a lieutenant commander stationed with the Navy Information Operations Command in Norfolk, Va. He, wife, Lynn, and children Darrell, age 11, Presley, age 8, and twins, Aubrey and Dakota, age 5, live in Chesapeake, Va.

**Matt Miller '05** has been named an assistant men's basketball coach at Shepherd University, a NCAA Division II school in Shepherdstown, WV.

He's responsible for game day and practice coaching, scouting, recruiting, and academic monitoring and also is a lecturer in the department of health, physical education, recreation and sports. His coaching career started back at St. Mary's College in 2005 where he was a student assistant for one season after playing for three years. After graduation, he was an assistant coach at Walt Whitman High School in Bethesda, Md. and at Marymount University; then head coach at Wheaton High School in Wheaton, Md. Matt spent the past five years as the head boys' basketball coach at Winston Churchill High School in Potomac, Md. compiling 79 wins, the best single season school record in more than 30 years, and became Churchill's all-time leader in wins as a head coach. In 2011, he was named Montgomery County, Md. Coach of the Year by three different news outlets. Matt lives in Shepherdstown, WV.

**Becca Hopkins '07** graduated from The Chinese University of Hong Kong in December 2013 with a master's degree in anthropology. She lectures on English cultural literacy at the Open University of Hong Kong. Becca's path to living and teaching in China began her junior year at St. Mary's when she studied abroad at Lingnan University. She loved it so much that she returned after graduation and never left.

**Eli "Eli" Snyder '07 [5]** received her master of science degree in agronomy, with a concentration in weed science and management from Pennsylvania State University in August 2013. She works as a field and forage crops extension educator with the Penn State Extension based



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in Blair County, Pa. Although she didn't grow up on a farm, she worked on Even' Star Farm during and after St. Mary's College, apprenticed at the Accokeek Foundation, and ran her own market garden in St. Mary's County in 2009. Eli lives in State College, Pa.

**Julia Copley '08** is the community spark and content wizard at [www.Trover.com](http://www.Trover.com), a mobile app and website. Julia and **Alex Smolin '08**, who works for ArtsFund, live in their restored 1906 home in the Georgetown neighborhood of Seattle, Wash.

**Sara Rubinstein '08** is a 2013-14 Israel Service Fellow with Ma'ase Olam in Akko, Israel. This ten-month program brings Jewish college graduates to Israel to work with Israelis on informal education, community development and empowerment

programs. Sara earned her master's degree in dance/movement therapy from Drexel University in 2010 and worked for Montgomery County Department of Recreation teaching social dancing to adults with disabilities before moving to Israel.

**Jay Fleming '09 [6]** may have been an economics major at St. Mary's College but his true passion is photography. Focusing on documenting the Chesapeake Bay seafood industry and the watermen who work the Bay, his photos have recently been twice featured in the *WoodenBoat* magazine and at the 2013 Waterfowl Festival in Easton, Md. Many examples of his photography can be found at [www.jayflemingphotography.com](http://www.jayflemingphotography.com). Jay lives in Annapolis, Md.

## CALL FOR ENTRIES

ACROSS THE AGES:  
AN ALUMNI EXHIBITION

Boyden Gallery and the Office of Alumni Relations are teaming up to host "Across the Ages: An Alumni Exhibition." This special juried exhibition will open during Alumni Weekend 2014 (June 12-15) and run through mid-August, 2014.

All St. Mary's College alumni (any major, any year including the Class of 2014) are eligible to submit creative work in any medium. There will be two alumnae jurors; Jayme McLellan '94, director of Civilian Art Projects in Washington, D.C. and Kate Pollasch '08, research coordinator for the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and a recent graduate of its master's degree program.

Alums can also make the art exhibition a resounding success by helping to underwrite the cost of staging the exhibition (contact the Office of Alumni Relations if interested) and/or by attending the opening reception and celebrating their fellow alum artists.

Submissions are due April 1, 2014. Submission guidelines, instructions and exhibition timeline can be found online at <https://boydengallery.submittable.com/submit>. If you need additional information or clarification about eligible artwork, entrance fees or logistics, please contact Cristin Cash, associate professor of art history and director of the Boyden Gallery, at [ccash@smcm.edu](mailto:ccash@smcm.edu) or (240) 895-4246. For other questions, please contact Dave Sushinsky '02, director of Alumni Relations at [dmsushinsky@smcm.edu](mailto:dmsushinsky@smcm.edu) or (240) 895-3381.

See you at Alumni Weekend 2014!

## 2010s

**Jordan Gaines Lewis '11** is a doctoral candidate in neuroscience at the Penn State College of Medicine in Hershey, Pa. but she's also gaining recognition as a prolific science writer and blogger. She can be found on Facebook, Twitter, Google+ and ResearchGate and on blogsites [www.gainesonbrains.com](http://www.gainesonbrains.com), her award-winning neuroscience blog which strives to be "jargon free" for non-scientists; "Mind Read" hosted by Scitable by Nature Education; and [www.lions-talk-science.org](http://www.lions-talk-science.org), the Penn State College graduate student

blog she developed, contributes to, and for which she is managing editor. She also contributes regularly to Psychology Today Magazine with her "Brain Babble" column; is the social media editor for ScienceSeeker, a collection of over 1,200 scientific blogs and other news sources. In 2012, she was interviewed by Scientific American on its blog, SA Incubator, as one of today's young science writers to watch. Jordan and husband **Christopher Lewis '10** live in Hershey, Pa.

**Lauren Bennett '12** is the assistant women's lacrosse coach at Florida Southern College

working for head coach Kara Reber, who coached at St. Mary's College in 2009-2010. Lauren spent the year after graduation working as the director of lacrosse and a physical education teacher at Casterton School, a girls boarding school in Kirkby Lonsdale, England. She also was the head women's lacrosse coach at Lancaster University, and was a co-head coach to the Yorkshire County Club U-15 and U-19 teams. The summer before her senior year, she participated in the International Coach Program, earning a coaching certificate; coached in Austria, Germany and the Czech Republic; and also was a member of the 2011 Berlin Open Championship team. Lauren lives in Lakeland, Fla.

**Holly Fabbri '12** received her master's of art degree in teaching from St. Mary's College in 2013 and teaches middle school social studies at the Chesapeake Public Charter School in Lexington Park, Md. She lives in Leonardtown, Md.

**Abigail MacLean-Blevins '12** and associate professor of educational studies Lin Muilenburg received an outstanding poster award at the Proceedings of the Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education *EdMedia* 2013 Conference in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. Their peer-reviewed research paper, "Using Class Dojo to Support Student Self-regulation" was based on Abigail's research for her master's of art degree in teaching. Abigail is teaching 6th grade math at Spring Ridge Middle School in Lexington Park, Md. And yes, she's still using Class Dojo and is seeing the same sort of behavior changes she saw in her study.



Golf Tournament winners (left to right): Jennifer Hasbrouck, Michael Tilton, Brandon Gronert, Chris Hasbrouck

## Hawktoberfest Golf Tournament

The 5th Annual SMCM Hawktoberfest Golf Tournament kicked off homecoming weekend on Friday, October 4 at Cedar Point Golf Course. Alumni, faculty, staff, students, parents, and community members were all represented in the 20 teams that enjoyed this early fall outing. Thank you to our sponsors who helped make this and all of our homecoming events possible.

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Home2 Suites by Hilton, Lexington Park

**Katie Grein '13** is a research assistant at the Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress in Bethesda, Md. The Center studies trauma exposure from the consequences of combat, operations other than war, terrorism, natural and man-made disasters, and public health threats. She received the Psychology Major Award at graduation in recognition of her superior understanding of the themes and methods of psychology. Katie co-authored with Professor Emerita Laraine Glidden a 2012 publication and continues to work with Dr. Glidden on two other publications under review.

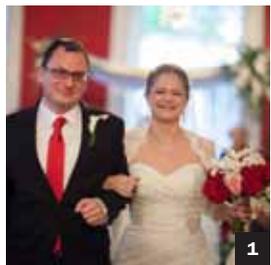
**Emily Wavering '13** has received the 2013 Omicron Delta Kappa Society's ODK Scholarship for post-graduate study. Awarded to 20 students nationwide, the scholarship recognizes students who have earned a 3.5 cumulative GPA or higher and are voting members of their ODK Circle. She also was named St. Mary's College's ODK Circle Leader of the Year. Emily is pursuing a master's degree in public policy from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va.

## MARRIAGES & UNIONS

**Rachael Shapiro '99** and **Daniel Lipton [1]** were married May 26, 2013, at India House, a private club in New York City. **Mieke Simonse '99** was the matron of honor. The couple will honeymoon in Greece. Rachael is the copy chief on the features desk of the New York Post; Daniel is a pianist, music writer and orchestrator. They live in New York, N.Y.

**Mike Tennyson '00** and **Jill Singleton [2]** were married Aug. 2, 2013 in Leonardtown, Md. They enjoyed a honeymoon staycation in Washington, D.C. and will go on a real honeymoon somewhere warm when it's cold in Maryland. Mike is entering his 13th year at Recorded Books, working in the acquisition department. Jill is finishing her doctorate in education and would like to work in higher education. The couple lives in Great Mills, Md.

**Meghan McGinnes '01** and **Jason Vickers [3]** were married Aug. 25, 2013 at Willow Ridge Manor in Morrison, Colo. They honeymooned on the Caribbean Island of St. Lucia. Meghan is a museum curator at Hiwan Homestead Museum in Evergreen, Colo.; Jason is a manager for the Kroger Company. The couple and Jason's daughter, Sarah, make their home in Idaho Springs, Colo.



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LAURA MARIE DUNCAN PHOTOGRAPHY



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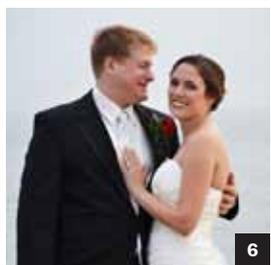
TAMARA MURPHY PHOTOGRAPHY



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**Kathryn Ryan '03** and **Christopher Hammond [4]** were married Sep. 14, 2013 in Milwaukee, Wis. **Keri Peterson '02** was in the wedding party. The couple honeymooned on the Hawaiian island of Maui. Kathryn is a member of the Foreign Service at the U.S. Department of State; Christopher is a cyber threat analyst for the U.S. Agency for International Development. They live in Arlington, Va.

**Shawn Moses '04** and **Ann-Marie Thompson '05 [5]** were married Sep. 14, 2013 at Summerseat Farm in Mechanicsville, Md. **Anne-Marie Derocher '05**, **Allison Bernhard '05**, **Joanna Pauley '05**, **Emily Macenko '05**, and **Rigoberto Saez '04** were in the wedding party. The couple will honeymoon in Costa Rica this coming summer. Shawn is a detective corporal with the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office; Ann-Marie teaches in the St. Mary's County public school system. They live in Leonardtown, Md.

**Rachael Wilder '04** and **Tom Barnoski [6]** were married Oct. 12, 2013 at The Point in Broomes Island, Md. **Ashley Hier '04** was a bridesmaid and several alums were in attendance. The couple honeymooned in St. Lucia. They both work at NAVAIR; Rachael is a lead cost analyst in platform integration and Tom is an industrial engineer specializing in systems finance. The couple resides in Lexington Park, Md.

**Elizabeth Friedel '05** and **Chris Beasley [7]** were married July 20, 2013 at the Annapolis Maritime Museum in Annapolis, Md. The couple was joined by maid of honor **Lee Keagle '05** and best man **Jon Beasley**,

Chris' brother. **Erinn Maguire '05**, **Clare Zuraw '05** and **Nicole Deegan '05** were readers during the ceremony. The couple honeymooned in Ocho Rios, Jamaica. Elizabeth is a faculty research assistant with the University of Maryland's Wye Research & Education Center in Queenstown, Md.; Chris is sous chef at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel's Muze restaurant in Washington, D.C. They live in Annapolis, Md.

**Jennifer Maliszewski '05** and **Michael Nikolich [8]** were married Sep. 28, 2013, at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. **Lisa McQuighan '05** and **Stephanie Thompson Hall '05** were bridesmaids. The couple honeymooned in Antigua. Jen is an independent museum contractor at the National Air and Space Museum; Mike is retired from the U.S. Navy. They live in Alexandria, Va.

**Veronica Berruz '06** and **Joshua Araujo [9]** were married March 22, 2013 in Ellicott City, Md. Josh's sister, **Kristlynn Araujo '05**, was in attendance. The couple honeymooned in Curacao. Veronica is an associate attorney at Dickstein Shapiro LLP; Josh is an account manager at ComTech Systems Inc. They live in Rockville, Md.

**Jeremy C. Young '06** and **Chelsea McCracken '07 [10]** were married June 1, 2013 at Orianda House in Baltimore, Md. **Brian Jennings '05** was best man; Chelsea's sister **Mackenzie McCracken '13** was a bridesmaid; and **Ben Porter '06** was an usher. The couple honeymooned in Maine. Chelsea has completed her doctorate in linguistics, specializing in endangered

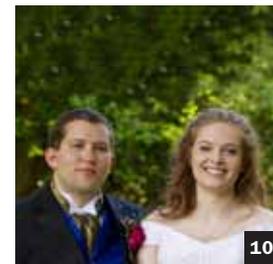


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KRISTA A. JONES PHOTOGRAPHY

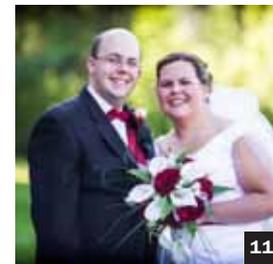


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RICK-ANNA PHOTOGRAPHY



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language documentation, at Rice University. Jeremy has finished his doctorate in U.S. history at Indiana University. The couple lives in Bloomington, Ind.

**Jessica Baker '07**, **MAT '08** and **John Dillon [11]** were married May 25, 2013 at the Golden Bull Grand Café in Gaithersburg, Md. **Jess Jolliffe Montminy '07**, **MAT '08** and **Erika Brightful '07** were bridesmaids. The couple honeymooned in the Bahamas, U.S. Virgin Islands and St. Maarten. Jessica is a chemistry teacher in Frederick County, Md.; John works in fire protection services. The couple lives in Frederick, Md.



CHASING LIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY

12

**Wilson '07, Seth Matheson '06, and Emily Ewers '07.** The couple honeymooned in southern Spain. Tessa is the assistant registrar at The Textile Museum; William is a malware researcher for McAfee. They live in North Bethesda, Md.



TARA PEDICORD PHOTOGRAPHY

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**Sophie Silverman '08 and Paul Hunt '08 [14]** were married Sept. 7, 2013 at Woodlawn Manor in Sandy Spring, Md. **Katherine Buchanan '08, Matthew Adams '08, Julie Pollock '08, and Taressa Core '08** were in the wedding party. Sophie is working at an international development company in Bethesda, Md.; Paul is working on his MBA at American University and working full time at an access control company, also in Bethesda. The couple lives in Silver Spring, Md.



PAULA BARTOSIEWICZ PHOTOGRAPHY

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**Sunny Schnitzer '09 and Jordan Grant '09 [15]** were married Oct. 19, 2013 at the Statehouse at Historic St. Mary's City, Md. The bridal party included bridesmaids **Natalie Schaefer '09** and **Cassie Frey '09**; groomsmen **Tommy Porter '09** and **Mike Ennis '09**; and the officiant, **James McSavaney '08**. The couple lives in Kensington, Md.

**Patrick Bernhardt '07 and Courtney Kutichins '08 [12]** were married June 22, 2013 in the Garden of Remembrance at St. Mary's College. Patrick is a 2013 graduate of the University of Virginia School of Law and an associate attorney at Morrison & Foerster LLP. Courtney, a 2013 graduate of the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University, is a researcher at the Environmental Integrity Project. The couple lives in Washington, D.C.

**Tessa Sabol '07 and William Lummis '07 [13]** were married Oct. 5, 2013 at The Inn at Brome Howard in St. Mary's City, Md. Members of the wedding party included **Mary Huang '07, John Havens-Colgan '07, Kendra Havens-McColgan '07, Jacquelyn**



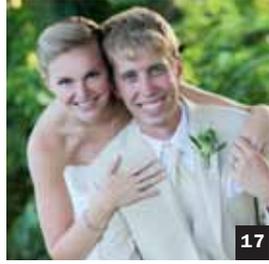
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**Emily Smithson '09 and John Moore '09 [17]** were married July 6, 2013 at Historic St. Mary's City State House and Lawn in St. Mary's City, Md. **Marianne Wood '08, Halley Pack '08, Jennie Fiskum '09, Kathy Orellanda '09, Abby Locke '09, Amanda Bramble '10, Hank Scott '09** and **Thomas Kallarackal '08** were in the wedding party. The couple honeymooned in Jamaica. Emily is a school psychologist for Dorchester County, Md. public schools; John is a sales representative for Choptank Transport. They live in Cambridge, Md.



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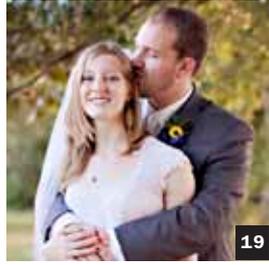
**Nicole Yesalavage '09 and Warren Samuels '09 [18]** were married Aug. 10, 2013 at Trinity Church in St. Mary's City, Md. and had their reception on the State House lawn. The wedding photographer was **Jay Fleming '09, Elena Egorova '10, Kate Pollasch-Thames '10** and the groom's sister, **Kelly Samuels '14** were bridesmaids. **Marc Dipasquale '10** played his guitar during the cocktail hour. The couple honeymooned on Cape Breton Island in Nova Scotia, Canada. Nicole is an elementary school teacher; Warren is associate director of admissions and athletic liaison at Concord Academy. The couple lives in Concord, Ma. with their two dogs, Bode and Lilah.



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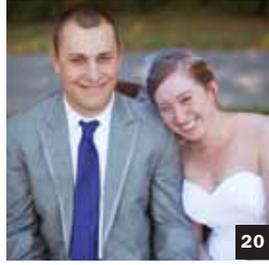


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**Christopher Lewis '10 and Jordan Gaines '11 [19]** were married Aug. 10, 2013 at the Inn at Brome Howard in St. Mary's City, Md. **Lauren Grey '11, Janice Kang '11** and **Robyn Allen '11** were in the wedding party. The couple honeymooned on a cruise to



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LAURA ELIZABETH PHOTOGRAPHY

the Bahamas. Christopher is a surgical technologist; Jordan is a doctoral candidate in neuroscience at Pennsylvania State College of Medicine. They live in Hershey, Pa.

**Melissa Stringfellow '11** and **Glenn Kollar [20]** were married Sep. 14, 2013 at Quiet Waters Park in Annapolis, Md. The wedding party included **Carl Brothers '10**. The couple will honeymoon in the Bahamas in April. Melissa is a survey statistician with the U.S. Census Bureau; Glenn is a security administrator with the U.S. Department of Energy. They live in Olney, Md.

**Xin Zhang '12** and **James Yim [21]** were married June 2, 2013 in the Garden of Remembrance at St. Mary's College. **Ella Hankins '13** was a bridesmaid. Dr. Joe Urgo officiated. Xin is a Chinese language instructor for Anne Arundel County, Md. public schools; James works for Bank of America. They live in Odenton, Md.



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## BIRTHS & ADOPTIONS

To **Nicolas Abrams '99** and Leah Abrams, a son, Aiden Marcellus [1], born Sep. 22, 2013. He joins big brother, Nicolas, age 5. Nick, a certified financial planner, is president of AJW Financial Partners, LLC.; Leah is president of L. Abrams & Company Accounting Services. The family lives in Baltimore, Md.

To **Jonathan Champion '99** and **Margaret Rodriguez '02**, a daughter, Molly Marie [2], born July 6, 2013. She joins big brother, Nicholas, age 4. Jonathan, a branch chief in the District of Columbia Department of the Environment, works on stormwater and water quality programs. Margaret is a third grade teacher for the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. The family lives in Kensington, Md.

To **Joe Persinger '99** and Rachel Persinger, a son, Joseph Lewis [3], born Aug. 7, 2012. Joe works for the Living Classrooms Foundation in Baltimore, Md. as the captain of the historic Chesapeake Bay oystering skipjack Sigsbee, which serves as an afloat classroom for students. Rachel is a power scheduler for Constellation Energy. The family lives in Baltimore, Md.

To **Amy Chess '00** and **Rob Friesel '01**, a son, Emery Stephen [4], born April 12, 2012. He joins big brother, Holden, 5. Amy is starting a statistical consultancy focusing on educational and human services organizations. Rob is a software engineer at www.Dealer.com. The family lives in Essex Junction, Vt.

To **Angelena Lindsley '02** and Greg Robinson, a son, Gregory Nathaniel Robinson, Jr. [5], born Sep. 3, 2013. Angelena is an interior designer for Ashley Furniture; Greg is a stormwater technician for the City of Tampa, Fla. The family also lives in Tampa.

To **Betsy Coulbourne Jackson '04** and Kevin Jackson, twin sons, Nathan and Wesley [6], born Sep. 15, 2013. They join big sister, Reva, age 2. Betsy telecommutes as a town planner for Fragar Planning and Development in Leura, New South Wales, Australia; Kevin is the information technology manager for Federated Auto Parts in Milford, Del. The family lives in Delmar, Md.

To **Erin Rorabacher Lewis '04** and Marty Lewis, a daughter, Lydia Idalea [7], born Aug. 10, 2013. Erin and Marty both own State Farm insurance agencies; Erin's is in Lexington Park, Md. while Marty's is in Pasadena, Md. The family lives in Severna Park, Md.

To **Veronica Berruz '06** and Joshua Araujo, a son, Lionel Tomas [8], born Aug. 9, 2013. **Kristlyn Araujo '05** is the proud aunt. The family lives in Rockville, Md.

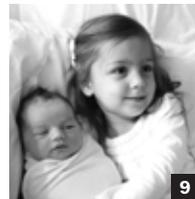
To **Sarah Tennent Simmons '06** and **Ray Simmons '06**, a daughter, Rosalie Patricia [9], born Oct. 7, 2013. She joins proud big sister, Anna Faith, age 3. Sarah is a hospice/palliative care certified registered nurse and assistant clinical director at Calvert Hospice; Ray is a budget analyst for the Department of Defense. The family lives in Prince Frederick, Md.



1



5



9



2



6



11



3



7



12



4



8



13



10

To **Sally Bradley Szydowski '06** and Michael Szydowski, a daughter, Claire Annabelle [10], born June 24, 2013. **Jill Bradley '09** is the proud aunt. Sally is a technical analyst for Water Stewardship Inc.; Michael is an accountant for J.J. Haines. The family lives in Dundalk, Md.

To **Christina "Keeney" Riedel-Gabrielle '07** and Ron Gabrielle, a daughter, Isla James [11], born Oct. 30, 2012. Mom and dad both work for Visa, Inc; Christina is a senior analyst and Ron is a director in client readiness. The family lives in Lansdowne, Va.

To **Kaycee Mullins Rump '08** and Kevin Rump, a son, Mason [12], born May 8, 2013. Kaycee is a registered nurse in the ICU at the Baltimore Washington Medical Center; Kevin works as a radio frequency engineer for Alion Sciences and Technology. The family resides in Annapolis, Md.

To **April Morgan Ryan '09**, **MAT '10** and Jeffrey Ryan, a son, Hallum Ferris [13], born April 22, 2013. April is an education facilitator at St. Mary's College of Maryland; Jeffrey is an aircraft technician for PAE. The family lives in California, Md.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Alice Cohill Marquez '30 HS, '32 JC**, of Stafford Hall in Clear Spring, Md., died April 5, 2013 at age 100. Born in Cohill Station near Hancock, Md., she received her bachelor of arts degree in English and education in 1934 from the College of William & Mary. Unable to find a teaching job during the Great Depression, she moved to Honolulu, Hawaii and taught elementary school at the U.S. Army's Schofield Barracks. Afterwards, she taught school in Washington County, Md. before marrying Col. Gregorio Marquez, U.S. Army, in 1944 and relocating to the Washington, D.C. area. During World War II, she was a volunteer driver for the American Red Cross Motor Corps and also earned a master of arts degree in education from the University of Maryland. Alice taught English and helped direct drama productions for over 30 years at Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School. After retiring, she returned to the family home, Stafford Hall, and was active for many years in local organizations and continued to travel abroad in her 80s and early 90s. Alice is survived by her sister, Nancy Cohill Manuel; her sister-in-law, Jane Cohill; three nephews, two nieces; a step-granddaughter; and several great-nieces and great-nephews.

**Augusta "Gussie" Johnson Barnes '46 JC**, of Rockville, Md., died July 6, 2013, at age 86. A native of Bladensburg, Md., she completed her bachelor's degree at the University of Maryland. She worked at Seton

Hall Psychiatric Hospital as an aide; was a substitute teacher in the Montgomery County, Md. public schools; and was an executive administrative aide at Vitro Corporation for 15 years until she retired in 1990. Augusta is survived by husband, Raymond; five children, Kathleen Garner, Raymond Jr., Rebecca McGrew, Nancy McGarigal, and Laura Semitsky; 12 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

**John "Wayne" Delozier, Sr. '65 JC**, of Leonardtown, Md., died Oct. 15, 2013, at age 68. A native of Leonardtown, Md., and a lifelong resident of St. Mary's County, he was a school teacher, tutor and later in life, a county animal warden until he retired in the 1990s. John is survived by his children, J. Wayne, Jr., Bryan, and Dawn; 6 grandchildren; and 2 great-grandchildren.

**Martha "Mardi" Kemp '74**, of Gaithersburg, Md., died June 23, 2013, at age 61. She is survived by her husband, Steven; children, Traci and Karl; sister, Vicki Peck; brother, Rich Reuschlein; and three grandchildren.

**James F. Krause '89**, of Severna Park, Md., died Oct. 5, 2013, at age 48. Born in Wiesbaden, Germany, he grew up in Maryland and was an avid lacrosse player since middle school, playing for Aberdeen High School, St. Mary's College of Maryland, and the Annapolis Lacrosse Club. Nicknamed "Grimace," Jim also was passionate about other sports including golf and field hockey; coached his daughters' lacrosse and field hockey teams; and was a devoted supporter of Seahawk lacrosse. He

worked as a software engineer for KEYW Corporation. Jim is survived by wife, Anne; daughters, Sarah and Megan; father, John, II; brothers John, III and Steven; nieces, Maya, Georgia and Sydney and nephew, Conor.

**Christopher A. Wright '96**, of Baltimore, Md., died Aug. 27, 2013, at age 40. He was working in Bogota, Colombia as an English teacher. Christopher is survived by his mother, Colleen; father, John and step-mother Jan; brother, Jason and wife, Carrie; nephew, Colin and niece, Regan.

**Edward Michael Zuras '10**, of Bel Alton, Md., died Jan. 13, 2013, at age 44. He served in the U.S. Air Force and worked as a caregiver for over 30 years. Michael is survived by his parents, Edward and Nina; brother, Jason; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

## FRIENDS OF THE COLLEGE

**Joanne Romer**, of Hollywood, Md., died Oct. 16, 2013, at age 70. She worked at St. Mary's College for over 24 years, retired and then came back to work part-time in the Office of Advancement. Joanne is survived by daughters, Denise Snead and **Danielle Ralston '92**; sons, Jay and **Christian '01**; brother, Paul Bombara; and grandchildren, Jordan, Rachel, Kyle, Garrett, Zachary, Gavin, Riana and Bohden.

**M. Wayne Munday**, of Asheville, N.C., died Oct. 1, 2013. He served on the St. Mary's College Board of Trustees from 1977 - 1988, as was honored with trustee emeritus status.

## THE POWER OF THE COLLECTIVE

*Crowdfunding Comes to St. Mary's!*

Check out our new online giving site. Support your passion and make a difference. You can change someone's life by making a gift online today.

[smcm.edu/give](http://smcm.edu/give)

## 8 WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED

*with St. Mary's & Your Fellow Alums*

- 1 Visit our Alumni web pages.** ([www.smcm.edu/alum](http://www.smcm.edu/alum)) They are full of useful information and news.
- 2 Send us your news.** ([alumnioffice@smcm.edu](mailto:alumnioffice@smcm.edu)) Share your good news—baby, job, marriage, retirement, award, promotion etc. in the *Mulberry Tree*, published 3 times/year.
- 3 Read SMC Mail.** ([www.smcm.edu/alum/News/smcmail.html](http://www.smcm.edu/alum/News/smcmail.html)) Published monthly, it's full of news about upcoming events and other items of interest to alums.
- 4 Like us on Facebook!** (<https://www.facebook.com/smcm.alumni>)
- 5 Join our LinkedIn Group. Find out who's landed a job, is changing jobs or has a job opening to fill.** ([http://www.linkedin.com/groups?home=&gid=48413&trk=anet\\_ug\\_hm](http://www.linkedin.com/groups?home=&gid=48413&trk=anet_ug_hm))
- 6 Tweet with us!** ([@SMCM\\_alumni](https://twitter.com/SMCM_alumni))
- 7 Share with us on Flickr.** (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/smcmalumniphotos/sets/>) We love seeing photos of alums especially at alumni events.
- 8 Join us at Regional and Local Events. Upcoming College, general alumni, and alumni chapter events are posted on the Alumni web pages, in SMC Mail, and on Facebook so there's no excuse for not knowing about an event. All chapter events are open to any alum, not just chapter members.**

And if all else fails, call us! (240-895-4280). We'd love to hear from you.

# DESOSA-BRENT SCHOLARSHIP INITIATIVE

**F**ROM THE FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR TO the St. Mary's Project, St. Mary's students navigate a variety of rigorous academic offerings, work closely with professors, and ultimately discover their paths. The College serves and graduates students at the same rate regardless of their socioeconomic background and financial need.

The DeSousa-Brent Scholars Program, geared to help underrepresented students achieve success, cultivates students' academic and leadership potential. The program, which began in 2008, was recognized and strengthened in 2011 through a grant by the Maryland Higher Education Commission. The program has evolved from a first-year experience to one that supports students across all four years – serving more than 100 students annually.

First-year DeSousa-Brent scholars participate in:

- a summer bridge experience that prepares incoming students for college life and academics;
- a fall semester seminar that introduces the liberal arts skills through critical discussions about diversity and inclusiveness; and
- a spring semester seminar that features creative, student-designed leadership service projects.

Sophomores, juniors, and seniors take advantage of intensive advising, peer mentoring, and learning communities in addition to internships, study abroad, and research opportunities as they prepare for post-baccalaureate careers.

In April 2013, the state of Maryland heartily endorsed the College's DeSousa-Brent Scholars Program when the Legislature voted unanimously to fund its expansion to a full, four-year experience and increase the number of students served annually. In return, the College must meet retention and graduation performance objectives. Once the College is able to meet these benchmarks, state funding will continue.

The College is poised to meet this challenge, yet recognizes that the most significant impediment to success is sufficient scholarship aid. Students with financial need are often eligible for federal and state aid, as well as



*“As a first-generation student, this opportunity means a lot, not just to me, but to all those who support me. There is no way that I would have been able to afford tuition on my own... I cannot give enough thanks for the assistance provided.”*

*Sonia Vanessa Acosta '15, DeSousa-Brent Scholar*

scholars from Baltimore. (Of the 2012-13 DeSousa-Brent scholars, 32% were from Baltimore City.) Augmenting need-based aid for all DeSousa-Brent scholars will ensure that they can fully participate in the College's curricular and co-curricular programs unencumbered by financial pressures.

Through the “Power of the Collective,” we can achieve more. By providing scholarship support for DeSousa-Brent scholars, we can help strengthen the program so that it meets the state's benchmarks for valuable funding, and steward the program for future generations of St. Mary's students. To support this endeavor, please contact Liisa Franzén at 240-895-3220 or [lefranz@smcm.edu](mailto:lefranz@smcm.edu), or make your gift today at [www.smcm.edu/give](http://www.smcm.edu/give). ❖

institutional aid; however, there often remains a gap of approximately \$10,000 to \$12,500 in unmet need each year.

The College is committed to help fill this gap in unmet need – in November, the College received a tremendous endorsement in the DeSousa-Brent Scholars Program when the Arthur E. Landers, Jr. and Hilda C. Landers Charitable Trust invested \$250,000 in support of scholarships for DeSousa-Brent

# A WINDOW INTO THE 19TH CENTURY

*Archives Receives Papers of 1885 St. Mary's Female Seminary Valedictorian*

*By Kent Randell, College archivist and assistant librarian*

“A snowflake, a leaflet, or a floating craft blown hither & thither by the transient winds is not more uncertain in its course or heedless of its destiny than were we a year ago.” So begins a draft of Emily Jane Griffith’s 1885 Valedictory speech as a high school graduate of St. Mary’s Female Seminary.

Through an anonymous donor, the College archives has received the papers of “Emmy” Jane Griffith, including a composition book containing three drafts of her valedictory address and a school essay titled “A Land without Ruins,” providing a unique window into the curriculum and rhetorical skills of 19th-century seminary students. The Emily Jane Griffith papers will not only prove useful to researchers, but will also be used in the St. Mary’s classroom during instructional sessions on primary sources and the use of the archival materials.

After graduating, Griffith taught science and mathematics at the seminary. Upon applying for a job with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, she was informed that the office had already met its quota of Maryland employees, so Griffith moved to Wyoming to teach at the Ft. Shaw Indian School and apply for the job as a resident of that state. This strategy worked and she had a long career as a patent examiner from 1906-1932.

The donation also includes six photographs of seminarians from the 1880s, including the photo of Emily Griffith shown above, holding her diploma and wearing what is probably her valedictory medal. These photographs can be seen on the archives’ website (<http://www.smcm.edu/archives>) by clicking on the link for Historic Campus Photographs and searching for “cabinet card.”

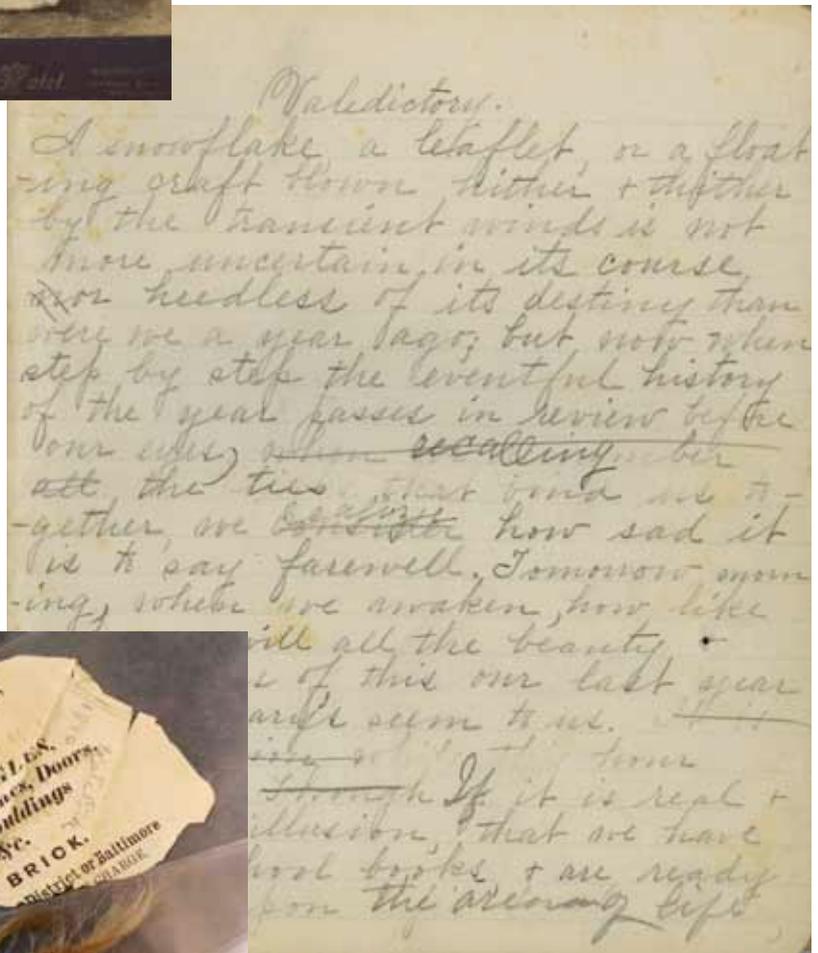
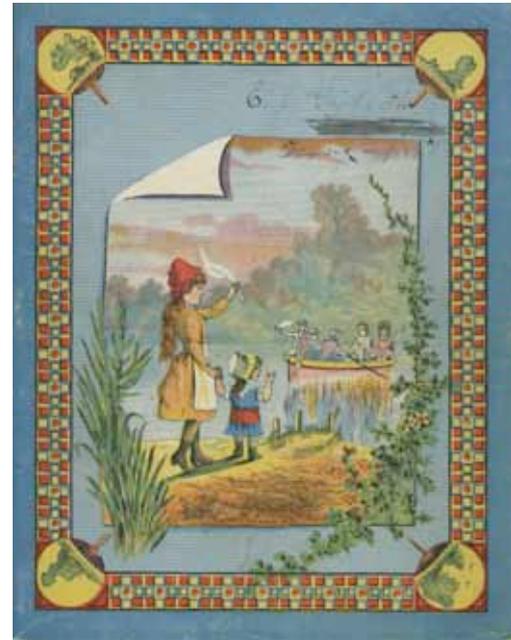
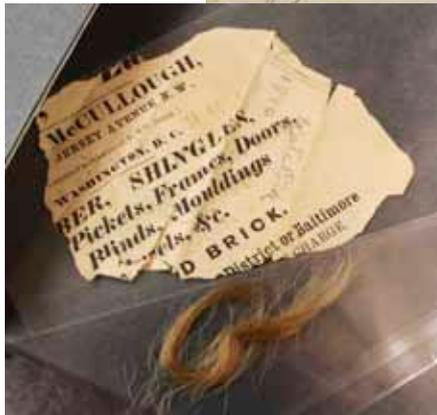
*Please contact Kent Randell if you think any items tucked away in your attic or basement might make a valuable contribution to the archives: [kdrandell@smcm.edu](mailto:kdrandell@smcm.edu), 240-895-4196.*



PHOTOS FROM THE EMILY JANE GRIFFITH PAPERS COLLECTION:

*The graduation photo (above) accession number: Pr1885\_0001*

*The lock of hair (below) was given to Griffith by Kate Polk (1884)*



## Calendar of Events

### VOICES Reading Series

8:15 pm in Daugherty-Palmer Commons

**January 30:** Bruce Wilson  
(*nonfiction*)

**February 6 in Boyden Gallery:**  
Stephanie Strickland (*poetry*)

**February 20:** Corrie Byrne (*fiction*)

**March 13:** Karl Parker (*poetry*)

**April 10:** Catherine Chung (*fiction*)

**April 24:** Corinna Vallianatos  
(*fiction*) and Kevin Moffett (*fiction*)

### World Views: The Photographer as Visual Author

An exhibition of Gabriela Bulisova, Bill Crandall, Michael Robinson Chavez, Hector Emanuel and Robert Knoth: five photojournalists from the Washington D.C.-based Metro Collective. *Co-sponsored by the Maryland State Arts Council and the Center for the Study of Democracy.*

**January 15 – February 20**  
Boyden Gallery

1/28 at 6 pm,  
Michael Robinson Chavez,  
“Politics and Photojournalism”

1/29 at 4:45 pm,  
artist panel discussion

2/13 at 6 pm, “Time Zone”  
screening/discussion with  
Gabriela Bulisova and  
Lashawna Etheridge-Bey

[www.smcm.edu/boydengallery](http://www.smcm.edu/boydengallery)  
[www.metrocollective.org](http://www.metrocollective.org)

### Encounters: A Performance of Spoken Word, Dance, and Music

conceived and directed by  
Leonard Cruz

**February 26 - March 1** at 8 pm

**March 2** at 2 pm

Bruce Davis Theater in  
Montgomery Hall

### 45th Annual All Student Art Exhibition

**March 3-30**, Boyden Gallery

### The Big Build Up

**April 4-5**, Boyden Gallery

### The Eighth Annual Twain Lecture

“An Evening with Sarah Vowell”

Sarah Vowell is the New York Times’ bestselling author of non-fiction books on American history and culture, her most recent being “Unfamiliar Fishes” (Riverhead, 2011). She is also senior historical context correspondent on “The Daily Show with Jon Stewart.”

**April 11** at 7:30 pm

Michael P. O’Brien Athletics &  
Recreation Center

### Studio Art St. Mary’s Project Exhibition

**April 14 – May 5**, Boyden Gallery

### Shakespeare in Hollywood

By Ken Ludwig and directed by  
Holly Blummer

**April 17-18** and **24-26** at 8 pm

**April 19 & 27** at 2 pm

Bruce Davis Theater  
in Montgomery Hall

### Commencement

**May 17** at 10 am

### ICSA Sailing National Championships

**May 31 – June 6**  
(*finals covered by ESPN*)

### Alumni Weekend

**June 12-15**

### Across the Ages: An Alumni Exhibition

**June 12 – mid-August**,  
Boyden Gallery

### Chesapeake Writers’ Conference

**July 6-12**

[www.smcm.edu/summer/writing](http://www.smcm.edu/summer/writing)

*Photo: Ashley Stopera*



## What's Missing?

**St. Mary's Hall, which houses Auerbach Auditorium, dates back to 1908 and is the oldest building on campus. It perches on a hill above the bend of the St. Mary's River. To its right is Calvert Hall, which contains two floors of housing as well as classrooms and offices, including the office of the president. The original Calvert Hall was dedicated in 1845, but was rebuilt in 1925 after a fire destroyed the original. Careful observers will notice something missing in this photo: what it is will be revealed in the spring issue!**

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