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Built for Fostering Creativity
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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, current students, 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. The tree endured into the 19th century and was once a popular meeting spot for St. Mary’s College students. The illustration of the mulberry tree on the cover was drawn in 1972 by Earl Hofmann, artist.

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I n academia, we measure time in semesters — each semester has 16 weeks. We count hours for course credits and teacher-student interactions. To this regulated rhythm of the academic year, we insert events to punctuate milestone celebrations like Awards Convocation and Commencement. With the COVID-19 pandemic, our measure of time and our rhythm abruptly and completely changed. We have milestone events that need to happen but no firm calendar to pin them to.

The same is true for classes — they must happen but cannot happen the way they did just last semester. I applaud the perseverance and resourcefulness of our campus community for finishing this semester in a meaningful way. This 2020 summer session will be fully online, unlike any previous summer session. What the fall semester will look like we do not know.

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

We must persevere and persist in this new normal. We must continue to prepare students for lives of leadership and service, just as we have yet likely differently from how we have done here for 180 years. In the same way that we know that we can depend on students for lives of leadership and service, just as we have yet likely differently from how our predecessors did a generation ago.

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The Board of Trustees approved a new test optional admissions policy on February 1. This means first-year applicants seeking admission to the College beginning in the fall of 2021 may choose whether not to provide standardized testing (SAT or ACT scores) as part of the admission application process. The Board also announced a freeze in tuition, fees, and room and board costs for the 2020-21 academic year. The decision was made after a review of recommendations from a Board of Trustees Task Force, formed in 2014 at the request of President Tuajuanda C. Jordan.

The Board of Trustees of St. Mary’s College of Maryland approved a proposal to develop and implement new varsity men’s and women’s track and field programs. The decision was made after a review of recommendations from a Board of Trustees Task Force, formed in 2019 at the request of President Tuajuanda C. Jordan. Modifications to the current track begin this summer to make the surface compliant with NCAA regulations. The track is expected to be ready for varsity competition to begin fall 2020. The varsity field programs will roll out at a later date.
Jeff Eden, assistant professor of his- 
tory, was interviewed in March on Radio Free Asia - Uyghur for his recent book, “Warriors of the Silk Road.” A recent review of the book in the Journal of Asian Stud- ies concluded that the book “will surely become required reading for those who work on Central Asian history, language, or Uyghur studies.”

Kevin Emerson, associate profes- sor of biology, was named in Parsons and Vanity Fair. In the article, Emerson and colle- gues show that there is variation in traits associated with malaria transmission and biome-of-origin, temperature, and family genetics. These are important factors to be considered for future mosquito control strategies.

Misty Frantz and Katie Shirley of the Career Development Center will present a workshop at this year’s NACE conference, taking place in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in June. The focus of their interac- tive workshop, “The Real Problem with Career Services,” will explore the model St. Mary’s College has developed to incorporate career readiness into the liberal arts while highlighting necessary tools for other institutions to develop an equ- alizable system of career readiness within the college experience.
Musician on Residence Brian Ganz kicked off the spring semester's musical offerings on January 25 with an all-Chopin recital on the esteemed Meinen Grand. The recital was a precursor of the next installment of his years-long "Es- treme Chaise" series at the Meisen State at Strathmore, located in Rockville, Maryland.

Liza Giampietri, assistant professor of anthropology, recently published an article in The International Journal of Historical Archaeology titled, "Interpreting West Africa: Drums, Artifacts, and Archetypes," which is based on work at Cremona Estate in Mechnicville, Maryland, and draws on data from the anthropology department's Research Methods course.

Casidi Gorlitz, assistant professor of environmental studies, received her second grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin- istration Maryland Sea Grant program. The $9,123 grant will fund a two-year project titled, "Effects of Oyster Aquaculture on Submersed Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Habitat." Gorlitz is a coastal ecosystem ecologist who takes a holistic approach to studying the environment. Her research has been published in journals such as BioScience and Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, as well as recently featured in the Baltimore Sun.

The annual Reservoir Lecture with Jeffrey Hammond, professor of English and George B. and Willina Reiner Mootz Professor in the Liberal Arts, took place on February 21 titled "The Crown-Woman: Some Reflections on Masculinity, Morality, and Art," from a memory of a not-so-innocent childhood incident which prompted Pro- fessor Hammond to meditate on the insistently male-centered bias in the Western artistic tradition. By tracing the story of PymAU's and his name as it came down from the ancient Roman post Oroth through medieval and early modern times, he reflects on the story as an ex- ample of art's capacity to establish and reconstruct identities of power and gender.

Angela Johnson, professor of educational studies, has been awarded a 61,750 grant from the National Science Foundation in support of her project, "The Concerning Women of Color in STEM: Data-Driven Opportunities for Inclusion. " The two-year grant began in September 2021, and will fund a continuation of Johnson's collaborative research with April Hodari of Eureka Scientific, Inc. to identify and share what helps women of color thrive in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields. Johnson and Hodari have worked with SMCM students Rose Young ’20 and Elizabeth Mulvey ’20 on a study exploring STEM needs: Assessment, Treatment, and Trauma (Fire Engineering). The textbook is the first comprehen- sive resource of its kind to address the emergency psychiatric needs of people with disabilities. Koch is currently working on an academic version as well as instructor materials for potential courses associated with the text.

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

Lisa Schweer, professor of art and Steven Miller Distinguished Professor of the Arts, presented "Finding Form: A Sculptor's Story," on February 29. Schweer's one-and- only Steven Miller Distinguished Professor of the Arts lecture was of particular significance as Schweer is retiring after nearly 30 years of teaching at SMCM. In her lecture she addressed both the inspirational and the pragmatic in her art making practice by sharing insights into, and examples of, her sources and process. At the recep- tion, she posed for a photo with Muller's widow, Jill McGovern and President Tsaoungja C. Jordan.

Assistant Professor of Physiological Jessica Malisch and Kimball: "Should I Stay Or Should I Go Now?" (KCATCF) region II, January 14-18 of the Great Courses. The Millay Colony for the Arts in装修公司.

Assistant Professor of Chemistry Troy Townsend '07 has an article published in the Journal of Ad- vanced Materials Interfaces about a radically new method of electroplating that call "electro- stamping." Traditional plating involves submersion parts in a coating bath, but this method is costless and can form bright fluorescent metal films.

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Emily Rudo ’23, an instrumental- instudies and public policy studies double major, educ- tional studies minor from Howard County, Maryland, was one of four invited panelists at the biennial NOAA Chesapeake Bay Environmental Literature Forum held on January 22, 2020 in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. Rudo offered her perspective on meaningful watershed educato- n, soil and water, and the needs of people with disabilities.

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Will’s family on the Eastern Shore of Maryland dates back to the War of Independence and includes the settlers of Tilghman Island in the Chesapeake Bay (Will’s full name, William Tilghman Hemsley V). He grew up on Kent Island. His parents now live in the house built by Will’s grandfather on Wye Island. With his wife Stacy Hemsley and their three children, Will lives in nearby Centreville, where he has his studio. He hopes to install foundry equipment in the studio so that he can pour his own bronze casts. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he offered online live-streamed art classes for both children and adults.
Will transferred to St. Mary’s College after a year at Stevenson University. Will’s father, Tilghman Hemsley III, studied art at Pratt and then Maryland Institute College of Art. The waterman’s memorial sculpture on Kent Island, dedicated in 2003, was done by Tilghman Hemsley (with a teenage Will helping on occasion). The idea for the “Fallen Star” memorial that has gained Will national attention was a vision that came to his father in a dream.

Will and his father are charter boat captains. His father started out as a mate to Captain Harry Carter onboard Breazeze. Then, the boat Carter had built at Rock Hall in 1949. Carter signed the boat over to Tilghman Hemsley when he retired at age 84. As a child, Will and his brothers spent their free time running around the Rock Hall Railway Station, where the boat was kept. “This was my playground when I was a kid,” he recalls. Will worked as a mate to his father at age 11 and became a licensed captain at 17. Together, they now run two boats and 500 charter trips per season from Rock Hall to Tilghman Island. They offer lunch and dinner cruises that include watching the sun rise over the island as the boat is docked.

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

Will’s medium is oil and his style American Realism. Many of his paintings adorn corporate offices and private homes. His painting is showcased in a wall mural at the Roy-Pat Barrel House in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he also created the brewery’s beer label. The “Nice Dreams” label placed fifth in a nationwide beer label art contest sponsored by a local brewery’s beer labels. The “Nice Dreams” label placed fifth in a nationwide beer label art contest sponsored by a local brewery’s beer labels. Will was pretty much reduced to tears and the impact of what good public art can be hit me in a way I never thought possible,” he says. His ideal schedule is to have one new commission project a year “and so on, and so on.” His biggest inspiration for his work comes from his children. “Ten years ago, discovering I was to be a father, provided a degree of urgency that made me work harder and longer to seek the success that would provide stability for my family.”

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His first commission for sculpture was in Laurel, Maryland, for a four-story atrium in a business complex. “The client wanted bronze geese,” Will remembers. “Good thing I’ve been a hunter all my life: I pulled a goose out of my freezer to study its form.” Other commissions include a bronze sculpture, “Last Drop from the Stetson” to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Stetson Hat Wearing Society.

The “Fallen Star” sculpture was dedicated in September 2015 at Aberdeen Proving Ground office complex outside of Baltimore, Maryland. Initially created by Will and his father, “Fallen Star” was dedicated to honor Major General Frank S. Peters and General John W. Selden, veterans for my work once I step off the boat.”

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

JCB is Cherry Award Pick for Great Teaching

BY OLIVIA SOTHORON ’22, English major and Professional Fellowship Program intern in the Office of Integrated Marketing
“I found myself living for my lit classes,” remarked Cognard-Black. During her first year of graduate school, Cognard-Black took a course on American Comedy with Jane Smiley, who won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 1992 for her novel based on Shakespeare’s “King Lear” entitled “A Thousand Acres.” “I was so smitten with her seminar,” Cognard-Black explained, “that I decided to pursue a master’s in creative writing under her tutelage, and so I sailed over from student affairs to English and completed my degree in creative writing at [Iowa State University].” After graduating from Iowa State, Cognard-Black spent the next six years pursuing a PhD in Anglo-American literature by women writers of the nineteenth century and feminist literary theory at The Ohio State University. “I loved reading, writing, and thinking about books, and so graduate school was the right fit for me, and I guess I felt I was still ‘rebelling’ against my parents (at least a little) because I was a Victorian and a creative writer, not a Shakespearean scholar! Two weeks after presenting her dissertation, Cognard-Black gave birth to her daughter Katharine, and began looking for a job. “I applied that fall to 88 college teaching jobs in literature, women’s studies, rhetoric, creative writing, and writing program administration, with the hopes that I could land something in order to feed and clothe our newborn baby,” she explained. Fortunately enough, for both Cognard-Black and St. Mary’s College of Maryland, an opportunity presented itself at the small liberal arts college in Southern Maryland. “Honestly,” Cognard-Black stated, “I was terrified to teach full-time. I didn’t think I’d ever do a job that good at it — certainly not as good as my own parents. However, ever since Cognard-Black began her career at St. Mary’s College, she has not once regretted following in the footsteps of her parents as educators. “Literature and writing opens minds — as well as hearts,” she said. While providing the St. Mary’s College English Department with a strong additions, Cognard-Black’s position as an educator has also allowed her to better develop her personal teaching philosophy, which is to “never underestimate what your students can achieve, but as you hold the bar high for them, do everything in your power to help them reach it.” Throughout her twenty years at St. Mary’s College, Cognard-Black has done just that. She holds high expectations of her students, but does everything in her power to help them to reach those objectives. Across these two decades, Cognard-Black has advised 46 St. Mary’s Projects, held two Fulbright Scholarships, published five books, and inspired many. Her love for her work and her dedication to her students is prominent both within and outside of her classroom. While at St. Mary’s College, Cognard-Black has held many administrative positions as well, including serving as chair for the English Department (2012-2015) and coordinator of the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program (2007-2011), and also directing the VORCES Reading Series (2012-2015). As the English Department Chair, Cognard-Black explained that “you must be a strong advocate — a powerful voice — for your departmental colleagues as well as your majors and minors.” In 2013, her Department Chair was simultaneously the most challenging job I’ve held, as well as the most rewarding. We Cognard-Black further noted that it is her time in the classroom that has defined her career more than shaping curricula, hosting events, or supporting colleagues. “The students are the beating heart of St. Mary’s, and the reason all of us who teach here continue to love our jobs.” Her work as an educator has inspired many of her students to become educators themselves, carrying on her enthusiasm and love of writing and reading into their own classrooms. One of the most well-known courses on campus is Cognard-Black’s “Books that Cook” English topics class, which analyses how recipe narratives present food for various rhetorical aims. This topic emerged while in graduate school with one of Cognard-Black’s “long-time collaborators and friends,” Dr. Melissa Goldthwaite. Cognard-Black explained that, as graduate students, she and Goldthwaite swapped food needs back and forth, sometimes cooking the meals mentioned in the novels. After earning their doctorates, they both implemented their own versions of the “Books that Cook” seminar at their respective universities—Goldthwaite’s focused more on poetry and essays at Saint Joseph’s University, while Cognard-Black’s is more focused on fiction and film. The two educators, recognizing the lack of textbooks for food literature classes, developed their own, bringing “Books that Cook: The Making of a Literary Meal” into being in 2014 with New York University Press. This collection includes poetry, short fiction, and essays that all include recipes, and it runs the gamut of contributors, from those with national recognition (such as Maya Angelou, Sherman Alexie, Nora Ephron) to those who are members of the St. Mary’s community, including poems by Karen Leona Anderson and Michael Glaser, as well as two additional works by Caitlin Newcomer ’05 and Cheryl Quimba ’05. 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RECOGNIZING AN EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATOR:
You know from the first moment you walk into her class that she expects a lot from you, but she’s also going to get to know you, too. Even characteristically shy students will “do it for her.” Because of course you do. Because when you walk in that room with her, you are seen. You are valued.”
Katholy Mattingly ’06
(see a leader in ducks, Texas)

NO ORDINARY CLASS: “Watching her work was not like watching a martyr, but rather like jumping off a cliff with a parachute. Her focus is fascinating.”
Toby Wilson-Bates ’06
(see an assistant professor of English at Georgia Gwinnett College)

WORKING WITH AN EXEMPLARY TEACHER: “She seemed to treat every student paper as if she were a professional copy editor and the two of you were working on publishing something. I cannot imagine how much time and energy she has invested in market her papers.”
Toby Wilson-Bates

JCB AND THE ST. MARY’S EXPERIENCE: “I was lucky to have many smart, invested, and enthusiastic professors at St. Mary’s College, but in JCB’s classes, I knew I was also going to have fun. We were going to be joyful and laugh while we learned.”
Stacey Hamlet ’05
(teacher for LexisNexis and now for ProQuest)

FAVORITE COURSE: Creative Writing course with JCB in Slovenia. “This course was my first contact with the world of creative writing and I absolutely loved it. I changed how I write my own pieces and also how I read literature, how I thought about it, how I understood it.”
Estera Deželak
(JCB’s student at the University of Ljubljana during her first Fulbright in 2012, then a Slovene exchange student at JCB’s student at the University of Ljubljana during her first Fulbright in 2012, then a Slovene exchange student at JCB’s student at the University of Ljubljana during her first Fulbright in 2012, then a Slovene exchange student at JCB’s student at the University of Ljubljana during her first Fulbright in 2012, then a Slovene exchange student at JCB’s student at the University of Ljubljana during her first Fulbright in 2012, then a Slovene exchange student at JCB’s student at the University of Ljubljana during her first Fulbright in 2012, then a Slovene exchange student at JCB’s student at the University of Ljubljana during her first Fulbright in 2012, then a Slovene exchange student at JCB’s student at the University of Ljubljana during her first Fulbright in 2012, then a Slovene exchange student at JCB’s student at the University of Ljubljana during her first Fulbright in 2012, then a Slovene exchange student at)

LINGERING MEMORIES: “More than having a favorite memory, I remember how she would stand rather than sit, how she would move around and draw the weather into the center of the actions.”
Estera Deželak
As someone whose cooking and baking is well-known to anyone who has had the opportunity to take a class with her, Cognard-Black’s relationship with food has been deepened by her research and understanding of how food literature impacts readers. “I now understand [food] as something much more potent than mere sustenance or enjoyment,” she mentioned. “Food is identity. It’s ritual, religion, history, family, community, memory, politics, justice, economy, entertainment, commodity, and the most important environmental resource we have other than water and sunlight.” She has also become more aware of the need to ensure humanity’s access to healthy food, explaining that plentiful food is a “fundamental right of everyone on the planet—not just those who have the monetary means to procure it.”

Aside from teaching, Cognard-Black’s publications—from short fiction, to essays, to critical analyses, to anthologies and a writing textbook—have also allowed her to expand her understanding of the world around her. “I write to learn, I write to know, and I write to understand,” she explained. “I cannot imagine my existence without researching it through words, for I agree with Anatole France that ‘we write to taste life twice.’” Currently, Cognard Black is working on creating a second volume of food writing with Goldthwaite, this time focusing on the genre of ethical eating essays, tentatively entitled “Just Food: Perspectives on Ethical Eating.” She hopes that this anthology will be international, reflecting writers outside of the United States as well as from within. “It’s my hope that it will include a piece or two by Dutch authors, possibly one of my own students,” she remarked.

Cognard-Black’s dedication to studying food literature and how it influences readers has been broadened on her numerous trips abroad, allowing her to explore the roles of food across different cultures. Over the years, Cognard-Black has taught abroad in Stratford-upon-Avon, England; Alba, Italy; Ljubljana, Slovenia; and she was teaching in Amsterdam, the Netherlands in the spring of 2020 until Fulbright brought its scholars home due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“It is for this reason that Cognard-Black encourages her “Books that Cook” students to take part in service-learning projects for social change to ensure that all people have access to nourishing food.

“Thrive.”

Jennifer Cognard-Black

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“I often teach abroad because it puts me in the position of a student,” she noted. “My own knowledge broadens, and I am challenged…[;] that is what teaching really must be in order for it to remain both vibrant and vital: it must make the teacher a bit insecure, unsure of how things will go, of whether this approach or exercise or discussion or assignment will work well or be a failure.” Even in her classes on the St. Mary’s College campus, Cognard-Black brings the perspective of cultures outside Anglo-America into her lessons, reminding her students that it is important to consider global perspectives, which are often different from their own.

As a result of being the recipient of the 2020 Cherry Award for Great Teaching, Cognard-Black will spend the fall 2020 semester teaching at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, where she will teach both sophomore-level as well as senior-level undergraduate students in addition to helping to advise senior projects and master’s theses. After spending the fall at Baylor University, Cognard-Black will take a sabbatical in the spring of 2021. Her absence will be greatly missed around the St. Mary’s College campus, but her colleagues and students are also excited for the phenomenal opportunities that lie ahead for her.
Established in 2003 by co-founders Professors Sue Johnson and Michael Glaser, the Artist House at St. Mary’s College of Maryland continues its mission to support the arts by serving as a residency program to regional, national and international arts professionals and practitioners: visual artists, art historians, critics, curators, scholars and writers and poets. The resident artists get time and space to create new work; the campus and broader community benefit from planned programming and workshops given by the artist during their residency.

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

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

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

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

During her time in the Artist House, Nicholls focused her attention on a piece that will eventually be developed into a book made entirely out of her weavings. The pages of the book are made from the weavings she completed herself by a technique known as “double-cloth.” The book will feature ten poems written by Nicholls, and each letter is woven into the product to create a fascinating work of colors and words. She remarked that it felt great to return to campus because she continued to feel the support of the faculty members who helped develop her into the artist she has become. “When I was here as an art student, I went to the artist talks by visiting artists, so it was so nice to be back and to participate in this thing I experienced on the other side,” Nicholls explained.

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

On Saturday, Nov. 10, Schaer led a workshop at SMCM co-sponsored by the Arts Alliance to promote the beauty of bookbinding and excit...
Valerie Hardy served as the Artist House Teaching Fellow, a full semester residence that also comes with the opportunity to teach an art class and participate in the life of the Art and Art History Department. She has been a “painter from life” as she describes herself for 45 years and has experienced teaching painting at the college level. Upon her arrival on campus, she re-entered the teaching field after a 15-year retirement. Hardy spent the fall 2019 semester teaching ART 306: Introduction to Painting to a class of students with little to no art experience.

Teaching a class at SMCM while also creating new art in the Artist House studio, Hardy finds that as the instructor, she is able to better herself as an artist and as a person. “I like to think that what I do affects their work,” she stated. Hardy emphasized to her class the importance of thinking about their work and how it could influence our lives in meaningful ways. Book-making is a special skill to her and how it could be applied to her art experience.

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

SMCM’s Artist House Residency Program offers the opportunity for artists at all stages in their careers to set aside their everyday lives and dedicating time to concentrate solely on their creative and scholarly work. Program Director and Producer of Art Sue Johnson explains “it’s a two-way street – the residents are given the time and space to focus on their work and in return each resident engages in diverse ways through art programs, class visits, lectures, workshops and informally meeting with students, faculty, staff and community members.”

Johnson adds that the visiting artists “also serve to engage with the SMCM community in diverse ways through arts programming, class visits, lectures, workshops and informally meeting with students, faculty, staff and community members.”

Sue Johnson explains “it’s a two-way street – the residents are given the time and space to focus on their work and in return each resident engages in diverse ways through arts programming, class visits, lectures, workshops and informally meeting with students, faculty, staff and community members.”

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During the first week of November, David Siebel ‘11 rode his bicycle solo from San Francisco to San Diego, California. He took sixty days, averaging 75 miles per day for 620 miles and a total of over seven thousand miles. When he left San Francisco, he was 44 degrees; when he arrived in San Diego, it was 90 degrees. It was a fantastic trip with only one flat tire and a shredded rear derailleur cable. He hopes to do the rest of California next time.

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22

Leadership in Disability Services

Sara is currently finishing meaningful activities and programs for its “experiences unlimited” Maryland, as program manager at Athelas Institute in Columbia, published guidelines for training Animal and Vet Techs and has worked with the organization at the Food Research & Action Projects and initiatives associate at the Harvard University School of Public Health. Kerri is a founding member of the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston. Her completed her MFA in museum education at The George Washington University in 2009.

Shannon Burnham, BCBA ‘12, who is an associate director at the Language and Behavior Center in Nibley, Utah, also included regional vice president for ABA, and founding partner of Utah

Alexis Lygoumenos ‘10, who is a composer and trumpeter. He started his role as marketing director at the Food Research & Action Projects as a composer, trumpet player, and concept consultant to solve the furnishing and communications challenges facing modern arts organizations. Alongside his role as marketing director at Washington Revels, he is a founding member of District New Music Coalition in Washington, D.C.

Kelly Wibor ‘12 has recently started a new position in alternating vice president/associate consultant at BEAK Inc. Kelly attended the University of Maryland. London joins in finance has also included regional vice president for Equal Rights, regional vice president for ABA, and founding partner of Utah Capital Partners. She is currently serving on the Board of Howard County Chamber of Commerce.

Tracy is also a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Economics at Washington University, where she received her master’s degree in 2015.

Laura Brandon Barry ‘03 received her master’s degree in public health in the area of health programs management in 2002 at University of South Carolina. She is currently working as pediatric quality improvement manager at South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.

Emile Bunkowske ‘13 is a pro bono committee member at Washington Women in Public Relations and is also currently working as an Account Manager, Public Relations with REJ in the D.C. metro area. She completed a certificate in visual marketing and how to craft a consistent message in 2016, a certificate in content marketing in 2018, and informed certification in 2019.

Thomas Roush DPT ‘13 has also become a certified Personal Training Group, working in the D.C. metro area. Thomas attended Trinity College School of Health Science and completed his degree of physical therapy degree in 2010.

John Roho III (L.T.) ‘13 is a regional vice president/primary at Phoenix Private Wealth in Columbus, Maryland. John’s career in finance has also included regional vice president for Equal Rights, regional vice president for ABA, and founding partner of Utah Capital Partners. She is currently serving on the Board of Howard County Chamber of Commerce. She completed a degree in music education at the University of Maryland in 2018.

Laura’s recent promotion, data and project manager, is specifically focused on developing new ideas for “equity-minded” programs, providing meaningful activities and programs for people with significant disabilities. Sara is currently finishing her second master’s degree in leadership in disability services at the University of Delaware.

Cassie Ruiz Verile ‘07 is an Alumnae Advise Director at The George Washington University, and earned her master’s degree in project management at the University’s McCourt School of Public Policy in 2017.

Benjamin Toll ‘07 is an Alumnae Advise Director at The George Washington University, and has worked for the past eight years. He recently completed his master’s degree in project management from The George Washington University School of Business.

David Strickland ‘07 is an employee engagement specialist at Charles River Laboratories in Hunt Valley, Maryland, as program manager at Athelas Institute in Columbia, published guidelines for training Animal and Vet Techs and has worked with the organization at the Food Research & Action Projects and initiatives associate at the Harvard University School of Public Health. Kerri is a founding member of the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston. Her completed her MFA in museum education at The George Washington University in 2009.

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Alumni Council Spotlight: Geoff Cuneo

By Molly Maloney-Sealsam ’10

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

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

Geoff joined the Alumni Council because he wanted to give back to the university and stay connected. He currently serves as treasurer on the executive committee and is on the alumni relations committee. He serves as the alumni liaison for the council. “St. Mary’s obviously a special place for me,” he says. “It’s where I first met, (Kathleen Martin ‘12) where we got engaged and where we got married. St. Mary’s is my ‘happy place’ and I always love coming back.” Geoff and Kathleen live in Annapolis with their dog, Indy.

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

Kathryn Noon ’16 is registrar at Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in St. Michael’s, Maryland. She also started a new position as member of the Board of Directors at Edward H. Nahl Research Center at Salisbury University.

Mariah Leffingwell ’20 began a new position as legal and regulatory consultant at Clerk Hill Law, working in Washington, D.C. Mariah completed a law degree from Roger Williams University School of Law in 2019. Line Menn ’26 started a new position as White House Director of the White House History Advisory. Linea’s employment with this organization started in May 2020 as a public history research fellow and transitioned to an independent consultant. Linea has served as an independent consultant at the Maryland Historical Society since 2020. Linea completed a master’s degree from American University in Digital History in 2020. Paige was employed as a paralegal with HEARN Pennsylvania.

Sarah Davìl'17 started a new position as senior administrative coordinator at the Johns Hopkins University’s Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine. Sarah began working for JHU as a patient service representative.

Nori Felt ’27 has been promoted to church manager at Children’s Church of Washington where she was previously employed as a production assistant.

Maggie Goodall ’26 was appointed to a new position as environmental science reporter at the Maryland Environmental News. Maggie graduated from St. Mary’s in 2019 and completed a master’s degree in environmental science at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. Prior to this position, she worked as an aquatic field technician for Great Basin Institute in Reno, Nevada, and has spent her senior year of college working in the SMDCM sustainability office.

Dominic Alicayno ’28 has been promoted to production lab technician at Hopkins Schimel Histology Lab.

May Grenier ’17 is a new director of business and communications for the Commodities of Kentucky. May’s previous jobs were marketing and social media assistant at Spreeihrfnei, deputy finance director with J.B. Scott for Maryland, and finance director for Andy Bowen for Governor in Kentucky.

Ivan Hernandez ’17 started a new position as field coordinator at Inspire Education Group where he is pursuing a master’s degree in education at Johns Hopkins University’s Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies. Ivan has also served as natural resources specialist for the U.S. Treasury Office in Washington, D.C. Most recently Kevin was a field operator for Geonmi Mapping in Biddles, Maryland.

Sophia Fuziek ’27 recently started working at a new position as senior intelligence operations analyst for the Blue Jays Unlimited at International Maritime Institute in Baltimore, Maryland. Sophia is starting a new position as administration assistant at International Maritime Institute in Baltimore, Maryland.

Elizabeth LeBlanc Wilfong ’08 and Christopher Wilfong were married on March 16, 2019, at the Arms and Navy Club in Washington, D.C. Alumni who attended the wedding were Kevin Traver ’08 and Catherine Kihlstedt ’08. The couple honeymooned in Iquique, Chile.

Katherine Serfling Forest ’12 and James Forest ’14 were married on August 9, 2019, at Chesapeake Bay Beach Club in Kent Island, Maryland. Alumni in the wedding party were members of the class of ‘12 and ‘13. The couple resides in Washington, D.C.

Katherine Sorbing Forest ’12 and James Forest ’14 were married on August 9, 2019, at Chesapeake Bay Beach Club in Kent Island, Maryland. Alumni in the wedding party were members of the class of ‘12 and ‘13. The couple resides in Washington, D.C.

Alumni attending the Cameron Hodgdon ’13 wedding (his daughter Haley was flower girl) were Katherine ’11, Joe ’10, Max ’13, and Cammy ’12.

Events. She earned a graduate degree in security studies. The couple also received her master’s degree from Georgetown University in security studies. The couple resides in Washington, D.C.

Kathleen Carmean ’18 started a new position as finance manager for General Motors in Alexandria, Virginia. Kathleen has been promoted to production assistant at Harrisburg School of Culture, Education and Human Development.

Ethan Brown ’18 started a new position as production manager at Hopkins Schmell Histology Lab.

Catherine Kamen ’19 started a new position as project coordinator in Baltimore, Maryland, for BGE. She works in their energy efficiency division that supports BGE’s Smart Energy Services Program. Prior to this job, Kathleen worked for Morgan Stanley as a business development analyst for Great Basin Institute in Reno, Nevada.

Taylor Fagg ’20 started a new position as senior employment specialist at Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore, Maryland. Taylor was employed as a mathematics teacher in Baltimore, Maryland. Prior to this position, Taylor was employed as a human resources professional in the Baltimore area.

David Fitch ’20 started a new position as property, project, and facilities coordinator at Johns Hopkins University where he is pursuing a master’s degree in environmental science and policy. Dylan Smith ’17 received his master’s degree in biological science in May 2019 from the White House Office of Public Affairs.

Sarah Danihel ’17 was promoted to production assistant and correspondence manager at Inspire Education Group where she was previously employed as a marketing manager with Jamon Foundation, and multiple jobs with Financial Marketing & Events. Sarah graduated from Marshall University with degrees in film and media production.

Kaitlin Aaby ’18 started a new position as a research services coordinator. She completed an Excel Core certification in 2017.

Ivan Hernandez ’17 started a new position as environmental science reporter at the Maryland Environmental News. Ivan has also served as natural resources specialist for the U.S. Treasury Office in Washington, D.C. Most recently Kevin was a field operator for Geonmi Mapping in Biddles, Maryland.

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Joanna Purich ’13
Elaina Baden ’14
Matthew Baden Bender ’14
Pierre Zibi ’14
Michael ’15
Mae Rukstalis, Alemán ’14
Barrett Enix ’11
JP Debrowski ’10
Jonathan
the wedding party included best
Ridge, Maryland. Alumni in
2019 at Woodlawn Estate in
were married on July 20,
Disney World. They reside in
College flag as their guestbook.
that they used a St. Mary’s
So many Seahawks attended
Katie Boyle ’14
groomswoman.
and
Sean Jenkins-Houk ’13
groomsmen,
best man,
and
Esteban Caballero ’18
Other alumni in attendance
Kelton Tupper ’16.
Allie Leonard ’13
Matthew Braun ’15
Ali Leon-
Smeriglio ’17
Matt
and
Sean Jeffers ’17
Michael Anania-Bernal ’04
Sally McFadden ’18
Annie
Other alumni in attendance
were
Columbia, Maryland.
Jewelers in Ocean City. During
her career as an entrepreneur,
she often traveled to Mexico
for her silver jewelry business.
Raised in Montgomery County,
Maryland, she was a graduate
College. He was the director of
Community Mental Health
services for St. Mary’s
College. He worked for more than 30 years
with the state of Maryland, first
at Prince George’s County
Community Mental Health.

IN MEMORIAM

Patricia Louies (Patti) Hudson ’03 died December 24, 2019, in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, at the age of 66. Patti was known as “The Gingerbread Lady” because she taught classes in making gingerbread houses at the Smithsonian Institution for eight years and wrote the book “Gingerbread Ideas” in 1999. She was featured on the front page of the Wall Street Journal after publication of her book, which is now in its 4th edition. She is survived by her husband of 65 years, R. Suter Hudson, her daughter, three grandchildren and her sister.

Martin Louies (Maggie) Healy Miller ’06 died April 2, 2019, in her home in West Ocean City, Maryland. Maggie was 70 years old and the co-owner of Somerset

Victoria Narduzzi Banis ’13
and David Banis were married on October 26, 2019, in Brooklyn, Virginia. Alumni in the wedding party were bridesmaids Abby VanAndijk ’13 and best man Joseph Norman ’11. The couple honeymooned in Cancun, Mexico. They currently reside in Springfield, Virginia.

Kelney Kuzmau Stottlemeyer ’13 [1] and Jason Stottlemeyer ’13 were married on October 13, 2019, at the Quainters Castle in Lutherville, Maryland. Alumni in the wedding party included maid of honor Kristen Dole ’13, bridesmaid Mallory Savic ’20, best man
Ryan Thompson ’13, groomsmen Don German ’13 and Sean Jenkins-Houk ’13 and a groomsman Katie Boyle ’14.

So many Seahawks attended
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groomswoman.
and
Sean Jenkins-Houk ’13
groomsmen,
best man,
and
Esteban Caballero ’18
Other alumni in attendance
were
Columbia, Maryland.
Jewelers in Ocean City. During
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Raised in Montgomery County,
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BIRTHS & ADOPTIONS

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

Rachel Leahof Cutrufello ’08 [2] and Nick Cutrufello ’04 welcomed a son, Orin Nicholas Cutrufello, born on April 5, 2019. He joins big brothers Angie, age 7, and Enzo, age 5. The family resides in Sandusky, New Mexico.


All McInnis Shoppey ’13 [3] and Linda Shoppey ’09 are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Sebastian McInnis Shoppey, born in August 2019. The family resides in Westminster, Maryland.

Kelli Wagner-Kempys ’15 [4] and Wesley Kempys welcomed a daughter, Nora Louise, born on September 13, 2019. The family resides in Bristol, Air, Maryland.
The original Calvert Hall was destroyed by a devastating fire that started in the basement furnace room on January 5, 1924. J. Frederick Fausz recounts the tense days following the fire in his history, “Monument School of the People: A Sesquicentennial History of St. Mary’s College of Maryland 1840-1990,” summarized here:

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

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

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

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

The new Calvert Hall was furnished mostly by benefactors who, for $200 per room, could have an inscribed brass plate placed on the door of the dormitory room identifying the donor and the loved ones they were memorializing by their gift. By 1926, 31 rooms had been furnished this way. The brass plates are no longer on the doors of these former residential rooms of Calvert Hall, but the Archives has a “stack” of them. Here are inscriptions of four:

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

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

In Memory of Cecilia Dent Harrison, 1792-1853, by Her Descendants. Donor: J. E. Harrison

In Memory of Mrs. Liburn, Principal (source: Job Art-Marker-06. Memorial Rooms of Calvert Hall, College Archives)

LEFT: Typical dormitory room furnished by donations in rebuilt Calvert Hall from p. 6 of Fausz’s book; courtesy: program cover and page from 1924 cornerstone laying ceremony.

**WE SHALL CARRY ON!**

By Lee Capristo, editor

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

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

To make a gift, please visit smcm.edu/giving