

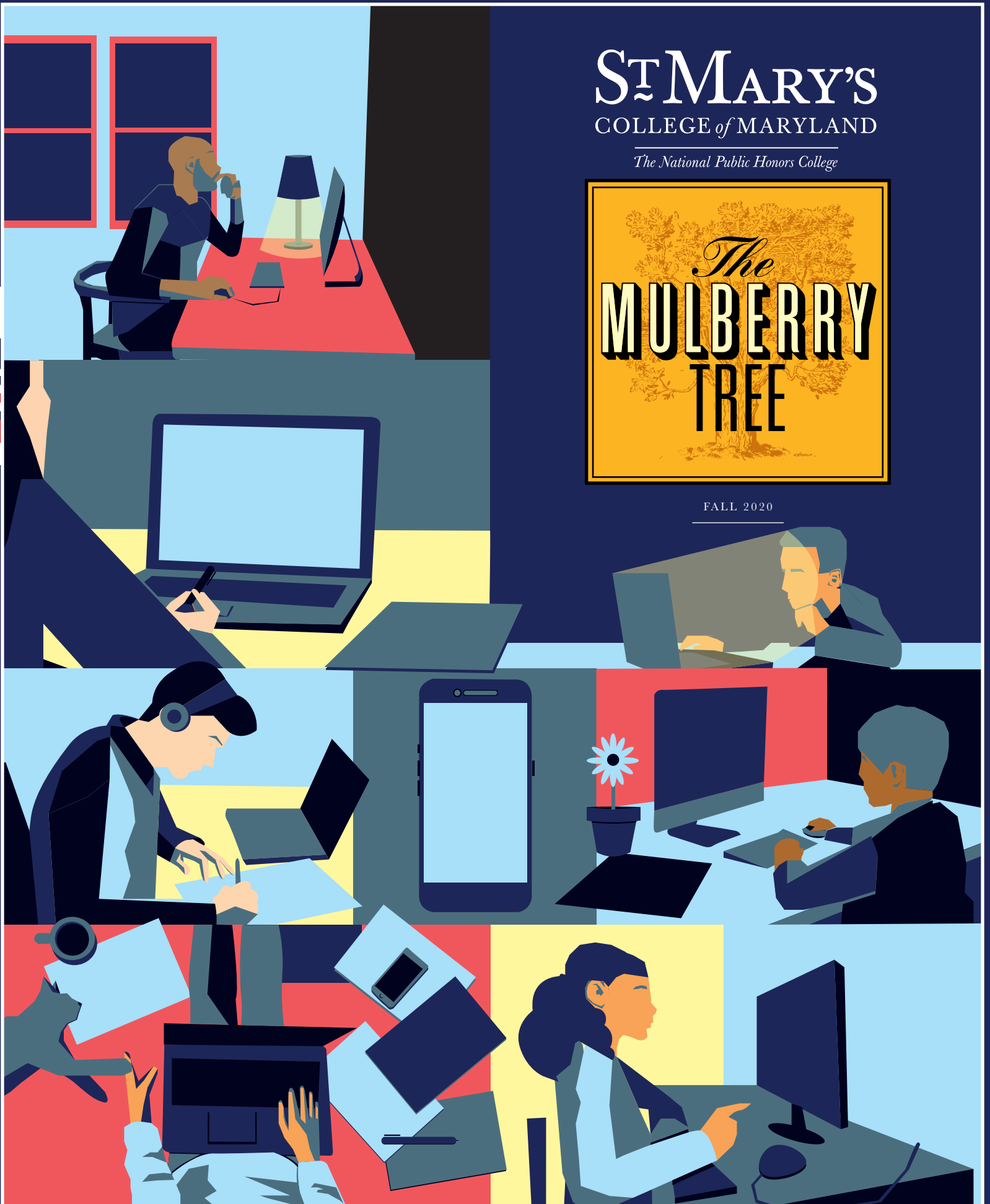
ST MARY'S

COLLEGE of MARYLAND

The National Public Honors College



FALL 2020



The **NATIONAL PUBLIC HONORS** *College*

ST. MARY'S COLLEGE
of Maryland

The MULBERRY TREE

FALL 2020, VOL. XLI, NO. 3

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Editor

Lee Capristo

Design

Jensen Design

Photographer

Bill Wood

Editorial Board

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

Publisher

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

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

The magazine is named for the famous mulberry tree under which the Calvert colonists signed a treaty of friendship with the Yaocomico people and on the trunk of which public notices were posted in the mid-1600s. The tree endured long into the 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-in-residence when St. Mary's College President Renwick Jackson launched the magazine.

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St. Mary's College of Maryland has offset 6,905 pounds of paper used for the production of this issue by planting 83 trees in the U.S.



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OPPOSITE: Photo by Dan Pindell '10,
web developer at SMCM.

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ON THE COVER: Illustration by Erin Moran '20, art major and graphic design intern in the Office of Integrated Marketing.

WE HAVE BEGUN AN EXTRAORDINARY SEMESTER UNLIKE ANY OTHER. — I do not know how it will go. What I do know is that we have given everything we have to get here and it is my sincere belief that we will continue to give it our all through to the end of this pandemic.

I am proud of the work that has yielded our largest first-year class in five years and of those students who are embarking on their college journey. They are happy and eager to be here and their enthusiasm energizes us.

I am tremendously grateful to all of the faculty and staff who gave of their time and expertise to help us plan for this semester by their participation on the myriad Reopening Task Force subgroups. Whether it was enhancing information technology to support hybrid instruction or implementing compliant COVID-19 test protocols; reconfiguring and labeling all campus spaces for safe social distancing or fundraising to support students impacted by the pandemic, their herculean efforts enabled us to reopen the campus on August 17.

Though COVID-19 has created much chaos and uncertainty in our lives, there is one thing to count on: We support each other at St. Mary's College. We will do the right thing. As the St. Mary's Way reminds us, the College is a place "where people contribute to a spirit of caring," a place that causes us to hold ourselves accountable and respectful of each other. My hope is that St. Mary's College will be the example of how to live and learn within the confines of our present global health crisis that continues to affect every aspect of our lived experience.

Thank you for helping us move together through this unprecedented —but temporary— moment in time.



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

Editor's Note

JOHAN PRINE WROTE A SONG CALLED "PARADISE" — it's a sad song about the loss of innocence, specifically a childhood memory of lush mountains along the Green River in western Kentucky ruined by strip mining. But Prine's craggy voice finishes the song in an uplifted place so that the memory of a place that once was might someday be again:

*"When I die let my ashes float down the
Green River
Let my soul roll on up to the Rochester Dam
I'll be halfway to Heaven with Paradise waitin'
Just five miles away from wherever I am."*

Prine died April 7, 2020 from COVID-19 and his lyrical request was granted.

How is it that hope endures through tragedy, through bitterness, through exhaustion? The hunger for hope pulls us up by our bootstraps and helps us take action. Alumni fighting on the front lines of this pandemic like **April Anderson '99**, face tragedy every day but quiet victories keep them in the battle. St. Mary's College faculty working with the St. Mary's County Health Department on public and environmental health issues related to the coronavirus in wastewater dedicate research expertise, their time and lab space to move the needle in a positive direction. And who can forget the Student Government Association's gift of \$50,000 to the Recovery Fund, helping fellow students impacted by the pandemic?

This issue focuses on COVID-19 and the College community's response to it — a theme carried out in harmony with nearly every other college magazine. Yet hope persists that our St. Mary's Way of adapting to the pandemic will carry the day.

Onward, with hope.

LEE CAPRISTO, *editor*

CAMPUS & COMMUNITY NEWS

Welcome to the largest first-year class in five years, topping out at 462 new students.

Welcome to:

Kelsey Bush '94, interim chief diversity officer. Bush previously worked with the Department of Aging and Human Services in Leonardtown, Maryland. Bush reports to President Tuajuanda C. Jordan.

Crystal Gibson, director of athletics and recreation, who took over for retiring longtime director **Scott Devine**. Gibson most recently served as the interim director of athletics at Susquehanna University and before that, was the women's basketball coach at SMCM and senior woman administrator from 2011-2017.

Christopher Heckman, joining the faculty as research and instruction librarian.

Shana Meyer, interim vice president of student affairs. Meyer previously worked at Missouri Western State University in St. Joseph, Missouri. Meyer reports to President Tuajuanda C. Jordan.



Giving Tuesday Campaign Earns CASE Gold Award

The Institutional Advancement team won Gold in the 2020 Circle of Excellence Awards from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) for the BeCounted on Giving Tuesday fundraising campaign. That same Giving Tuesday campaign won a Bronze Award in the Annual Educational Advertising Awards and was a Grand Award winner in the national 2020 APEX Awards. This adds to the six total awards the team won in 2019-20.

NABA Takes Shape

The construction of two new academic buildings with auditorium (NABA) is clearly evident on the site of the former varsity athletic field. The complex is on schedule to open for the fall 2022 semester.

The main building will house the Music Department, a 700-seat auditorium and a 125-seat recital hall. The west building will house the Educational Studies Department, a study commons and a café. A new

Crescent Greens behind the Townhouse Crescent for outdoor relaxation and recreation is to be created as is increased parking on the north campus and improvements to the College's entry from Mattapan Road.

Holder Construction Company is the builder; the design is by Graham Gund Architects of Boston and GWWO Architects of Baltimore.



While the postponement of all varsity and club sports this fall due to the pandemic means that the new track program is delayed, an NCAA-compliant track surface was completed this summer at the Jamie L. Roberts Stadium. A robust intramurals program will help keep student athletes engaged in the interim.

Winter Session to be Offered

St. Mary's College will offer a new, fully remote term between fall and spring semesters, called Winterim. The new term begins on December 14, 2020 and ends on January 12, 2021. Classes will carry up to four credits and be taught as either three-week or four-week courses.

Winterim offers an opportunity for students to earn additional credits and to stay on pace for four-year graduation.

Students will receive full information about the Winterim session from the Office of the Registrar. Student registration will begin on October 19, 2020, and continue through December 11, 2020.

Amidst Pandemic, Students Persist with Graduation and Job Search

On May 15, St. Mary's College of Maryland Board of Trustees approved 278 Bachelor of Arts /

Bachelor of Science and 20 Master of Arts of Teaching graduates of the St. Mary's College Class of 2020. The graduating class includes 159 Bachelor of Art degrees and 119 Bachelor of Science degrees. Of the 278 graduates, 57 students earned double majors and 3 earned triple majors.

The 2020 graduating class was invited to access the Job-IQ Professional Contacts Directory, the College's new and proprietary database, that virtually connects students with working professionals from the College's alumni base and community. "The Professional Contacts Directory is unique to St. Mary's College," said Job-IQ creator Molly Mahoney Matthews. "Most people find jobs from their network and the directory makes it possible to match the amazing SMCM alumni with students. This feature allows students to search for and build a network with working professionals who meet their criteria in their career field and type of

PRESIDENT'S NEWS

President Tuajuanda C. Jordan has been appointed chair to the Higher Education Resource Services (HERS) board of directors. She has been on the board since July 2018 and has served on several committees, including the Advancement Committee (2018-2019), and prior to her current appointment, also served as the chair of Nominations & Governance (2019-2020). She is a HERS Leadership Institute Alumna 2000.

"To serve on a board focused on empowering women to develop their leadership skills is a privilege that has been bestowed upon me and I will not squander it," said Jordan. "As a HERS Bryn Mawr 2000 participant, our motto was 'Administration as a creative act.' I have come back to that motto time and time again as I've risen through the ranks. The HERS experience was transformative and I am honored to



be in a position where I can work to ensure that it remains so for many years to come."

According to the website, HERS was founded in 1972, and is a "leadership development and research organization that is dedicated to creating and sustaining a diverse network of women leaders in higher education. HERS proudly serves as both a network and hub of resources for women eager to advance both themselves and their respective institutions of higher education."

position." Alumni and community professionals interested in being part of the directory can learn more at <https://tinyurl.com/jobiq>.

Two New Trustees Join Board

President Jordan and St. Mary's College of Maryland welcomed two alumni to the Board of Trustees in May: Nicolas Abrams '99 and Doug Mayer '04.

Abrams is a Certified Financial Planner TM Professional and founder and CEO of AJW Financial Partners LLC. His wealth management and financial planning firm has offices in Columbia, Maryland

and Washington, D.C. With more than 15 years of experience in the financial services industry, Abrams advises clients on investment, retirement, and insurance strategies.

Mayer is a political strategist and veteran communicator with more than 15 years of experience working in the political communications sector, including serving three successful governors. He is a partner at Strategic Partners & Media, where he applies campaign strategy and tactics to a diverse set of clients and problems, both political and corporate.

FACULTY, STAFF & STUDENT NEWS

Christine Adams,

professor of history, has received two prestigious fellowships: one through the American Council on Learned Societies (ACLS) and the other from the Newberry Library. Adams will be an ACLS fellow for the 2020-2021 academic year, and an Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellow at the Newberry Library in Chicago from January-June of 2021. Adams will conduct research on her newest project, entitled "The Merveilleuses and Their Impact on the French Social Imaginary, 1795-1799 and Beyond." Adams is the author or co-editor of five books including her new book with co-author (and sister) Tracy Adams entitled, "The Creation of the French Royal Mistress: From Agnès Sorel to Madame Du Barry," (2020, Penn State University Press).



Assistant Professor of Sociology **Andrew Cognard-Black** has published the feature essay in a recent issue of the Journal of the National Collegiate Honors Council. Titled "Risky Honors," the essay introduced the cover story for the issue focusing on the tension for honors students between intellectual risk-taking and the desire to avoid possible failure that sometimes comes from taking risks. Cognard-Black serves on the NCHC Board of Directors. He also is an active member of the NCHC Publications Board, and this year he began a three-year term as co-chair of the NCHC Research Committee.

Jennifer Cognard-Black, professor of English, will spend the spring 2021 semester teaching at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, as part of her Robert Foster Cherry Award for Great Teaching in 2020. Awarded biennially, The Cherry Award is a prestigious national teaching award – with the single, largest monetary reward of \$250,000 presented by a college or university to an individual for exceptional teaching.

Holly Blumner, associate professor of theater, film and media studies, retired this past spring. Blumner was influential in the study and performance of kyogen theater at SMCM.

Professor of Biology **Jeff Byrd** gave the keynote address at the 2020 Annual Chesapeake Area Biological Safety Association Symposium held virtually in June. Byrd highlighted community-developed changes to the American Society for Microbiology Laboratory Biosafety Guidelines and offered practical tips for their implementation. Byrd serves as the safety editor for the Journal of Microbiology & Biology Education, and was on the ASM Task Committee that developed the original guidelines and chaired the committee for the revised version.

Lee Capristo, director of publications, won an Award of Excellence in the 32nd Annual APEX Awards for Publication Excellence Competition. The award recognized the writing of the editor's note column in the Mulberry Tree magazine over three issues



published during 2019-2020. The APEX award is Capristo's 14th in her career with St. Mary's College of Maryland.



Squid hatchlings.

Professor of Biology **Karen Crawford**, who was the Whitman Scientist this summer on a team at Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, is first author of a milestone study reported in the July 30 issue of Current Biology. The team at MBL, led by MBL Senior Scientist Joshua Rosenthal and Crawford, has achieved the first gene knockout in a cephalopod using the squid *Doryteuthis pealeii*, an exceptionally important research organism in biology for nearly a century. Crawford and Rosenthal were interviewed about their research by Ira Flatow on NPR's "Science Friday" for an August 7 broadcast.

Assistant Professor of Psychology **Gili Freedman** and colleague Jennifer Beer (University of Texas at Austin) were awarded a three-year grant from the National Science Foundation for a total of

\$465,222 (\$75,102 of which will go to SMCM). In the project titled "Collaborative Research: Lessening the Blow of Social Rejection," Freedman and Beer will investigate the language of social rejection and how power and concern for one's reputation shape the way that individuals reject others.

Faculty in chemistry, biochemistry and psychology presented their work at the CUR Virtual Biennial Conference in June. Assistant Professor **Geoffrey Bowers** presented a talk, "Student Outcomes and Student/Faculty Perceptions of a Scaffolded Research Rotation Laboratory Model." Professor **Pam Mertz** presented a talk, "Scaffolding Undergraduate Research and Cognate Skills into The Undergraduate Chemistry/Biochemistry Curricula." Assistant Professor **Shanen Sherrer** presented a poster titled "Publish or Perish: Using Research Scenarios to Connect Biochemistry Concepts." Professor **Aileen Bailey** presented "Optimizing Resources: Adding Undergraduate Research Experiences to the Curriculum Using Existing Resources." Associate Professor **James Mantell** presented "Undergraduate Students' Knowledge of Research Methods and Statistics: An Integrated Approach to Skills and Content."

Assistant Professor of Chemistry **Daniel Chase** was recently awarded a three-year, \$70,000 grant from the American Chemical Society Petroleum Research Fund. The project is titled: "Synthesis and Catalytic Exploration of Transition Metal Aza-Dipyrromethene Che

lates.” Chase’s research avenues involve the synthesis of organic and inorganic molecules to explore applications that are advantageous to industry such as the development of transition metal catalysts that can be used in selective oxidation reactions.

Matthew Fehrs, associate professor of political science, has been named an Aldom-Plansoen Fellow for a two-year term. The fellowship recognizes professional accomplishments and promising developing research, and provides funds to sustain and enrich their scholarly contributions. The fellowship award is supported by the Aldom-Plansoen Endowment established in 1999 by Jarrod Aldom ’97 and John Plansoen. Fehrs’ most recent work, “Too Many Cooks in the Foreign Policy Kitchen: Confused British Signaling and the Falklands War,” is forthcoming in *Democracy and Security*.



David Froom, professor of music, and **Rie Moore ’19** have each been awarded Maryland Individual Artist Awards. They were among 50 award-winners chosen from more than 250 applicants. Froom was awarded for “notable artistic achievement” in musical composition; Moore was awarded for “promise and innovation” in piano performance. Rie Moore also was scheduled to compete this past May in the 2020 Cliburn International Amateur Piano Competition, as an outstanding non-professional pianist, in Fort Worth, Texas. Because of the coronavirus pandemic, the competition has been rescheduled for 2022.

Liza Gijanto, associate professor of anthropology, and **Randy Larsen**, professor of chemistry, were awarded an NSF Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) grant focused on archaeological investigations of colonial Maryland. The \$368,278 grant will fund a multi-year research program for numerous students from across the U.S. The eight-week program will be hosted by St. Mary’s College of Maryland, with field work occurring at the Cremona Estate in Mechanicsville, Maryland, and collections management and conservation training done in collaboration with the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory (MAC Lab) in St. Leonard, Maryland. The three-year project was scheduled to run in the summers of 2020, 2021 and 2022. However, due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Gijanto and Larsen worked with NSF to delay implementation of the project by one year.

Distinguished Professor of Psychology (Emerita) **Laraine Glidden** has received the Presidential Award from the American Association of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, recognizing outstanding contributions to the field and record of scholarship. Glidden earned the 2008 Distinguished Research Award of The Arc, the 2011 appointment as a Global Scholar by Special Olympics International, and the 2015 Edgar A. Doll Award from Division 33 of the APA for career research achievements in intellectual and developmental disabilities.



Gurbisz is expert on submerged aquatic vegetation.

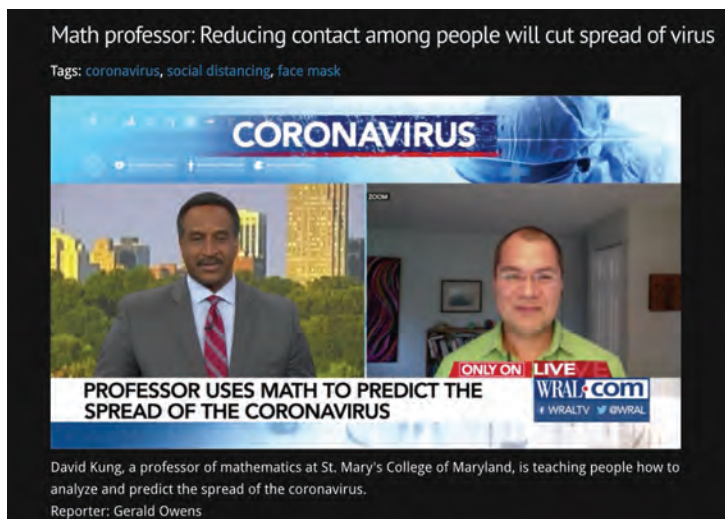
Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies **Cassie Gurbisz** was recently awarded an \$8,431 contract with Green Fin Studio, to provide technical expertise in the development of a Chesapeake Bay submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) restoration manual for the Chesapeake Bay Trust. Gurbisz will conduct a review of SAV and seagrass restoration literature, work with Green Fin Studio to collaboratively develop restoration protocols for the four salinity zones of Chesapeake Bay, and review the final manual and education and outreach materials.

An edited version of the introduction to “Republican Populist: Spiro Agnew and the Origins of Donald Trump’s America” (University of Virginia Press, 2019) by **Charles J. Holden**, Zach P. Messitte and Gerald Podair, appeared in *American Heritage* magazine (Vol. 65, Issue 3, June 2020). Holden is professor of history at St. Mary’s College of Maryland.



Associate Professors of Computer Science **Alan Jamieson** and **Lindsay Jamieson** presented “Computational Thinking at SMCM” at the Maryland CS Summit held virtually in May. The presentation focused on the piloting of a new course on computational thinking in K-8 classrooms. The course development was sponsored by a grant from the Maryland Center of Computing Education. Additionally, Lindsay Jamieson has been named to the board of directors of the Greenwell Foundation, Inc., a nonprofit organization in Hollywood, Maryland. During the past academic year, she led her computer science students in a capstone project to develop a web-based software solution for the Greenwell Foundation to share, control and secure documents.

Dave Kung, professor of mathematics, has a new book, “What Could They Possibly Be Thinking!?!,” available through the Mathematical Association of America. Written by Kung and colleague Natasha Speer (associate professor of mathematics at the University of Maine), the book explores student thinking in mathematics and guides teachers to be able to anticipate student difficulties and help to refine their reasoning. In July, Kung was featured on WRAL’s Evening News for Charlotte, North Carolina. He spoke about the math behind the coronavirus. In March, Kung teamed up with The Great Courses to host a new video that helps explain the spread of the coronavirus. The 15-minute program, called “How Math Predicts the Coronavirus Curve,” is available on YouTube. He is the current director of the MAA’s Project NExT, a professional



Kung on WRAL

development program that serves 80 new mathematics faculty every year. Kung's royalties from the book will support ProjectNExT. He is also the current director of strategy and implementation for TPSE-Math (Transforming Post-Secondary Education in Mathematics).

Pamela Mertz, professor of biochemistry, recently published an editorial in *Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Education* with multiple co-authors from other institutions entitled, "Moving biochemistry and molecular biology courses online in times of disruption: Recommended practices and resources — a collaboration with the faculty community and ASBMB."

Barry Muchnick, associate professor of environmental studies, was awarded a three-year, \$18,110 subaward as part of a \$1.077 million National Science Foundation grant. The collaborative research project brings together researchers from University of Northern Colorado, St. Mary's College of Maryland, and nine other higher-education institu-

tions across the country to develop a machine-learning program to assess students' understanding of the connections among food-energy-water concepts in their classes.

Carrie Patterson, professor of art, has been named a Steven Muller Distinguished Professor of the Arts for a three-year term. The professorship was created in 2000 by the late Steven Muller, donor and former chair of the College's Board of Trustees, and honors a faculty member whose accomplishments in the visual/performing arts are recognized as distinguished by peers in the field. Patterson has an MFA from the University of Pennsylvania. Her work has been featured in such national group exhibitions as the Painting Center's "25th Anniversary Show" (2019, New York) and the national juried group exhibition, "X Marks the Spot" (2018, New York Studio School). Patterson has published art courses through The Great Courses online learning program and has been an active collaborator in many community art projects.

Kent Randell, college archivist and associate librarian, has been named an Aldom-Plansoen Fellow for a two-year term. The fellowship recognizes professional accomplishments and promising developing research, and provides funds to sustain and enrich their scholarly contributions. The fellowship award is supported by the Aldom-Plansoen Endowment established in 1999 by Jarrod Aldom '97 and John Plansoen. His most recent article, "The Enigmatic 1744 Will of John 2 Rousby: A Case Study in Coverture, Private Baptisms, Passing Property to Illegitimate Heirs in the Presence of Legitimate Heirs, and a Pattern of Diminished Marriage Prospects for Those Heirs," is forthcoming in the *Maryland Genealogical Society Journal*.

Lisa Scheer, professor of art, retired after 39 years of teaching at SMCM simultaneous with a full schedule of high-profile sculpture commissions. Her work can be seen at Reagan National Airport (DCA), Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI), Brooklyn Courthouse in New York, as examples.

St. Mary's College Professor of Political Science **Sahar Shafqat** has co-authored a book, titled "Pakistan's Political Parties: Surviving between Dictatorship and Democracy" (Georgetown University Press). The book examines how the civilian side of the state's current regime has survived the transition to democracy, providing critical insight into the evolution of political parties in Pakistan and their role in developing democracies in general.

In June, the Center for the Study of Democracy, directed by **Antonio Ugues Jr.**, associate professor of political science, hosted a virtual panel to discuss public health issues including COVID-19. The panel featured SMCM scientists on the St. Mary's County COVID-19 Scientific Advisory Group and the St. Mary's County Health Department's Health Officer Meena Brewster. The panel highlighted the role of sound, science-based leadership and decision-making in public health; discussed the importance of public partnerships in addressing public health challenges; and highlighted the ways in which a liberal arts educational institution like St. Mary's College can contribute in this process. The faculty speakers on the panel included **Kevin Emerson**, associate professor of biology; **Linden McBride '03**, assistant professor of economics; **Emek Köse**, associate professor of mathematics; **Troy Townsend '07**, assistant professor of chemistry; **Jessica Malisch**, assistant professor of biology; and **William (Bill) Roberts**, professor of anthropology.

Professor of Psychology **Libby Nutt Williams** recently published an article in the journal *Psychotherapy* with **Emily Morgan '17**. The article, "A Qualitative Study of Psychotherapists' In-Session Tears," which is based on Morgan's senior capstone project, examines the impact of therapists' crying during counseling sessions from the point of view of the therapist.





SEAHAWKS LENDING A *HAND*

How St. Mary's College Alumni are Making a Difference During the Coronavirus Pandemic

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

With spring 2020 came a new normal; students were forced to learn from home, thousands of people were put out of work, and parents found themselves locked in their homes with no daycare options while trying to maintain a structured schedule for teleworking. The coronavirus outbreak took the world by storm and put everyday life on hold around the world. Students and faculty at St. Mary's College of Maryland were sent home to complete the second half of the spring 2020 semester remotely. As cases of the virus increased, hope seemed lost and many reflected on how quickly the world flipped upside down. During this dark and devastating time, however, many people took action to provide for those less fortunate than them. As the state of the nation slowly declined, St. Mary's College alumni started campaigns and projects to help instill some sense of normalcy and to give back to the frontline workers who were putting themselves at risk on a daily basis to fight this deadly and unprecedented virus.

Illustrations by Keely Houk '17, senior graphic designer at SMCM



While some people were forced to combat the coronavirus first-hand as their job required them to come into contact with individuals who have the virus, others volunteered to put themselves at risk to make a difference for those who have been struggling more due to the pandemic. In true SMCM fashion, alumni have been putting others before themselves in order to make this difficult situation feel as normal as possible. Although they may not have been able to be face-to-face with others during this time, they have worked tirelessly to ensure that the needs of others are not forgotten during this uncertain time.

April Anderson '99 is an emergency medicine physician who confronts the virus on a daily basis in her work. Based in the Miami-Dade area in Florida, the pandemic increased her workload especially towards the end of June and through the month of July. Early on, she and her colleagues were unsure of what to expect as well as how to fight the virus. Not only was Anderson unsure of how to treat her patients, but she was also unsure of what she was exposing herself to and of what she was potentially bringing home to her family. She explained, "initially, some people suggested that I quit or take a leave of absence until this all blows over, but that never crossed my mind. This is what I'm trained to do, take care of sick people, so that's what I'm going to keep on doing."

Anderson mentioned that one positive outcome of the pandemic is that it has allowed people to recognize the importance of medical professionals and to appreciate how they risk their lives on a daily basis to make the health and safety of others their top priority. Fortunately, Anderson stated, her hospital has done a great job of providing their employees with the proper personal pro-

TECTIVE equipment. She mentioned that it is challenging to constantly change the gear to make sure that nothing is cross contaminated. While her work has been extremely challenging due to this new and unprecedented virus, Anderson mentioned that there are perks to working with coronavirus patients. "The most rewarding thing is seeing patients who arrived in distress walk out alive, and knowing that without our hard work, that wouldn't have been possible. Emergency Medicine hasn't been a specialty that gets a lot of credit, but now is our time. It's nice to finally be recognized for all the hard work." In addition, Anderson emphasized the importance of realizing that this virus is not a hoax, and she stated the importance of ensuring the safety of oneself and others.

Another alum who combats the virus on a daily basis is **Kathleen Stefanos '05** who trained as a physician in both pediatrics as well as emergency medicine. She remarked that, although the coronavirus was a new and unprecedented outbreak, she and her coworkers were given a little preparation for the pandemic. One of her main goals aside from treating her patients was to help inform others about the new illness, and she spent much of her time teaching others about the new discoveries which surfaced each day. Her desire to teach others about the coronavirus inspired her to create an online learning elective for their medical students who were no longer able to gain experience in the hospital due to the pandemic. Stefanos explained, "The medical center was seeking ways to teach students without having them see patients, so I spoke to a colleague with an idea and we opened an elective for the students. They studied an assigned topic for the day based on

articles and book chapters, and this was followed by a series of virtual patient encounters via zoom, where myself and several other recruited physicians walked students through cases."

The online elective, which was originally created to be a one-time occurrence, was so popular that Stefanos and her coworkers opened up two more week-long courses which filled up quickly. The curriculum will also be offered for students at outside institutions for the fall 2020 semester. Aside from the tireless efforts Stefanos put into caring for her patients, she dedicated her free time to educating medical students about the virus so that they understood the seriousness of the pandemic and this unprecedented illness.

Lieutenant **Alexander Walls '13** has been serving in the United States Marine Corps since 2016, and is a member of the 2d Marine Logistics Group (2dMLG) MakerSpace. The mission of 2dMLG MakerSpace is to inform and educate Marines and sailors on how to properly utilize technology that is not taught in formal Marine Corps training, such as 3-D printing, robotics, and coding. Although the pandemic caused the cancelation of all classes in order to slow the spread of the virus, the 3-D printing devices were still used to produce personal protective equipment for marines who were confronting the virus in their daily work. In addition, Walls explained that "the Marines of the MakerSpace jumped into action immediately and started working 24 hour shifts in order to keep the printers running constantly. Between the local Naval Hospital and Marines protecting the USNS Comfort in New York City, there was a lot of demand for PPE within the Marine Corps."

Walls was in charge of a total of seven marines

who worked around the clock to create protective equipment for those on the frontlines. He stated that “The MakerSpace printed over 1500 face shields along with countless tension release bands for face masks and distributed them to Marines and Sailors supporting the military’s COVID response.” Walls explained that the most rewarding part of the work was “knowing that we were making a difference by providing protection for those that were on the front lines. It was also great to have a case study that could demonstrate the usefulness of the technology and training we were providing.”

Stacy Miller '02 has created a company out of her own kitchen in Charlottesville, Virginia, called Good Phyte, which has a goal to produce healthy and delicious snacks and treats with authentic ingredients while supporting local farms and businesses. The company, which consists of a small group of women who work out of Miller’s kitchen, continued to operate during the pandemic despite the inability for employees besides Miller to come into her home to help make the snacks. Miller did not allow the pandemic to slow down her or her business, and she managed to continue working by herself. She explained, “we just had to adapt.” In addition to working by herself to fulfill shipments, Miller also started working to bring to life what she named her Fuel a Hero campaign. Inspired by another local business, The Juice Laundry, Miller created a program which would allow people to order snacks to be shipped to frontline workers, as well as family members and others to let them know that they were thinking of them. The Fuel a Hero campaign allowed Miller and her business partners to “get snacks to people who needed it the most.”

Miller recognized that the pandemic was un-



predictable and that it left many people feeling helpless, and she hoped that her Fuel a Hero campaign would allow people to support one another from a distance. She stated, “we wanted to give people the opportunity to mail a package of some feel-good food to people in their family or friends of theirs.” It was a way to “share a little love with somebody” during these challenging times. Miller’s campaign targeted the human instinct to be with your loved ones, which was made

impossible for many during the state-wide lockdowns. She explained, “We miss our friends, we miss our family, all the little rituals that were rescheduled or canceled altogether, and I think that instinct to be with other humans is to some extent being replaced by philanthropy and generosity.” While it may not have been possible to see their loved ones in person, people who participated in Good Phyte’s Fuel a Hero campaign were able to send their love in the form of sustainable and healthy snacks.

Kate Jakuta '07 has been a member of the Latino Racial Justice Circle, a faith-based group out of Baltimore, Maryland, that works to provide support for immigrants, since January 2017. In March, when the pandemic was first making a large impact on communities in Maryland and across the nation, the Latino Racial Justice Circle started a GoFundMe “to provide financial assistance to immigrants in the Baltimore area who have lost work due to the COVID-19 crisis and don’t qualify for support from the government, such as unemployment benefits or the stimulus payments.” Originally, the goal was to raise \$3,000 and provide financial assistance contributions of \$200 to 15 families. As of July 10, the organization has provided 257 financial assistance contributions for a total of \$51,400.

Jakuta explained that the organization receives referrals from local social service providers of individuals who are immigrants and have lost their jobs due to the pandemic. The organization then withdraws money they have raised and places \$200 into an envelope which is then delivered by an organization member to an immigrant family in need. Jakuta mentioned, “Our fundraiser is an act of solidarity and an effort to fight back against this lack of equity. I wouldn’t describe the work as rewarding. It is challenging and heartbreaking to receive so many requests from community members who are going through extremely desperate times, and to know that our financial contribution is just a Band-Aid solution to a much larger problem.” Despite greatly surpassing the goal of raising \$3,000 to be distributed to 15 families, the Latino Racial Justice Circle continues to fundraise to support those in need. As Jakuta explained, “the need continues to grow,” and there is always someone out there who could use the support.

An education at St. Mary’s College leaves one with the instinct to help meet the needs of others. While the state of the future remained unknown during the height of the pandemic, many people put their skills to use to address the needs of others. During this dark time, members of the St. Mary’s College community reminded us that it is always possible to shine as a light unto others and to support one another regardless of the circumstances.



NEW FIRST-YEAR INSTRUCTION ALIGNED TO PANDEMIC

Aided by the College's partnership with the St. Mary's County Health Department, professors from that affiliation are offering a course this fall on public and environmental health. Jessica Malisch, assistant professor of biology and chair of the COVID-19 Science Advisory Committee as well as the 2020-21 lead for the new Public and Environmental Health Integrated Inquiry and new director of the Office of Research and Epidemiology for the St. Mary's County Health Department, is excited by the opportunity. "Students with an interest in health-related careers will get to start thinking about the topic of public health their first semester at the College," she says.

The PEH Inquiry is one of several that are offered as part of the new LEAD initiative, designed for new students to explore a topic through various interdisciplinary lenses characteristic of the liberal arts and sciences. In the PEH anchor course taught this fall by Samantha Elliott, director of the College's Center for Inclusive Teaching & Learning and associate professor of biology, students will complete the Johns Hopkins contact tracer certification training program as part of the course and learn to work with large data sets of COVID data as part of a public health campaign.

"They will investigate how to create social network maps, analyze their own social networks of people, and think of ways to reduce infection spread within a network," says Elliott. After this anchor course, students may select follow-on courses from four different areas to expand their conceptual PEH toolkit: a natural sciences lens, a social and behavioral sciences lens, communication and expression, and ethics and humanism. Students will demonstrate their ability to integrate information from these various liberal arts perspectives by completing a web-based portfolio as they progress through required or elective courses to complete this inquiry.

Illustrations by Erin Moran '20



FACULTY, STUDENTS ADAPT DURING PANDEMIC



SHAKESPEARE'S ZOOM THEATER

I had the good fortune of teaching “Staging Shakespeare” last semester to a truly outstanding group of students. One of the highlights of the semester was our trip to the recreated Blackfriars Playhouse in Staunton, Virginia, where students experienced a play very much as Shakespeare’s original audiences might have. They were hoping to be able to recreate a similar experience for their final class project. But then COVID-19 hit. And just like Shakespeare’s company was driven out of London by the plague, so did we have to leave campus and remount the show — indeed the whole course — on Zoom.

Since spring break and from their various locations, these students worked in virtual small groups called “directorates.” Each group chose a scene from either “The Winter’s Tale” or “Twelfth Night” to focus on.

I am proud of them. I am in awe of them. Despite all the distractions and challenges of trying to work at home, they have proven remarkably resilient and committed, good humored and kind. They make me especially grateful to teach at St. Mary’s College and I thank each and every one of them for what they brought to this class, this virtual theater. [1]

Beth Charlebois, *associate professor of English*
See the productions at:
www.smcm.edu/mulberrytree.

COMFORT FOOD

Bon Appétit, the College’s longtime food service provider, became the surrogate family kitchen for the 20 students who remained on campus during the spring semester COVID-19 shutdown and for the few who were in residence this summer.

Was it hard to adapt from a regular full-service, multi-location operation to a service for so few students? General Manager David Sansotta says it was not hard, thanks to the good relationship they have with their suppliers. But like so many other businesses, the pandemic has caused a financial struggle for Bon Appétit: with only 20 students to feed and no campus catering business, the company had to furlough most of their workers from March until August. They’re ramped up now and are ready with all appropriate CDC health precautions in place for no-contact dining this fall.

The students who lived on campus through those dark days of the spring semester shutdown were very thankful for Bon Appétit. In a post shared on the Bon Appétit Management Company’s Facebook page, the story read like this:

The end of the spring semester is always an emotional time on college campuses, but even more so this year, with the pandemic having sent all but a few students home. At St. Mary’s College of Maryland, those remaining on the St. Mary’s City campus call themselves “the COVID students.” As they were getting ready to leave for the summer, they sent this very special thank-you card to the Bon Appétit team, with messages such as “You all have given me something to look forward to every day” and “Your meals are clearly made with love, and we love you all too.”

“It brought tears to our eyes to read how the students feel about Bon Appétit here at St. Mary’s College,” said Sansotta. “This makes us so happy to be part of the Bon Appétit family.”

In return, Sansotta, Sous Chefs Morgan Warren and William Mohica, and Utility Worker James Sewell put together a little farewell gift for all the students — a Bon Appétit cup full of candy and a Bon Appétit bag to take with them on their next adventure. [2]

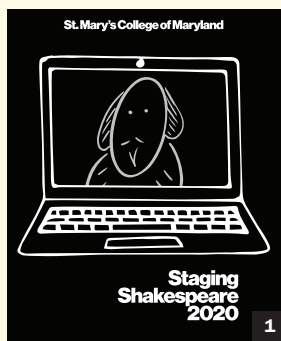
DONATIONS OF PPE EQUIPMENT AND 3D PRINTING EFFORT

This past April, Associate Professor of Biology **Kevin Emerson** jump-started a campus-wide initiative at St. Mary’s College of Maryland to provide the St. Mary’s County Health Department with essential supplies for medical personnel working the front lines to care for those infected with COVID-19 and to help stem the spread of the disease.

Emerson solicited donations from the biology, chemistry and physics academic departments, as well as the athletics department and the Wellness Center, which, in turn, provided to the health department approximately 8,000 protective gloves, 50 exam gowns, 100 surgical masks, 50 n95 masks, 500 alcohol swabs and 15 bottles of hand sanitizer.

“It is clear that personal protective equipment is becoming the limiting factor in many instances across the country, and campuses everywhere have a store of equipment that can be used,” said Emerson. “With laboratory courses currently on hold while students are studying remotely, that equipment can be better used by the hospital and other local health care providers.”

In addition to donations, the College — spearheaded by Assistant Professor of Chemistry **Troy Townsend ’07** — employed its 3D printing capabilities to manufacture face shields for medical personnel. “We knew we could help,”



said Townsend. “The idea was initiated by my colleague Professor of Chemistry **Randy Larsen**, and the College, of course, approved the project.”

Townsend worked with students **Jennica Bark '20** (chemistry major and materials science minor) and **Nhu Chau '20** (biochemistry and biology major) during spring break, just as the campus closed for the COVID-19 crisis, and continued working throughout the spring semester, printing about 100 face shields per week. They were supported by donated 3D printers from the SMCM math department and The Patuxent Partnership. Operating 24/7 from April through July, Townsend and an expanded team of students (**Juliana Hancock '22**, **Jasper Shide '23**, and **Ashley Wagner '20** joining Bark and Chau) produced 1,000 face shields for SMCHD and 500 for SMCM. [3]

ONLINE ARTS

I have been working hard as a faculty member to learn about new technologies that could enhance my instruction of art and art education for SMCM students. I had the fantastic opportunity on my second sabbatical to create “How to See” through The Great Courses lecture series, and produced by The Teaching Company. The experience enhanced my desire to make art education and art making accessible to more people. So, when COVID-19 hit and the College had to close, I was ready to adapt to remote instruction. My students were resilient and creative. It was an honor to get to know them outside of the classroom environment.

Pedagogically, I see an amazing opportunity to take a deep dive into the extreme shut down of arts organizations at the community, museum, and public-school level. All of this is evident online and the opportunities online that have been created by museum educators, citizens, and teachers have been overwhelming and rich.

I used to open my private studio every Friday and Sunday to the community, offering small classes to kids and adults who want to learn how to draw and paint. Because I cannot do this anymore and because over 30 million kids are home from school, I started doing drawing lessons (11 in total) for free on YouTube.” [4]

Carrie Patterson, professor of art
www.theyellowline.com

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

When many students are on summer break, St. Mary's College of Maryland students in the Master of Arts in Teaching Program are just beginning their 10-month curriculum. For the past several summers, the Educational Studies Department of SMCM has partnered with the St. Mary's County Public School System in putting on two camps for local at-risk youth. One is a literacy camp for elementary school children and one is a skills camp for students entering high school. By design, it is the MAT students who plan and carry out the lessons for the campers. For many, it is their first real teaching experience. They are guided by **Janna Thompson**, assistant professor in the MAT program and director of the high school camp. **Kim Page** (SMCM coordinator of K-12 partnerships) plans the daily interactions the MAT students have with the campers.

In 2019, Thompson organized a Cabaret Show on campus as a fundraiser for getting school supplies for the camp kids. It raised about \$1,000. During camp last summer, Thompson learned that for some of the kids, the lunchtime meal at camp was their only meal of the day, so in 2020, Thompson planned to include fundraising for food as well as school supplies. But when the campus shut down with the COVID-19 crisis in March 2020, the show was canceled. Thompson says she got the idea for a virtual artist showcase during the initial stay-at-home order when she spent long hours “jamming to virtual DJs.” Enlisting the help of her CORE 201 students, the Virtual Artist Showcase ran for a week in April and was pushed out through YouTube, Facebook and Instagram. The VAS raised \$3,500 and had a wider reach than the in-person event.

Samorah Neal '23 was one of the main student organizers of the VAS and remembers that “the hardest thing when it came to organizing VAS was trying to make sure that everyone knew what they were doing as far as sending in videos so that they could be edited if needed before the showcase started. It would have been a disaster if we started a virtual showcase late.” For **Ja'Dell Webster '23**, the most surprising outcome of the VAS was the generosity of donors in the midst of the pandemic. “Everyday people were donating,” he said. “It was shocking but also a testament to people's goodwill that they still gave the little money they had and we were able to help those less fortunate.”

With COVID-19 restrictions still in place this summer, the two camps had to move online. Since the camps provide the first real teaching experience for students in the MAT program, Thompson and her colleagues got creative and came up with a way to preserve that opportunity in an online format with a virtual summer project called “Lights, Camera, Action!” whose theme is “Peace & Reform through Activism.”

MAT students prepared the learning materials for the experience. First, they created educational activity packets for the elementary school campers, emphasizing reading and writing. These packets were delivered along with gift cards and bags of groceries provided by the spring VAS fundraiser and sponsored by the Department of Educational Studies.

Next, the MAT students helped with the teams of campers that range in ages from K-12 for their “Lights, Camera, Action!” projects, working with the teams on their artistic expression of the need for peace and reform through a video performance shared virtually on August 14.

TOTAL BODY FITNESS

“Overall, I would say my biggest adjustment to online instruction is not being able to completely see my participants and their movement. An individual's safety, self-pace and technique are extremely important and much easier to view and assist in person.”

“I have received a very positive response to my virtual classes (my dog sometimes makes a special appearance which is good for a laugh). I have had some new students join in who wanted to try my class, but didn't want to participate in a group setting, or were unable due to distance”

“The benefits I hope students take away are that we are still connected and I am here for them. While we may not be able to workout together in person, we can still achieve the same goals and remain active while being safe.” [5]

Michelle Caracaus, fitness instructor



Commemorative

The Commemorative to Enslaved Peoples of Southern Maryland is an immersive art experience that honors the story of resilience, persistence, and creative problem-solving that defined the lives of the enslaved individuals that lived in St. Mary's City between 1750 and 1815.

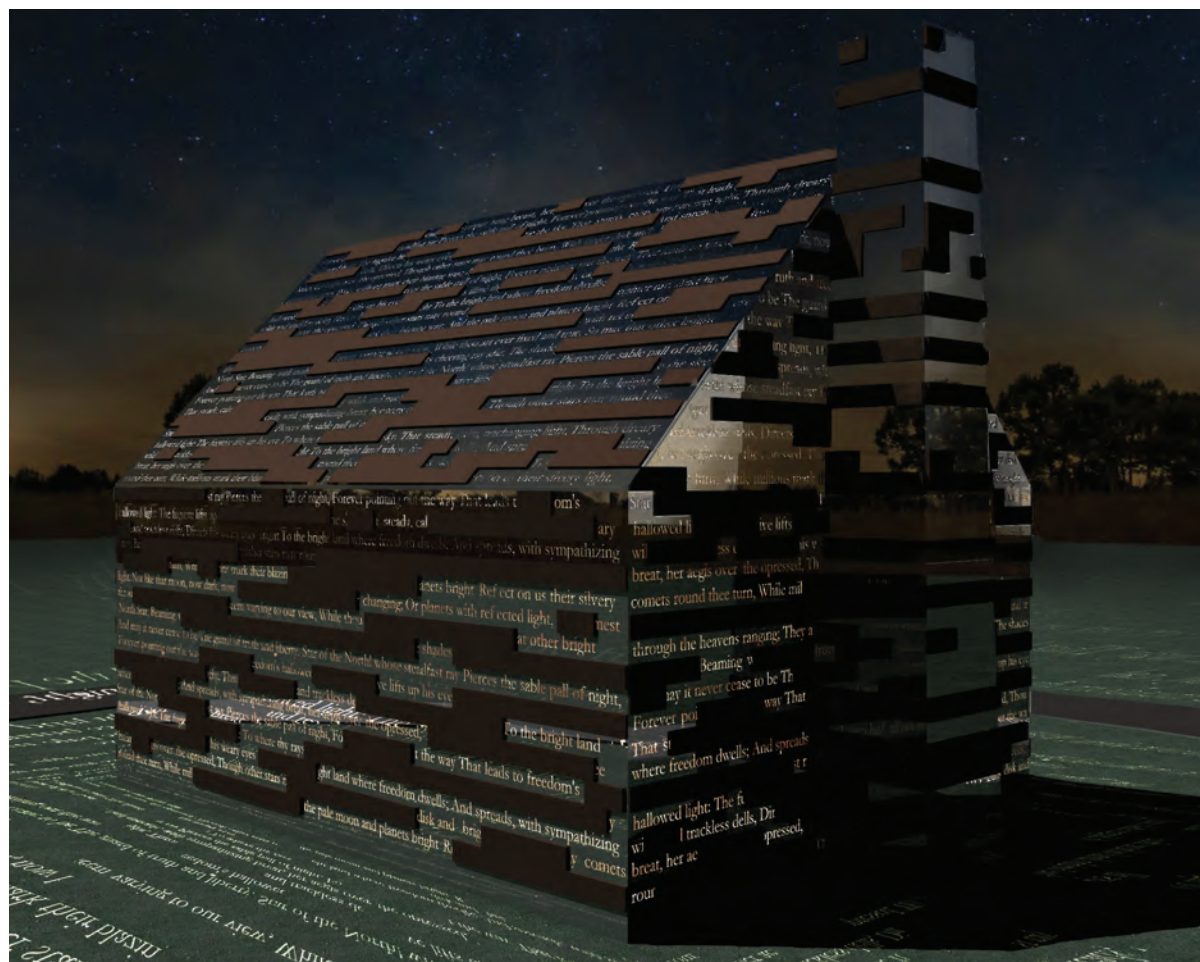
It provides visitors with the space to acknowledge and learn from the lives of those who once toiled there, while providing a place for reflection and introspection about the nature of slavery and its connections to modern society. *The online dedication of The Commemorative to Enslaved Peoples of Southern Maryland with keynote speaker Jelani Cobb will take place on November 21 at 11:00 a.m.*

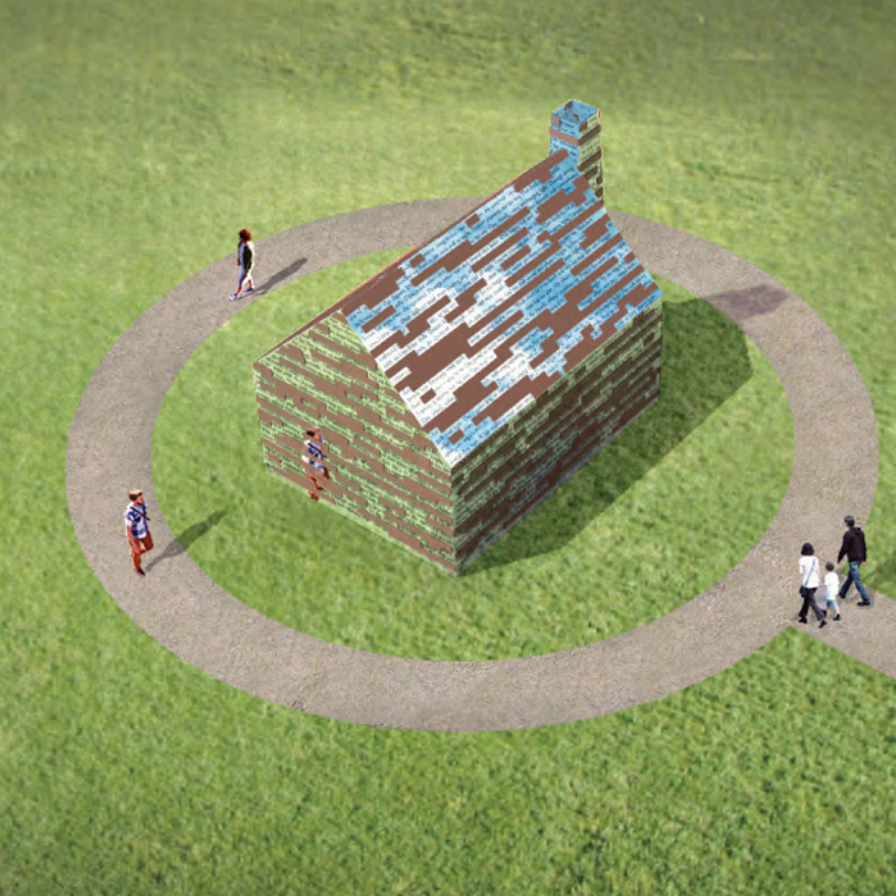
An archaeological dig in 2016 uncovered artifacts indicating the presence of slave quarters on the proposed site of the new athletic stadium. Led by President Tuajuanda Jordan, campus and community forums were conducted to decide the best way to honor the people these artifacts represented. To preserve the discovery, the stadium placement was adjusted. In 2018, President Jordan organized a broad-based committee that went on to seek proposals for a commemorative design, vet those proposals with the community, and ultimately award the project to create an immersive art experience.

The Commemorative is a structure inspired by the “ghost frame” architecture at Historic St. Mary’s City; the inclusion of erasure poetry on its cladding provides an opportunity

to engage in and change the dialogue around slavery in Southern Maryland. The poetry is adapted from historical documents related to the Mackall-Broome plantation — one of three known plantations located on the land around St. Mary’s City. These documents include slave property advertisements, runaway slave advertisements, newspaper articles, and slave depositions of the Mackall-Broome family. These poems become the walls and roof of the structure revealing powerful stories hidden within the language of a dark past. Illuminated from within at night, the poetry is projected onto the ground surrounding the Commemorative, mimicking the star-like pattern found on a number of ceramic artifacts discovered during the College’s archaeological investigation. This effect points to the theory discussed by experts that the

Unveils in November





star-like pattern symbolizes the web of Anansi, the African folklore character. Anansi's web represents resistance of the plantation system and slavery in the New World. The light projecting from the Commemorative at night also serves as a beacon, or North Star, representing the journey north to lasting freedom.

St. Mary's College of Maryland recognizes its role in the history of slavery and is determined to honor and learn from the stories of those who were affected. As an institute of higher education, we are taking this opportunity to expand the conversation around slavery. New courses and events connected to the Commemorative to Enslaved Peoples of Southern Maryland will increase the understanding of the lives of enslaved people and slavery's influence on current social justice issues in the United States.

Designed by Shane Allbritton and Norman Lee of Re:site and featuring the poetry of Quenton Baker, the Commemorative to Enslaved Peoples of Southern Maryland will allow visitors to engage in an individualized experience, contemplating the effects of slavery on the individual, the local community, and the nation.

Check www.smcm.edu and click on **EVENTS** to see updates for the dedication ceremony on November 21.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Known for his wit, style and pop culture credibility, Jelani Cobb is billed as one of the clearest and smartest voices in today's conversations around race issues. Cobb is a staff writer for *The New Yorker*, a historian and a professor at Columbia University's

Graduate School of Journalism. As a columnist, he received the Sidney Hillman Prize for Opinion and Analysis Journalism. The author of *"The Devil & Dave Chappelle & Other Essays"* (Basic Books, 2007) and *"The Substance of Hope: Barack Obama and the Paradox of Progress"* (Walker & Co., 2010), the latter will be re-released in October 2020 with a new introduction by the author.

TIMELINE OF PROJECT

Summer 2016 – Summer 2017: remains of slave quarters discovered during archaeological site work in advance of construction of Jamie L. Roberts Stadium.

February 2017: Boyden Gallery exhibition on slavery artifacts from Southern Maryland

September 2017: Slavery symposium hosted by College's committee for commemoration project, led by Professor of English Jeff Coleman

Summer 2018: committee for commemoration project outlines design proposal plan

Fall 2018: call for design proposals released

February 2019: three finalist firms present their design proposals to the campus community

March 2019: RE:site selected as the firm to build the commemorative

October 2020: onsite installation gets underway

November 21, 2020: official dedication (virtual event)

St. Mary's College of Maryland
FOUNDATION *Inc.*

In past years, the St. Mary's College of Maryland Foundation Annual Report was included in the fall issue of The Mulberry Tree magazine. This year we have moved the report online. You may read it and download it at www.smcm.edu/mulberrytree or contact the Office of Institutional Advancement for assistance at **240-895-4282**.

*HELP OUR
STUDENTS RECOVER*

The Recovery Fund is a lifeline for our students as they face challenges brought on by the pandemic. A \$1,000 grant goes a long way toward basic and technology needs. Over 115 students have directly been helped by your generosity, but the requests keep coming.

Please lend your support now.

GIVE NOW:



**GO.SMCM.EDU/
RECOVERY-FUND/**

ST MARY'S
COLLEGE of MARYLAND

The **NATIONAL PUBLIC HONORS** *College*

ALUMNI CONNECTION

CLASS NOTES

1970s

Howard "Howie" Lallande '71 is retiring after a 44-year career as an asphalt paving contractor.

1980s

Jeanette Fausz '81 [1] was recently promoted to the assistant director for exhibitions and collections at the St. Louis Art Museum in Missouri. Jeanette oversees the museum's departments of exhibitions, design, conservation, registration, and installation. During the construction and installation of the museum's David Chipperfield-designed East Building, she served on the museum's implementation team and supervised the installation of 71 galleries and nearly 2,000 works of art throughout the museum's newly renovated campus.

1990s

Wende Peters '90 joined Bank of America as senior vice president of information security and was just elected to the board of directors of OASIS, an international open standards organization. Her eldest son, Jackson, is a first-year student at SMCM this fall.

Chrissy Gray Moore '96 is the director of the Herb Garden and the National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. In the past, she served as a consultant on the SMCM campus arboretum. She recently received two national awards: The Elizabeth Crisp Rea Award, which honors



1

an individual who has worked with determination to create and/or preserve a public garden and in doing so promotes herbs for "use and delight"; and honorary president of the Herb Society for 2020-2022.

2000s

Vlad Kats '00 earned an MBA specializing in entrepreneurship & strategy design/implementation from the University of Maryland Robert H. Smith School of Business in 2005. He is currently a licensed associate real estate broker. He was co-founder and former CEO of Keller Williams Legacy as well as partner and former CEO of Five Door Network.

Nathan Crowe '03 works as an associate professor of history at University of North Carolina - Wilmington. He earned a master's degree in history from NC State University and a PhD

in history for science, technology and medicine from the University of Minnesota.

Donald F. Johnson '06 [2] has a new book, "Occupied America: British Military Rule and the Experience of Revolution" (Univ. of Pennsylvania Press, 2020). The book is described as chronicling "the everyday experience of ordinary people living under military occupation during the American Revolution." Johnson is assistant professor of history at North Dakota State University. He earned his master's degree from the University of Delaware's Winterthur Program in American Material Culture and his PhD from Northwestern University.

Matthew Fissel '09 completed a J.D. in 2012 from the Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law. He has worked as an associate in the Law

Offices of Stanley J. Ellenberg Esq. P.C. and with KML Law Group and was most recently hired as an associate with Burns White LLC in Philadelphia.

Danny Schindel '09 completed an MBA at the University of Maryland Roberts H. Smith School of Business in 2018. He has been employed by Thermo Fisher Scientific in Rockville, Maryland, for more than nine years in various positions, starting as a lab analyst until eventually being promoted to clinical supply chain manager.

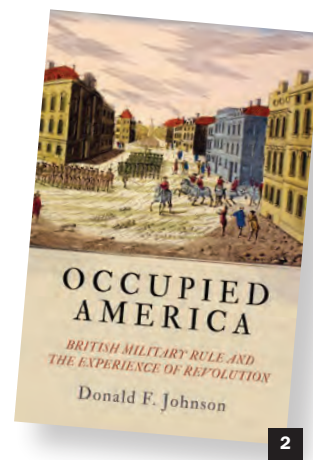
2010s

Kalvin Day '11 completed a master's degree in systems engineering from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. He has been serving in the U.S. Air Force since 2013, first as an air weapons officer and now a senior director.

Ashley Holmes '11 completed a master's degree in bioinformatics from UMUC in 2014. She was recently promoted to lab research and development specialist with Holistic Industries, where she previously worked as a lab tech.

Christopher Kansas '11 completed a certification in cyber security from the University of Denver in 2019. He was recently hired as an SOC engineer by ThreatX and is working in the Denver, Colorado, area.

Bryan Moran '11 recently became an associate at Broadstreet Realty in Denver, Colorado. Previously he worked in other finance-related positions with Self Storage Services, SunTrust Mortgage and Caliber Home Loans.



2

John Windsor '11, a therapist for Catholic Charities, previously worked for Jersey Battered Women Services and was an intern at Overlook Medical Center. John completed a master's degree in mental health counseling at NYU in 2019.

Thaise Brower '12 has been working in the field of education since graduation, first as lead liaison/family and community outreach with Howard County Public Schools, then for Wilde Lake High School as a communications liaison, followed by working as a secondary mathematics teacher at Bonnie Branch Middle School. After that position, Thaise worked at Hayah International Academy in Egypt and currently works with the International School of Bologna, Italy.

John Dehm '12 has been working for Christchurch school in Christchurch, Virginia, since graduating. He first started as the assistant athletic director, then assistant director of admissions and was recently promoted to senior associate director of admissions.

Lauren Tucker '12 recently began a career with Deloitte as an advisory consultant in Washington, D.C. Since graduating, Lauren's finance career has also included working for two years at American Action Network and working for two years with R Street Institute.

2020 ALUMNI AWARDS & HONORS



OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD

During his senior year at St. Mary's College, **Justin Harty '13** received the Honor Graduate Award for the Officer Candidate School of the United States Marine Corps. The award was presented to Justin by a Marine General during halftime at a Seahawks basketball game.

For the past six years, Justin has served as a Marine lieutenant and captain. He works at the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency and has been instrumental in reuniting POW/MIA service members with their families from conflicts dating back to WWII. This work has been done during missions to Italy, Vietnam, Laos and New Guinea. In Papua, New Guinea, Justin served as mission commander, conducting on-ground negotiations with local area chiefs and tribal leaders across seven provinces for land access and navigating complex cultural intricacies in order to gain host-nation support for the mission. For his efforts in Papua, New Guinea, Justin was personally commended in writing by the U.S. Ambassador to Papua, New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu for outstanding performance working with the host nation officials and Papua, New Guinea citizenry.

In Sicily, Italy, Justin served as a recovery team leader for the first recovery site conducted in the region for a WWII plane. During this deployment, he supervised a team composed of 25 Joint Service personnel. The successful operation and the relationships established enabled the agency to return for further excavations. In Vietnam, he served as a recovery team leader, employing and supervising a team of 21 Joint Service personnel. During workups and pre-deployment training, he completed the two-week Basic Military Mountaineering Course of Army Mountain Warfare School and graduated on the Commandant's List that is reserved for the top-scoring 20% of the class.



SOCIETY OF DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Ashani "Ashi" Weeraratna '91 is an internationally renowned research scientist, known particularly for her work at the intersection of cancer and aging. She is currently a Bloomberg Distinguished Professor of cancer biology and the E.V. McCollum Professor and Chair of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Johns Hopkins University's Bloomberg School of Public Health. She holds a joint appointment in the School of Medicine's Department of Oncology and the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University. Prior to her current role, she was a full professor and co-program leader of the Immunology, Microenvironment, and Metastasis Program at the Wistar Institute in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Ashi is originally from Sri Lanka, and grew up in Lesotho, South Africa, during apartheid. At 17, Ashi left South Africa to study biology at St. Mary's College of Maryland. Upon graduating from St. Mary's College, Ashi attended George Washington University, earning a master's degree and then a doctorate in molecular and cellular oncology. Ashi was a postdoctoral fellow in experimental therapeutics and pharmacology at Johns Hopkins University and then a staff scientist at the National Institutes of Health, where she worked in the National Human Genome Research Institute and then later in the National Institutes on Aging, heading its cancer biology unit.



HONORARY ALUMNI AWARD

Scott Devine served as athletic director at St. Mary's College for nearly 20 years, retiring this past June. During his tenure, Scott worked to ensure that all head coaching positions be full-time and worked to add four full-time assistant coaching positions as well. He oversaw the addition of new varsity sports programs in men's and women's cross country and rowing, as well as in men's and women's track and field.

Scott was a driving force in upgrading the College's athletic facilities, helping to update the Michael P. O'Brien Athletics and Recreation Center, the Hawk's Nest baseball venue, the Somerset tennis complex, the Mattapan practice fields, and to introduce the new Jamie L. Roberts Stadium. These upgrades not only benefit the athletics program and student-athletes, but add value to the entire College and local community. Scott's legacy will be the many positive athletic changes he oversaw that impact past, present and future Seahawks.

2020 ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIPS



ALUMNI LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP

Samuel Johnson '22 Is a history major. He knew on his first visit to campus that St. Mary's College was the right choice. "St. Mary's College is defined by so many of the things that I love," he says. "I grew up on the Chesapeake Bay and have always relished its history, environment and beauty. This special place is bathed in all three." Samuel describes his professors as "nothing short of inspirational, and since my first day, I have been grateful for their kindness and excellence." He also thanks his mother, Deborah Palmer Johnson '87, "a first-class teacher and role model" and says that it is "only proper that I should return to the place which nurtured her so profoundly and carry on the legacy of excellence which has so inspired me." Samuel was an honor roll student throughout high school and volunteered in work internships in history, environmental science and conservation, and outdoor education. "My time at St. Mary's College has been nothing short of phenomenal," he says. "I had an internship with the Dove at Historic St. Mary's City, which has complimented my academic interests perfectly. I also had the privilege to study abroad in Oxford, England last fall, which fulfilled one of my long-standing dreams." Samuel is optimistic about his future: "I am certain my remaining years at St. Mary's College will continue to allow me to apply diligence, creativity, and dedication to my endeavors."



DON STABILE ALUMNI POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Teresa Padgett '15 is currently pursuing a master's degree of education in school counseling at George Mason University. She plans to become a licensed school counselor trained to support K-12 students. She says her interest in school counseling was sparked during her time as a volunteer with the Peace Corps. From 2015-'17, Teresa served in a small, rural village in Botswana, helping initiate programs to support the needs of elementary school students affected by HIV, poverty and domestic violence. As part of the effort, she established one-on-one mentorships with students that often started as English lessons and developed into safe spaces for students to share their stories. Teresa also led an after-school club with sixth graders that addressed topics of reproductive health and HIV prevention through interactive games and discussions. "Everyone has a story to share," she says. "Often we are just waiting for a listening ear. I want to be that listening ear for youth as a school counselor and would be thrilled to have the opportunity to support children throughout their years in school and watch them grow in confidence, self-esteem and empathy."

Teresa volunteered during 2018 in Comer, Georgia, working with immigrant and refugee families at Jubilee Partners. She taught English classes and provided child care for families as they transitioned into life in the United States. She helped with an after-school program for middle school and high school youth to build community, share professional development skills and provide a safe space outside of school. She currently works fulltime as an instructional assistant in a kindergarten class at Sunrise Valley Elementary School in Reston, Virginia. Additionally, she works as the director of the leadership program at Camp Alleghany for Girls in Caldwell, West Virginia.



DON STABILE ALUMNI DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIP

Sean Reid '07 is an anthropological archaeologist who specializes in landscape archaeology and long-term societal and environmental transformation in West Africa. He has 12 years of research experience in African and African Diaspora archaeology and history, spanning a wide geographical range of sites in Maryland, Florida, The Gambia, South Africa, Sierra Leone, Barbados, and Ghana. In 2017, Sean completed his doctoral field research in Ghana with support from a Fulbright Fellowship. He is now a pre-doctoral fellow at the Carter G. Woodson Institute for African-American and African Studies at the University of Virginia and a PhD candidate in the Anthropology Department of Syracuse University. Sean defends his dissertation, titled "I 'Forests of History: A landscape archaeology of Atlantic transformations in Southern Ghana" later this year.

"My career as an Africanist archaeologist began at St. Mary's College as a student working with Dr. Liza Gijanto in The Gambia, where I collected spatial and oral historical data for my [St. Mary's Project] on a French trading post." After graduating from SMCM, Sean served as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer, writing grants and doing outreach work to support the National Park Service's efforts to engage the Alaskan Native community, particularly the youth, in Alaskan archaeological research.

Collaboration with non-American and underrepresented people has been a constant throughout Sean's career in archaeological research. He appreciates the mentoring and educational support of promising African students he has witnessed from his academic advisers and looks forward to continuing that practice as an educator himself.

Maureen Wahl '12 completed a master's degree in clinical/medical social work at the University of Maryland Baltimore in 2016. She worked for Maryland Department of Human Services as a licensed social worker for almost four years and was recently hired by Calvert Health as a medical social worker.

Jessica Marbourg '13 completed a PhD in neuroscience in May 2020 from Ohio State University where she has been a doctoral researcher at the OSU Wexner Medical Center for over six years. Her diverse scientific background includes research and clinical experiences in neurosciences, immunology, biochemistry and physics.

Colin McNamara '13 is working as a GIS specialist and production assistant for Datas-tory in Baltimore, Maryland, where he started as an intern in 2019. Previously, Colin was a VIP Fellow with AmeriCorps at Bay Discovery Museum and also served with AmeriCorps Civic Works in Baltimore City. He recently completed a certification in advanced geospatial applications from Community College of Baltimore.

Rebecca Quick '13 is grants manager for Rebuilding Together in Washington, D.C. Previously, she was grants manager for the International Rescue Committee and grants reporting and communications associate, both in Erbil, Iraq. Rebecca completed a master's degree in applied anthropology from University of Maryland College Park in 2016.

Ryanne Ross '13 has started working as an inbound sales representative for NexRep LLC in Suffolk, Virginia. In addition, since graduating, Ryanne served in the U.S. Navy for six years.

Cara Simpson '13 completed a master's degree in fisheries science from the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science and is currently enrolled at William & Mary's Raymond A. Mason School of Business, pursuing an MBA. Her career path has included working as a research assistant at the Chesapeake Biological Lab, interning with the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Philippines as a coastal reserve management specialist and most recently co-founder and managing director of the CrimDell Small Business Network.

Darya Baugh-Ruschman '14 recently completed a master's degree in forensic psychology from Walden University. Since graduating from SMCM she has been working for Care Metz LLC in the DC metro area, first as a marketing intern, then data entry specialist, reimbursement specialist, case manager and now document manager.

Rachel Braunstein '14 is chief of staff to the marketing team at 2U, a tech education company located in Lanham, Maryland. She earned her master's degree in communications with a concentration in public relations from the SI Newhouse School of Communications at Syracuse University in December 2019.

Jeffrey Carey '14 has been involved with the AmeriCorps VISTA program for the past three years, first as an Aspire! AmeriCorps member in the Washington, D.C., area and now as a Thread AmeriCorps member serving in the Baltimore area.

Jessica Chen '14 has successfully pursued a career in digital marketing, writing and production. She is currently the founder, executive producer, head writer and actor of Lil Swimmers productions in Taiwan. She began her professional career after graduation as a production intern for Muse 360 in Baltimore, then an English teacher with Global Village Org. in Taiwan, then digital marketing specialist with Taroko in Taiwan and most recently a content marketer for Umbo Computer Vision in Taiwan.

Jennifer Descoteaux James '14 was recently hired by Goldman Sachs as compliance testing group associate and is working in Salt Lake City, Utah. Prior to this position, she was a wealth management compliance manager with Morgan Stanley for more than five years in Baltimore, Maryland.

James Davenport '14 has worked as a physical therapy technician for Howard County Physical Therapy for six years, and most recently he was hired by AFLAC and is working in Columbia, Maryland, as an insurance agent.

Randall Hause '14 earned a certificate in distilling in 2019 from Koval Distillery & Kothe Distilling. Since graduating from SMCM he has worked as an operations assistant for the Investment Property Group in Irvine, California, a market analyst for Faris Lee Investments also in Irvine, California, was co-founder/co-distiller and financial analyst for Pelican Gold Distillery in North Beach, California, and most recently hired as acquisition and development associate with SC Development in Irvine, California.

Molly Malarkey '14 enrolled in the Johns Hopkins University Advanced Academic Programs after graduation to earn a master's degree in science. Molly has worked in several healthcare settings including the Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine as a research assistant/scheduler, then for Peraton/NIH supporting the Office of the Clinical Director, DIR, National Heart, Lung, Blood Institute and most recently returned to the Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences as clinical research coordinator.

Kate Cowart '15 completed a master's degree in public administration from Montana State University-Bozeman in 2019. Kate was recently hired as administrative supervisor for Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch, working and living in Livingston, Montana.

Serra Erbas '15 began a master of business at Vanderbilt Owen Graduate School of Management where she plans to complete her study of operations and analytics and corporate finance and hope in 2022.

Mary Gmaz '15 recently completed a master's degree in museum studies and digital curation from The Johns Hopkins University Krieger School of Arts & Sciences. Mary is currently employed as a records management specialist with AMTIS in Landover, Maryland.

Holly Gonzalez '15 was recently promoted from assistant account executive to account executive working for William Whittle in Alexandria, Virginia.

Sam Greenberg '15 was recently hired as a mortgage loan officer with New Rez LLC, working in Columbia, Maryland. Since graduating Sam has also served as head track and field coach at both the McLean School and the Melvin J. Ber-man Hebrew Academy as well as most recently an account executive for New Day, USA.

Margaret Holtzman '15 was recently promoted to senior SBL operational support specialist with Raymond James, working in Tampa/St. Petersburg, Florida where she started as an SBL operations support specialist in 2018. Margaret began her finance/banking career with Morgan Stanley in Baltimore in 2015 as a collateral monitor analyst and next working there as an international equities lending analyst before moving on to work for Raymond James.

Darrell Jackson '15 has been serving as a partnership liaison with the Baltimore City Public School System. He was recently hired as an acquisition specialist with Ulltra Investment Group, working in the Baltimore Area.

Keene Kelderman '15 has been working for the Environmental Integrity Project in the Washington, D.C. area for more than four years, first as a research analyst and most recently as a senior research analyst.

Brendon Kendall '15 earned a master's degree in marine conservation from the University of Miami School of Marine & Atmospheric Science in 2017. Since graduating from SMCM he has worked as a sea turtle research intern for the National Park Service in the Everglades, Florida, a constituent legislative



affairs intern for NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries in Silver Spring, Maryland, a biology and forensics high school teacher at Johnston Senior H.S. in Johnston, Rhode Island, a service coordinator for Something Fishy Aquarium Services in Warwick, Rhode Island, and was most recently hired as a physical science teacher at Mulrennan Middle School in Brandon, Florida.

David Kersey '15 completed a business foundations specialization from Wharton Online in 2019 and a master's in business analytics at William and Mary in 2020. He also served in the Peace Corps in Zambia and then for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources before working for the Community Markets for Conservation in Zambia as a transparent development research assistant for Aid Data in Williamsburg, Virginia, and is now an advisory analyst for Deloitte in Washington, D.C.

Carolyn LaRocco '15 has worked as an archaeologist in the US, and in Georgia in the Caucasus. She also completed a master's degree in ancient history at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, earning the School of Classics MLitt Prize, and another master's in classical archaeology at the University of Oxford in England. She then won a Wolfson Postgraduate Scholarship in the Humanities to fund her PhD in Roman and visigothic history and archaeology, which she is currently completing in the School of Classics at St. Andrews. She also teaches ancient history and archaeology at the University St. Andrews, was elected classics postgraduate representative, recently began the position of school of classics ASP coordinator, and has several publications forthcoming.

Kati Peditto '15 completed a PhD in human behavior and design from Cornell's College of Human Ecology. She recently became an assistant professor of behavioral science and leadership at the United States Air Force Academy.

James Richardson '15 has worked for Textron Systems for almost five years in the Hunt Valley, Maryland, location. James was recently promoted to manager of program finance and has relocated to Slidell, Louisiana. He completed a master's degree in finance from Loyola University of Maryland Seller School of Business & Management in 2018.

Bradley Roberts '15 [3] successfully defended his PhD thesis on "GABA transporter regulation of striatal dopamine release and dysfunction in Parkinsonian models" at the University of Oxford, United Kingdom, in 2019 and was subsequently awarded the Gotch Memorial Prize in Physiology and the Sherrington Prize for his thesis work. In January 2020, he began a four-year research and teaching fellowship with St. John's College (University of Oxford) and the Oxford Parkinson's Disease Center, where he is currently investigating astrocyte regulation of striatal dopamine release and function.

Gillian Sawyer '16 begins the Master of Environmental Management Program at Yale University's School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, where she'll do a hybrid of in-person and online course work. Gillian, an environmental studies major at SMCM, had two international experiences while at SMCM (Belize and Panama), and says that those trips "opened my eyes to what 'on-the-ground' conservation practice looks like – protecting animals means protecting land, and protecting land is often connected to preserving the culture and heritage of communities that live there." After college, Gillian lived with a host family in France to strengthen her language skills. She says that experience really paid off. Being able to speak French strengthened her work experience (most recently with the Pew Bertarelli Ocean Legacy team in marine conservation policy). She also is a volunteer with the Bonobo Conservation initiative, translating videos of Congolese field staff from French into English. "My international work greatly prepared me for being a student at Yale, where a large percentage of students are international and the curriculum is global." While her path ahead isn't exactly clear, she is excited to expand her knowledge in corporate sustainability, sustainable development and climate justice.

Ben Derlan '17 is also headed to Yale to start the Master of Architecture Program at the university's School of Architecture. At SMCM, he majored in art and environmental studies, minored in math and was involved in the Tiny House project. After graduation, he served with AmeriCorps/VISTA, and most recently, Ben worked with urban green spaces and farming cooperatives in and around Baltimore, Maryland. After Yale, he says he would like to work "to solve problems facing our cities (vacancy, segregation, environmental injustices) through design." Ben wants to explore "how shared equity models in architecture (community land trusts, communal living, quality public space) can make a fulfilling and healthy life available to more of us."

Burkley Hermann '16 completed a MLIS degree from University of Maryland in December 2019. In March, he started working as an indexer/metadata librarian at the National Security Archive.

Prior to that, he worked as a graduate assistant at the Office of Research Administration in College Park and as a processing assistant at the National Archives and Records Administration in College Park.



ILLUSTRATION BY KEELY HOUK

Scott Lee '16 attended a language immersion program at the National Taiwan Normal University that he completed in 2017. Scott has since worked as an English teacher in Taiwan for the Sea Otter Educational Group, an operations manager at Deale Aquaculture Farm in Deale, Maryland, and was recently hired as a staff accountant with HeimLantz, P.C. in Annapolis, Maryland.

Drake Lentz '16 was recently employed as a metrology technician with Pharmaceuticals International Inc. working in Baltimore, Maryland. Since graduating he has also worked for NewDay USA, Freight Broker and Brimrose.

Greg Mainolfi '16 completed a master's degree from UMUC in healthcare administration/management in 2020 and is working as a donor service coordinator II for Living Legacies in Baltimore.

Erin Bedell '17 has been working in DOD consulting since graduating from SMCM, first as a research management analyst for BAI with the Office of the Secretary of Defense at the Pentagon, then as a resource management/program analyst with Quantech Services in the Office of the UnderSecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Data and Security at the Pentagon, and most recently as a counter UAS project lead with NAVAIR at Patuxent Naval Air Station.

Sydney Cunniff '17 completed a master's degree in environmental engineering in 2020 from Stanford University. Since graduating from SMCM, Sydney has worked as a field assistant for Boehm Lab Group and most recently was hired to work as a water resources engineer with EKI Environment and Water Inc.

Erica Feldenzer '17 completed 120 hours of TEFL Certification, teaching English as a second/foreign language and is currently working as a visual arts teacher at Deer Park Middle School in Randallstown, Maryland.

Ryan Grant '17 was recently hired as an area business manager with Quidel in New York City, New York. Since graduating, Ryan's career has included managing partner for RASE Athletics LLC in the greater Boston area and then customer experience manager and account executive for Sponsorship Sales for CheckedUp in New York City.

Nina Haller '17 was recently promoted to sales manager of Town Sports International where she has been working as a lead trainer. Nina's management experience also includes her earlier job as acting manager at Couture by Posh Bridal.

Keely Houk '17 [4] earned an honorable mention for her artwork titled "Not Quite Spring" in the online exhibition, "Quarantine Dreams." The juried exhibition was organized by Gallery-V, a project of St. Mary's County Community Development Corporation with support from the St. Mary's County Arts Council. The exhibition went live on August 1 at www.stmaryscdc.org. Her artwork has also been chosen for an international exhibition, "Nurturing Humanity through Artists" by Art Impact International Inc. Keely is the senior graphic designer for SMCM.

Haley Reibling '17 is currently pursuing a law degree from Delaware Law School and working with Sanders Legal Solutions, interning with the Frederick County State's Attorney's Office and clerking with the Law Office of Wright and Stafilos.

Matt Walchuck '17 completed a law degree in 2019 from University of Virginia School of Law. Matt has worked as a legal assistant for Covington & Burlington LLP and most recently is serving as a legal intern in the Civil Rights Division, Criminal Section of the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C.

Sunny Chhatani '18 was recently hired as a financial analyst II for Sinclair Broadcast Group in Hunt Valley, Maryland. Since graduating from SMCM, Sunny began his professional career in the financial services industry working for Towne Park in Annapolis, Maryland, as a financial analyst.

Caitlin Katchmar '19 completed a master's in the art of teaching in elementary education from the Johns Hopkins University School of Education in 2020 and was recently hired by Baltimore City Public Schools as a third-grade math teacher.

Aubrey Davis-Lockart '19 was recently hired as a junior underwriter with NewDay USA where she has been working since 2019, first as a credit analyst and then most recently as a mortgage loan officer.

Morgan Smith '19 is currently enrolled in a master of public policy program at the University of Virginia Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy. Since graduating from SMCM she has interned at the MIL Corporation and the Institute for Engagement & Negotiation both located in Charlottesville, Virginia. Morgan expects to complete her graduate degree in 2021.

MARRIAGES & UNIONS

Elizabeth Mason Boniface '10 [1] married Timothy Boniface on September 17, 2019, at Towson Unitarian Universalist Church. Alumni in the wedding party were bridesmaids **Alexis Hill '09** and **Laura Cooper '08**. Other alumni in attendance were **Florence Bastien Tucker '09** and **Saraj Bastien '09**. The couple spent their honeymoon in London, England.

Rosa Trembour Goodman '11 [2] married **Christopher Goodman '04** in Aspen, Colorado, on September 21, 2019. Alumni in attendance included **Anina Tardif-Douglin '11**, **Amir Reda '11**, **Brie McDowell Porter '09**, **Tommy Porter '09**, **Eleanor Koerner '09**, **Megan McDonough '09**, **Julio Zarate '04**, **Matthew Newcomer '05**, **Jayson Williams '03** and **Kris Naleszkiewikz '03**.



HELEN MARIE MACQUILAY

1



1



2



3



4



2

BIRTHS & ADOPTIONS

Kimberly Johnson Wedlock '06 [1] and Bill Wedlock welcomed a daughter, Sage Evelyn, on December 12, 2019. The family currently resides in Frederick, Maryland.

Stephanie Reiner Marsich '07 and **David Marsich '05 [2]** welcomed a daughter, Eleanor Kenna Reiner Marsich, born on May 24, 2020. Eleanor joins big brother Sam, age 5, and Penelope, age 3. The family resides in King George, Virginia.

Michael DeLizia '08 [3] and his wife Jackie welcomed a son, Levi Michael, on March 16, 2020. He joins older brother Lucas, age 2.

Michael Smelkinson '08 [4] and his wife Amber welcomed a daughter, Summer, on June 19, 2020. Summer joins big sister Skyler, age 4. Michael works at Howard Community College as assistant athletic director and head men's basketball coach. The family lives in Columbia, Maryland.

IN MEMORIAM

Mary “Charlotte” Kuhns Nicodemus ’38 died peacefully of natural causes on May 1, 2020, at Buckingham’s Choice Retirement Community in Adamstown, Maryland. She was 99. She attended St. Mary’s Female Seminary. Following graduation, she worked for Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore when she met her late husband, Howard “Howdy” C. Nicodemus, also of Baltimore. They married on Valentine’s Day in 1942 and resided in Baltimore until 1949. With three children, they relocated their growing family to Wilderness

Farm on Jennings Chapel Road in Howard County. They raised 10 children on the farm. Charlotte and Howdy left the farm in 2001, retiring to the senior community of Buckingham’s Choice in Adamstown.

Raised in Ocean City, Maryland, Charlotte loved the beach. Every summer she and Howdy, with most of their 10 children in tow, headed there for summer vacations. Charlotte was an avid gardener and a founding member, in 1955, of the Cattail River Garden Club. From 1975 until retiring in 2000, She was the sole proprietor of the Parasol Consignment Shop in Lisbon, Maryland. Charlotte is survived by her 10 children:

H. Courtney Nicodemus Jr. of Frederick; Marjorie Loomis (Chet) of Blue Ridge, Virginia; Ann Titherington of Dayton; Kathleen Johnson (Howard) of Battle Creek, Michigan; Elizabeth Mulcahy of Buckeystown; Mary Field Nelson ’79 (Pat) of Orlando, Florida; Martha Fair of Pocomoke City; Marguerite Galloway of Taneytown; Laura James (David) of Carova Beach, North Carolina; Charles Nicodemus (Kathy) of Catonsville; 20 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren.



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ST. MARY'S COLLEGE OF MARYLAND JOINS THE MARYLAND STATE ARTS COUNCIL AS A REGIONAL FOLKLIFE CENTER

By **Kent Randell**, *College archivist and associate librarian*

St. Mary's College of Maryland was recently awarded a Maryland State Arts Council Folklife Network grant to represent Southern Maryland as a Maryland Regional Folklife Center in MSAC's Folklife Network. Regional folklife centers serve to continue "programmatic or educational efforts made by an organization to support folklife, or community-based living cultural traditions handed down by example or word of mouth."

The College will create a Southern Maryland Folklife Summer Institute as the key feature of the Regional Folklife Center. The annual summer institute will be held at St. Mary's College of Maryland and will add unique opportunities to the rich and vibrant array of folklife events in the region by celebrating and supporting community-based living cultural traditions of Southern Maryland (St. Mary's, Calvert and Charles Counties). In preparing the grant, the team collaborated with the arts councils and organizations of the tri-county region in a community survey to learn about regional folklife needs and the kind of programming the community would like represented in a folklife institute. This kind of surveying will continue, so please get in touch with your ideas and interests!

The institute will pilot in June of 2021 with two days of exciting workshops and close with a public exhibition and celebration event in the SMCM Boyden Gallery (pandemic permitting). The gallery event will allow participants to display their work and efforts learned in the workshops and may include such elements as short readings of oral histories, displays of family

genealogies, landscape paintings, live folk music, and samples of culinary dishes. Campus residential housing will be available to participants. The institute will dovetail with the River Concert Series and the Chesapeake Writers' Conference.

In addition to the College's Boyden Gallery, the SlackWater Center will also be a key participant in the folklife center as the institute's activities will be featured in, and may also produce content for, the SlackWater journal. In addition to the journal, the SlackWater Center also provides students and community members with opportunities to conduct oral histories, hundreds of which are transcribed and available online on the Archive's website as the SlackWater Oral History Collection. The activities of the institute may produce writing features, images (art and photography), oral history interviews, genealogies, and recordings of lectures that will then be added to the SMCM Archive.

As College archivist, I am always excited to participate in the variety of rich folklife activities that are offered in Southern Maryland, either from a professional or personal perspective. Additionally, the best part of being an archivist is increasing awareness of these activities while helping students and community members both search and create archives. I am grateful that the Maryland State Arts Council has created the Regional Folklife Center program and excited to be a part of the Southern Maryland Folklife Summer Institute.



RIGHT: *Exhibition at Boyden Gallery; adult outdoor painting class; writing group discussion.*

Calendar of Virtual Events

**Neuroscience Seminar Series
With Karina Alvina**

September 14 @ 4:45 p.m.

**Constitution Day Lecture
With Elaine Weiss**

September 15 @ 12 noon

**Historically Speaking
With Daniel Friedman**

September 16 @ 7:00 p.m.

**State of the College
Address By President
Tuajuanda C. Jordan**

September 24 @ 4:00 p.m.

**VOICES Reading Series
Poetry Reading by Yona
Harvey**

September 24 @ 8:15 p.m.

**Psychology Seminar Series
With Dorainne Green**

September 30 @ 4:45 p.m.

**Natural Science &
Mathematics Colloquia
With Jess Parker**

September 30 @ 4:45 p.m.

Admission Open House

October 3 @ 10:00 a.m.

Register at www.smcm.edu/oph2020

**Neuroscience Seminar Series
With Melvin Rouse**

October 5 @ 4:45 p.m.

**The Mark Twain Lecture
Series Presents
Laughing to the Polls
With Jordan Klepper**

October 13 @ 7:30 p.m.

**VOICES Reading Series
Fiction Reading by Tope
Folarin**

October 22 @ 8:15 p.m.

**Psychology Seminar Series
With Riana Elyse Anderson**

October 23 @ 2:45 p.m.

Admission Open House

October 24 @ 10:00 a.m.

Register at www.smcm.edu/oph2020

**Neuroscience Seminar Series
With George Vidal**

November 2 @ 4:45 p.m.

**VOICES Reading Series
Young Alumni Readings**

November 12 @ 8:15 p.m.

Admission Open House

November 14 @ 10:00 a.m.

Register at www.smcm.edu/oph2020

**Dedication Ceremony
A Commemorative to
Enslaved Peoples of
Southern Maryland**

November 21 @ 11:00 a.m.

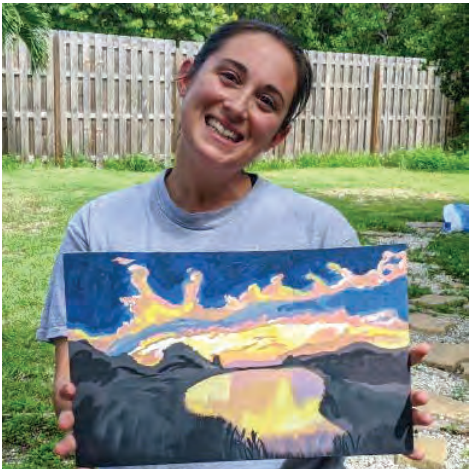
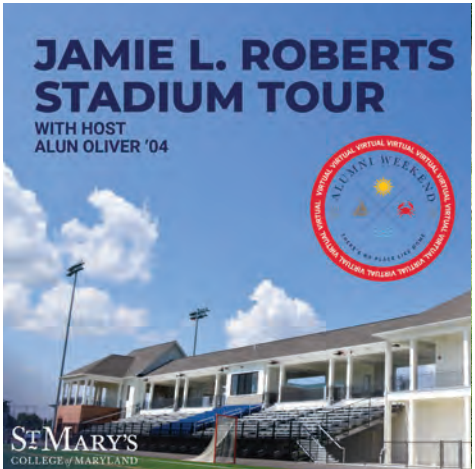
Giving Tuesday

December 1

**Martin Luther King Jr.
Prayer Breakfast**

January 18, 2021

**For reservations, tickets and information on these and other upcoming events,
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