

ST MARY'S  
COLLEGE of MARYLAND

*The National Public Honors College*



WINTER 2021

A FULL AND  
INTENTIONAL  
*Life*



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ST. MARY'S COLLEGE  
of Maryland

The  
**MULBERRY  
TREE**

WINTER 2021, VOL. XLII, NO. 1

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

The magazine is named for the famous mulberry tree under which the Calvert colonists signed a treaty of friendship with the Yaocomico people and on the trunk of which public notices were posted in the mid-1600s. The tree endured long into the 19<sup>th</sup> 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 to produce this issue by planting 83 trees in the U.S.*



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July 2020 — June 2021

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#### PRESIDENT

Tuajuanda C. Jordan, PhD



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PHOTO FROM THE COLLEGE COLLECTION.

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PHOTO BY DAVID SINCLAIR.

**W**HILE I WELCOME THE ARRIVAL OF 2021 WITH GOOD RIDDANCE TO 2020 AND ALL OF ITS CHALLENGES, I remain grateful for the truly committed community effort that allowed us to open in the fall and remain open by staying safe during this global pandemic. That commitment and vigilance must and will continue in 2021.

COVID-19 is one of many issues colleges and universities are facing. Others include grappling with declines in state funding, adapting to significant demographic shifts in our nation, and responding to pressure related to the cost of higher education. The Board of Trustees and I regularly assess these issues, partnering with faculty and staff on solutions to enhance our educational mission and ensure St. Mary's College remains a successful and financially viable institution.

For the last four years, we have been engaged in the critically important effort of planning and envisioning new, sustainable and exciting opportunities for our future. This essential endeavor included my creation, beginning in summer 2019, of a series of task forces. The overarching goal of work undertaken by the task forces is to ensure St. Mary's College has a relevant and sustainable liberal arts and sciences curriculum for the future. Thus far, the work has led to four new majors being under development – neuroscience, marine science, applied data science and business administration – as well as the development and implementation of a new track and field program and a plan to have a pep band.

Additionally, task force work has included a careful review of current program offerings. In February, the Board of Trustees will vote on recommendations on the best program array for St. Mary's College to position us for growth and continued excellence. The recommendations will reflect a focus on the future – what curricular offerings are right for an increasingly competitive world, which make the most sense for us to undertake given our liberal arts and sciences focus, location and financial resources, and which are best to help students be prepared for life beyond college.

Here's to good health in the new year and a resolve to move forward with gusto, integrity and an unfettered commitment to 21st-century liberal arts education.



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

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#### Editor's Note

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**R**ECENTLY I READ THE MEMOIRS OF HANNAH BREECE, a school teacher and pioneer in old Alaska from 1904 – 1918. This remarkable independent woman also set broken bones, outsmarted bears and wild dogs, endured bitter cold and government bureaucracy.

**Nezia Munezero Kubwayo '08**, fled war-torn countries to save her life twice before turning 10 years old. This was in the 1990s. Now she's pursuing a PhD in conflict analysis and resolution.

Most of us don't have a story like Hannah's or Nezia's, but we all share in the human experience. As we develop into our unique selves, we are shaped, nurtured, repelled, influenced by the forces around us.

What students do in their college years is formative: working with and learning from professors like **Laraine Glidden**; refining ways to express themselves (as **Nezia** did, in French); persisting when the road is long, as in the journey by **Chris Segal '05** to the Major Leagues. When time puts distance and allows reflection on the experience, it is often with gratitude that a former student remembers those who believed in their potential before they themselves did (like **Quentin Hillsman '93**).

**Olivia Sothoron '21**, who for two years has interned with the Office of Integrated Marketing, graduates this May. She's just 20 years old, having taken summer and winter classes and overloaded her fall and spring semesters with credits to finish in three years. She has applied to the MAT program with the plan to become a teacher. She doesn't have it all figured out, but she's fully engaged in the process of getting there. Isn't that the point?

LEE CAPRISTO, *editor*

## CAMPUS & COMMUNITY NEWS



### Commemorative to Enslaved Peoples of Southern Maryland Featured in Various Media Outlets

St. Mary's College of Maryland's Commemorative to Enslaved Peoples of Southern Maryland and its virtual dedication with keynote speaker Jelani Cobb were featured in *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*. President **Tuajuanda C. Jordan** was quoted in the story, along with Vice President for Institutional Advancement **Carolyn Curry**, Professor of Anthropology **Julia A. King**, RE:site artists Shane Allbritton and Norman Lee, and poet Quenton Baker. President Tuajuanda C. Jordan and the dedication also were featured in *Essence* magazine. In addition, the Commemorative and its dedication were featured in the Metro section of the *Washington Post*, in the *Baltimore Sun* and featured on air on WETA PBS News Hour on November 22, among other media outlets. See collected media here: <https://www.smcm.edu/honoring-enslaved/news-media/>.

### Physics Honored with 2020 OSA Recognition

The Department of Physics at St. Mary's College received the Diversity and Inclusion Advocacy Recognition from the Optical Society of America on September 15. The physics department was acknowledged "for making long-term changes that improve diversity, equity and inclusion in its operations and culture."



St. Mary's College's Student Government Association (SGA) approved a \$25,000 donation to the College's Recovery Fund that has been created to help reduce financial burdens and obstacles facing SMCM students due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is the second large donation from the SGA to the Recovery Fund. In May 2020, the SGA donated \$50,000.

## Rankings Roundup

St. Mary's College is ranked as the fifth best public liberal arts college in the nation for the second year in a row in **U.S. News & World**

**Report's "2021 Best Colleges."** The College also ranks 80 on USN&WR's national liberal arts colleges list, public and private (compared to 92 last year) and is named a top performer on social mobility, a ranking based on enrolling and graduating large proportions of disadvantaged students awarded with Pell Grants.

St. Mary's College is ranked among the **"Best Colleges for Your Money"** by Money (#116 of 739 on the list) and is recognized in the **2021 Fiske Guide to Colleges and The Princeton Review's "Best 386 Colleges" Guide for 2021** as well as its **Top 50 Green Colleges** list, and named a **2020-21 College of Distinction.**

For the third year in a row, St. Mary's College of Maryland has been listed as a **Hidden Gem by CollegeRaptor.com**, a higher education planning tool that offers side-by-side comparisons of colleges.

## Three Alums Named to SMCM Foundation Board

**Thomasina "Tom" Hiers '97** is vice president of the Center for Civic Sites and Community Change at the Annie E. Casey Foundation in Baltimore, Maryland. She has worked for the Annie E. Casey Foundation since 2016. Prior to that, she worked in government service,

notably as deputy chief of staff to former Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake. **Scott Raspa '86** is a retired senior IT executive whose career was focused in serving the U.S. federal public sector. Most recently, he was senior account executive at Oracle Corporation in Reston, Virginia, managing a U.S. Air Force CRM software account. **Ed Sirianno '82** is executive director of the Buffalo Audubon Society of Buffalo, New York, after a long career in marketing communications as the president of Creative Communication Associates and before that, as senior vice president of the Wolf Group Integrated Communications firm. These three alums replaced Foundation board members **Tom Daugherty '65**, **Brian Porto '92** and **Jack Saum '89**, all who completed their terms.



## Twain Lecture Series Welcomes Jordan Klepper

The Mark Twain Lecture Series on American Humor and Culture presented "Laughing to the Polls with Jordan Klepper" as a virtual event on October 13. Klepper is an American comedian, writer, producer, political commentator, actor, and television host. His recurring "Jordan Klepper Fingers the Pulse" segments appear on "The Daily Show." The Mark Twain Lecture

Series was launched in 2007 and is directed by Professor of English **Ben Click**. Since then the series has grown to one of the largest events in Southern Maryland. Past performers include Roy Wood Jr., Tig Notaro, The Onion's Scott Dikkers, and W. Kamau Bell.

## Special Education Minor and MAT Certificate Program Now Available

St. Mary's College now offers a special education minor in the educational studies program. With the special education minor, students will be eligible to apply to the SMCM Master of Arts in Teaching program with certification in elementary/middle school special education (grades 1-8). According to **Katherine Koch**, associate professor/associate director of teacher education, "Students will gain a solid foundation in special education theory and practice with a special education minor. Our students work closely with local K-12 schools to gain hands-on, practical experience."



## PRESIDENT'S NEWS



St. Mary's College Professor of Spanish **José R. Ballesteros** has been named director of equity programming in the recently reimagined Office of Inclusion, Diversity and Equity now to be known as the Division of Inclusive Diversity, Equity, Access and Accountability: IDE(A)<sup>2</sup>. Created and named by **President Jordan**, IDE(A)<sup>2</sup> (pronounced IDEA<sup>2</sup>, in order to highlight the second more-evolved iteration of our idea about inclusive diversity at St. Mary's College) is a cross-functional division that provides leadership, consultation, and assistance to the College's various units and constituencies in an effort to support the College in establishing a comprehensive and well-coordinated set of actions that focus on fostering greater diversity, equity, inclusivity, and accountability at all levels.

In this new role, Ballesteros will see that the College lives up to its public responsibility to create a working and academic environment where all can prosper. To meet this challenge, he will be part of the IDE(A)<sup>2</sup> division that includes **Kelsey Bush '94**, interim diversity officer, and **Michael Dunn**, assistant vice president of equity and inclusion. The division reports directly to President Tuajuanda C. Jordan.

## FACULTY, STAFF & STUDENT NEWS

"I'm excited to join the IDE(A)<sup>2</sup> unit to take on the challenges and opportunities that we face as an institution that is truly invested in making inclusion and



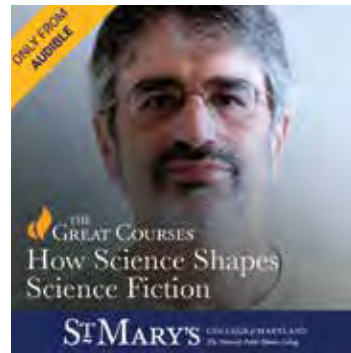
*José R. Ballesteros*

equity part of the DNA that runs through everything that we do at the College," said Ballesteros. "Not only is it the right thing to do, it is the only way that we will be able to honor and champion the changing demographics in higher education and meet our state-given responsibilities as a public institution."

Ballesteros has been a faculty member within the College's Department of International Languages and Cultures since 2002. He co-created and was an associate director of the DeSousa-Brent Program. The program's retention and graduation rates for students from underrepresented populations earned it a permanent funding grant from the State of Maryland in 2019.

Ballesteros is a contributing poetry editor for the Library of Congress's "Handbook of Latin American Studies" and the co-author of the Spanish literature textbook "Voces de España." He is a published translator and the owner and editor of the literary press Zozobra Publishing, the premier publisher of regional Latinx poets. His own poetry has been anthologized and appears in various journals in the U.S. He is the author of the book of poems "Lovedust" (Izote Press). Ballesteros has a PhD from the University of Kansas.

**Charles L. Adler**, professor of physics, has released a new video lecture series for The Great Courses, titled "How Science Shapes Science Fiction." The 24-lecture course looks at dozens of books, movies, and television shows to unearth the science behind the fiction. From the physics of space flight and the ecology of exoplanets to the creation of alien languages and the paradoxes of time travel, Adler uncovers the ways real-world science is applied by writers and filmmakers—and considers what they might alter or leave out for the sake of a good plot. Adler is also the author of the critically acclaimed science fiction book, "Wizards, Aliens, and Starships: Physics and Math in Fantasy and Science Fiction" (Princeton Univ. Press, 2014). In 2015, it was a



co-winner of the Science Writing Award for Books from the American Institute of Physics, and it made several lists of notable science books, including that of The Guardian. Adler is currently co-writing a book on the science of Leonardo da Vinci with Matthew Landrus from the University of Oxford.

**Katy Arnett**, professor of educational studies, delivered the opening keynote for the (virtual) 2020 Languages Without Borders confer-

ence in October, a joint endeavor between the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers and the British Columbia Association of Teachers of Modern Languages. Titled, "Evolving Inclusive Practices for the (Digital) Language Classroom," Arnett's interactive keynote invited participants to explore ways to hone and expand their inclusive practices within the language classroom. Arnett is a former high school French teacher and Fulbright scholar. She is the author of "Languages for All: How to Support and Challenge Students in a Second Language Classroom" (Pearson Education Canada, 2013) and, with co-author Renée Bourgoïn, "Access for Success: Making Inclusion Work for Language Learners" (Pearson Education Canada, 2018).

Assistant Professor **Geoff Bowers**, Professor **Pam Mertz**, and Associate Professor **Kelly Neiles** from the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry led a workshop on November 6 at the AACU 2020 Virtual Conference on Transforming STEM Education. The title of the workshop was "Build the Framework to Streamline Assessment: Scaffold Skills and Assess with Signature Assignments" and focused on the work the department has done to create a meaningful assessment plan as part of the CUR Transformations Project (NSF-DUE 1625354). Workshop participants were led through the process of creating program learning outcomes (PLOs) based on desired student skills and designing signature assignments to assess multiple PLOs. A longitudinal assessment rubric used by the department, the Megalorubric, was also introduced.



LEFT TO RIGHT: *Mertz, Neiles, Bowers*

**Emily Brownlee**, assistant professor of biology, was recently awarded a \$21,840 grant from the National Science Foundation for her project titled: "Collaborative Research FSML: PhytoChop: An Estuarine Phytoplankton Observatory." Brownlee will be responsible for setting up and analyzing instrumentation data, and will help curate and expand the imaging library.

**Tristan Cai**, assistant professor of photography, along with **Brooke Lamplough '19** and **Cecelia Marquez '18**, were included in the exhibition "New Photography II" at the Academy Art Museum in Easton, Maryland. The national juried exhibition ran from August 1-October 7, 2020. Artworks were selected by Philip Brookman, consulting curator from the department of photographs, National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. The co-organizer of this exhibition was SMCM alumnus **Conner Dorbin '18**, who was recently appointed curatorial assistant at the Academy Art Museum.

**Jeffrey Coleman**, professor of English, read three original poems relating to the Black Lives Matter movement and discussed poems from his edited anthology, "Words of Protest, Words of Freedom: Poetry of the American Civil Rights Movement and Era," during an

audio interview for the Poet and the Poem Series, sponsored by the Library of Congress. The interview was conducted by Poet Laureate of Maryland Grace Cavalieri. Coleman also spoke of his role with the Journal of Hip Hop Studies.

**Karen Crawford**, professor of biology, had a photo she took of gene-edited cephalopod embryos selected by Nature as one of the top 10 scientific images of 2020. The photograph was taken during summer 2019 while Crawford was a Whitman Fellow on a team at Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. She was first author of a milestone study reported in the July 30, 2020, issue of Current Biology.



KAREN CRAWFORD

**David Froom**, professor of music, had two works for flute published in a new anthology by the American Composers Alliance. “To Dance to the Whistling Wind” (1993) and “Ribbons” (2016) have been widely performed. Froom’s “Violinelle” was included in the California Music Center’s online program to celebrate the Klein International String Competition laureates. Additionally, the University of Utah School of Music’s New Music Ensemble released a live-stream performance of Froom’s “Yeats Songs.”



**Susan Goldstine**, professor of mathematics, gave an invited presentation on January 21, 2021 for the Gathering 4 Gardner Foundation. Her talk, titled “Maps of Strange Worlds: Beyond the Four-Color Theorem” featured a selection of her mathematical artworks along with their theoretical and historical context. Goldstine’s artworks have appeared in mathematical art exhibits for the past decade. Together with computer scientist and artist Ellie Baker, she is coauthor of the 2014 book “Crafting Conundrums: Puzzles and Patterns for the Bead Crochet Artist,” which collects their extensive research on mathematical bead crochet.

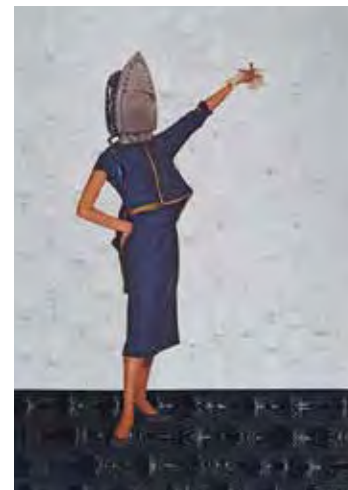
The Association of College and University Housing Officers – International (ACUHO-I) recognized **Joanne Goldwater**, associate dean for retention and student success, and **Brad Newkirk ’04**, director of the physical plant, in their ACUHO-I Heroes program. According to its website, the ACUHO-I Heroes program was created to recognize individuals who have displayed leadership within their organizations and the profession as a whole, gone above and beyond their traditional scope of work to ensure the health and safety of their communities, and tirelessly advocated for their community members. Goldwater will also be a co-presenter at the NASPA National Virtual Conference in March 2021.

Her session is titled “Embracing Disruption” and examines the impact of disruptions on one’s work/home lives, relationships, well-being, and provide tips on seeing the positive side of disruption, including growth mindset, the value of self-care, and how to use professional and personal networks.

**Argelia Gonzalez Hurtado**, assistant professor of Spanish and Latin American studies, has recently published the peer-reviewed article “Narrating the Indigenous Diaspora through Yolanda Cruz’s Lens” in *Vistas al Patio*, a journal in the area of Humanities from The University of Cartagena, Colombia.

The American Physical Society (APS) has selected **Josh Grossman**, professor of physics, to chair its Committee on Education in 2021. Grossman has served on the committee since the start of 2019. Previously, Grossman served on and chaired the APS Committee on Membership.

Associate Professors of Computer Science **Alan Jamieson** and **Lindsay Jamieson** received the Best Faculty Poster Award at the 2020 Consortium for Computing Sciences in Colleges Eastern Region Conference held virtually October 23-24. Their poster “Computational Thinking for Computer Science Majors: An Introduction to CS Education Career Pathways” focused on a pilot course to introduce computer science education pathways for computer science majors and had the students in the course implementing lesson plans at the Chesapeake Public Charter School. This work was supported through a grant from the Maryland Center for Computing Education.



“(I am) Not an Iron,” from *Hall of Portraits from The History of Machines*, 59” x 42”, acrylic painting over print on canvas, 2019)

**Sue Johnson**, professor of art, exhibited her work in a solo exhibition titled, “Hall of Portraits from The History of Machines,” at VisArts Gibbs Street Gallery in Rockville, Maryland, from Sept. 11 – Jan. 3, 2021. The Washington Post’s Mark Jenkins highlighted Johnson’s exhibition in a review on Dec. 25, 2020. Johnson also taught a virtual art workshop for VisArts, titled “The Surrealist Sketchbook.” Johnson also has work exhibited in a solo exhibition at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond, Virginia, through February 7, 2021.

**Julia A. King**, professor of anthropology, was recently awarded a \$110,000 grant from the National Park Service to fund a complete archaeological overview and assessment of Piscataway Park in Prince George’s County, Maryland. This project will be conducted through a Cooperative Agreement under the Chesapeake Watershed Cooperative Ecosystems Study Unit. The project is expected to be completed by December 31, 2021. Piscataway Park is a unit of the National Park Service administered by National Capital Parks—East. The park is located in Southern Maryland along the banks of the Potomac River. Situated approximately 25 miles downriver



from Washington D.C., lands within the park were home to the Potomac Valley's indigenous inhabitants for thousands of years—dating as far back as 6,000 years ago and through the 1500s. Among the occupants were the Piscataway Indians of Southern Maryland whose ancestors still live nearby today.

**Ellen Kohl**, assistant professor of environmental studies, recently partnered with Ridge Elementary School to secure a \$5,000 Chesapeake Land Trust grant to imple-



ment an outdoor classroom at the elementary school in Ridge, Maryland. The grant and plans for the outdoor classroom were

developed as a partnership between students in her “ENST 490: Environmental Keystone Seminar” and students and staff at Ridge Elementary School. Kohl also wrote an article, “Some We’s Weren’t Part of We: Intersectional Politics of Belonging in U.S. Environmental Justice Activism,” that was published in the journal *Gender, Place & Culture: A Journal of Feminist Geography*.

**Dave Kung**, professor of mathematics, is a 2021 recipient of the Mathematical Association of America’s Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Award. The award honors professors who have been extraordinarily successful and whose teaching effectiveness has been shown to have had influence beyond their own classrooms.

**Sarah Latchney**, assistant professor of biology and neurobiology, was interviewed by the Allen Institute because she is using the institute’s

open access data sets to support remote learning in the neurology and biology classrooms. She is concerned about increasing the accessibility gap already present to minority and other underrepresented groups for STEM fields. Latchney also published an essay in *Neuroscience Letters* titled, “Acute 2,3,7,8-Tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin Exposure in Adult Mice Does Not Alter the Morphology or Inflammatory Response of Cortical Microglia.”

Research in African Literatures, a peer-reviewed academic journal, has published an article by Assistant Professor of French **George MacLeod**, titled “Jacqueline Kalimunda’s Interactive Love Stories: Transmedia Documentary in Present-Day Rwanda.” It looks at an ambitious transmedia documentary project by the France-based Rwandan filmmaker Jacqueline Kalimunda, the first of its kind by a Rwandan filmmaker. The article is based on MacLeod’s presentation at a 2017 Conference at the University of Bristol (UK) sponsored by an interdisciplinary grant-funded initiative entitled “Popular Print and Reading Cultures in Francophone Africa,” which has worked with scholars in the United Kingdom, France, and West Africa to preserve African cultural production through digitization and public exhibitions.

**James Mantell**, associate professor of psychology and **Rachel Steelman ’21** presented at the 61st Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society in November. Their virtual presentation examined whether linguistic labels associated with visual experiences can affect psychological processing of auditory information.

**Pamela Mertz**, professor of biochemistry, was elected to a three-year term as chair of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB) Student Chapters Steering Committee; a subcommittee of the ASBMB Educational and Professional Development Committee. ASBMB Student Chapters is a national community of undergraduate students and faculty members promoting the advancement of biochemistry and molecular biology research, education, and science outreach. Mertz previously served as a southeast regional director for Student Chapters from 2013-2020.

**Jeffrey Silberschlag**, professor of music, presented a recital and master class during the international trumpet conference, The Brazilian Association of Trumpeters (ABT), November 3-8, in Brazil. Silberschlag previously introduced master classes and served as principal trumpet at Kyoto University of Performing Arts (Japan),



Prague Conservatory (Czech Republic), London Royal Academy of Music (United Kingdom), Beijing Central Conservatory (China), Aosta Institute of Music (Italy), and the Cleveland Institute of Music Orchestra (USA). Silberschlag has recorded as trumpet soloist with The London Symphony Orchestra, The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Warsaw Philharmonic, Czech Radio Orchestra, Italian National Symphony RAI-Torino, Seattle Symphony, and The Maryland Bach Aria Group. The Center for the Study of Democracy and the

Department of Political Science at St. Mary’s College presented a virtual roundtable and discussion of Professor of Political Science

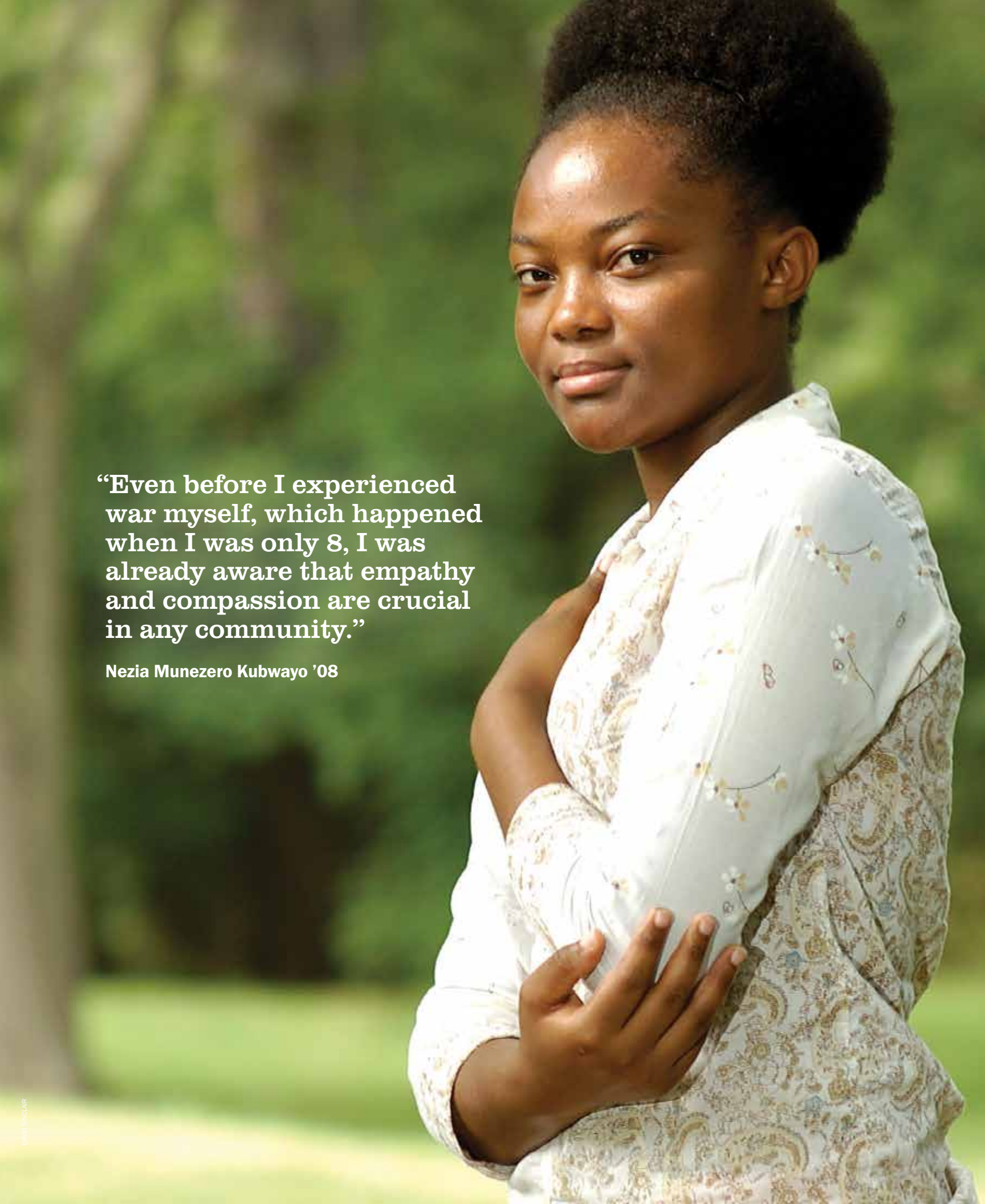
**Sahar Shafqat’s** “Pakistan’s Political Parties: Surviving between Dictatorship and Democracy” (Georgetown University Press) published on November 18. Professor Shafqat and co-authors Mariam Mufti, assistant professor of political science at the University of Waterloo, and Niloufer Siddiqui, assistant professor of political science at the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy at University at Albany, State University of New York, discussed this one-of-a-kind resource for diplomats, policymakers, journalists, and scholars searching for a comprehensive overview of Pakistan’s party system and its unlikely survival against an interventionist military, with insights that extend far beyond the region.

Professor of Psychology **Libby Nutt Williams** and alumni **Margaret (Meg) Marcelli ’17**, **Benjamin (Ben) Ertman ’18** and **Kelly Culotta ’18** recently published an article in the journal *Adoption Quarterly*. The article, “The Impact of Racial-Ethnic Socialization Practices on International Transracial Adoptee Identity Development” is based on Marcelli’s SMP which was a qualitative study that explored adoptees’ perspectives on their parents’ socialization strategies and the effect of those practices on their sense of identity and ability to manage future challenges, such as racial discrimination. Marcelli was scheduled to present the research at the Annual Meeting of the National Association of Social Workers Conference in June 2020, but the conference was canceled due to COVID-19.

# A FULL AND INTENTIONAL *Life*

Nezia Munezero Kubwayo's journey to America included two stays in different refugee camps, including one in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and one in Tanzania. Her parents are from Burundi, East Africa, but they fled independently in 1972 to escape the acts of genocide that targeted the majority ethnic group, the Hutus. Both of her parents settled in Rwanda where they met, married, and started a family. Nezia lived with her parents and seven siblings in Rilima, a small town about an hour from the capital city of Kigali. Her father was a teacher in Rilima. In April 1994, Nezia's family was forced suddenly to flee their home without her father, who was in Kigali that day. After months of traveling by foot, Nezia, her mother, and her siblings were reunited with their father near the Rwanda-DRC border.

*The childhood refugee experience of Nezia Munezero Kubwayo '08 (excerpted above) was published in the College's River Gazette (Vol. 6, No. 4, September 2006) in a feature written by Parker Bennett Gueye '06.*



**“Even before I experienced war myself, which happened when I was only 8, I was already aware that empathy and compassion are crucial in any community.”**

**Nezia Munezero Kubwayo '08**



LEFT TO RIGHT: *Nathan, Nezia, Carl, Jean Calmère and Naima Kubwayo in Burundi.*

PHOTO BY HOLYZINER

In the DRC (which was actually Zaire in 1994), Nezia and her family lived in the Kagunga Refugee Camp. After a few weeks, the United Nations arrived at the camp to provide food and tents. Her family turned their tent into a more stable shelter, by adding onto the tent with cut trees and mud bricks. Nezia and her family spent two years in the DRC, and the camp turned into a community, featuring a school, water pumps, and security.

In 1996, Nezia's family fled the DRC due to civil war in the nation. On their journey to Tanzania, her parents became separated from their children while buying food. The family was reunited after a few weeks, and they moved to the Muyovozi Refugee Camp in Tanzania where they lived for the next six years. While in Tanzania, Nezia completed grades three through eight. Her father helped to organize a primary school at the camp and worked for the camp's field office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. This helped the family to begin the application process to move to the United States.

In March, 2002, the family arrived in Baltimore through the U.S. Refugee Resettlement Program. Their new home presented difficulties making friends due to the cold weather preventing neighbors from coming outside, as well as the language barriers. When she enrolled in Southwestern High School, Nezia spoke French, Kirundi, Kinyarwanda, and Swahili, but not English. Fortunately, family friends and teachers worked hard to make the transition easier on Nezia and her family. After only two years in America, Nezia enrolled at St. Mary's College, where she majored in French and political science. After graduating from St. Mary's College, Nezia received her master's degree in international human rights law from The American University in Cairo. After leaving Cairo in 2009, she visited Burundi for the first time. It was there that she met her husband, Jean Calmère Kubwayo. They have three children (Carl, Nathan and Naima, ages 8, 5 and 4, respectively). She is currently working towards earning her doctorate degree in conflict analysis and resolution at Nova Southeastern University Halmos College of Arts and Sciences. She has worked as a public and community relations officer for Ethiopian Community Development Council Inc., a writer for USAHello, the director of philanthropy at Shepherd's Clinic, the owner of MK Editorial Services, and a news writer for Pollack Peacebuilding Systems.

**Q: How did your experience at The American University in Cairo shape your goals and aspirations?**

**A:** As a student at SMCM, I discovered my love of travel. I studied abroad in Alba, Italy, as a junior and again in Bordeaux, France, during my senior year. I was very eager to learn about the workings of the international human rights and humanitarian systems. My experience in Cairo introduced me to a world in which theory and practice merge. I was learning about the development of human rights and humanitarian conventions in the classroom while working with organizations that implemented them.

**Q: In your four years as the founding executive director of the Burundi Fund for Hope and Restoration Inc., what did the organization accomplish?**

**A:** The Burundi Fund for Hope and Restoration (BFHR) was established to provide educational support for repatriated Burundian refugee youth. In many ways, the project was experimental as I was unfamiliar with the nonprofit world, especially on an

international level. The team of volunteers in the U.S. and Burundi raised enough funds to support the education of about a dozen students, three of whom were at the college level.

**Q: How does your writing allow you to share your story with the world and your hopes for the future?**

**A:** I feel that my writing is among the central features of who I am now. It allows me to share stories that inspire others to pursue inner peace and joy in their lives. I believe in the power of words, and I use them to impact positive change wherever I can. Writing also declutters my mind, bringing me the serenity I need in order to live a happy life. Professionally, I have used writing as a philanthropic tool throughout my career so far. The end goal is always to do my part in improving the lives of individuals, families, and communities.

**Q: How has your past shaped your present? In other words, what about your past pushed you to pursue post-graduate degrees and your work post-SMCM?**

**A:** Even before I experienced war myself, which happened when I was only 8, I was already aware that empathy and compassion are crucial in any community. Having lived in refugee camps where everyone depended on the kindness of others left me with a desire to serve. My experiences growing up taught me the art/science of self-awareness and resilience, which now serves me personally and professionally.

**Q: Where do you see yourself in 10 years?**

**A:** My mission in life has always been to help people in whatever capacity I can. In 10 years, I hope to be helping communities and nations identify strategies to live cohesively and peacefully together.

**Q: What is your hope for your children? How has your life impacted your wishes for their success?**

**A:** My hope is that our three children – ages 8, 5, and 4 – will have the emotional intelligence they need to live full and intentional lives. They have the opportunities I needed as a child, and we take advantage of that as much as possible. At the end of the day, I hope they will define their own success and pursue it with the same level of commitment, determination, and passion that my husband and I have tried to exemplify for them.

**“Nezia took a number of French classes with me, all of which had substantial reading and writing assignments in French. These classes were a linguistic home for her. In them, she continued to develop skills in French in synthesis, analysis, evaluation and writing. A writer needs the same habits of mind – diligence, careful thought and attention to detail – in French and English. Students often do not believe me when I tell them that being a good writer in French will carry over into their writing in English – until it begins to happen.”**

**LAINE DOGGETT**, professor of French

# PROJECT PARENTING

*The Composition of a Lifetime, Orchestrated by Laraine Glidden*

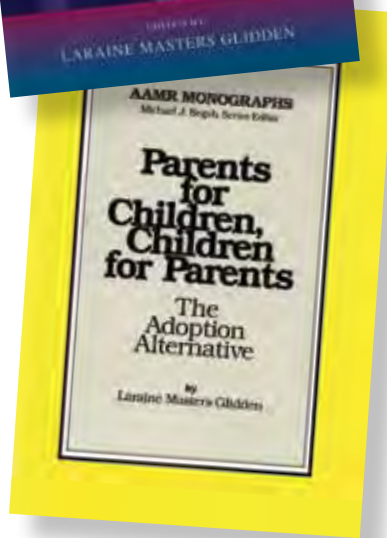
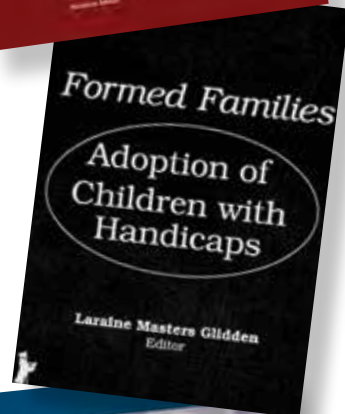
BY LEE CAPRISTO, EDITOR

Laraine Glidden’s professional career has spanned 50 years. Though she officially retired in 2012, she’s barely slowed down. This past fall she completed a four-year editing project of a two-volume, 1,117-page reference work, “APA Handbook of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities” (American Psychological Association, December 2020). Of that experience, Glidden admits that her love of learning and her love of writing and editing, combined with “dedication, determination and patience” helped her move the project to the finish line. She has plenty of prior editing experience: she edited “Formed Families: Adoption of Children with Handicaps” (Haworth Press Inc., 1990); “Autism” (Academic Press, 2001); and from 1997-2009, she edited 16 volumes of “International Review of Research in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities” (Academic Press/Elsevier).



Glidden was St. Mary's College's first recipient (in 1989) of the Norton T. Dodge Award for Scholarly and Creative Achievement. Over her career, she has been recognized with local, state and national awards, including The Arc Distinguished Research Award in 2008, appointment as a Global Scholar by Special Olympics International in 2011, and in 2015, the Edgar A. Doll Award from the American Psychological Association for career research achievements in intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). In 2020, Glidden received the Presidential Award from the American Association of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities for her outstanding contributions to the field and record of scholarship.

It is for her two decades of longitudinal research in "Project Parenting" that Glidden is best known. This grant-funded research began with a three-year National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (now the Eunice Kennedy Shriver NICHD) grant in 1987, and continued through renewals and supplemental grants from NICHD, as well as SMCM faculty development grants, through 2006. The research focused on the positive adjustment made by families rearing children with IDD, including those families who knowingly adopt them, and are prepared for a child with special needs. In the 1980s, there was lingering stigma, left over from previous decades, that raising a child with IDD was, overall, a negative experience. Glidden's work helped to change that and provided the research to prove that the large differences in depression and subjective well-being between adoptive and birth parents at the initial diagnosis declined over time, such that most parents, regardless of how the child entered the family, had adapted quite well. In the foreword of Glidden's book, "Parents for Children, Children for Parents: The Adoption Alternative" (AAMR Monographs, 1989), Seymour Sarason (eminent researcher in the field of psychology and IDD) wrote: "There can no longer be any doubt that most fami-



lies who adopt [youngsters with retardation] find it a rewarding experience. To many people that conclusion will still be hard to comprehend. This book will help them to understand better why that conclusion should not be surprising."

Glidden's first sabbatical from St. Mary's College was spent in London, England, in 1982-83. It was here that she first interviewed families raising children with IDD. Building on that research and data, she wrote her book, "Parents for Children, Children for Parents" and applied for grant funding.

Once funded, her work for Project Parenting started by reaching out to adoption agencies to gain access to families who had adopted children with IDD. With each family, Glidden asked for referrals to other families, and the number of families and her data set began to grow. Her second sabbatical was spent at UC-Berkeley in 1990-91; there she added California families to her research. Early interviews were done in person or by mail; later interviews by email and by video. To help with the workload, she hired and trained SMCM undergraduates as research assistants to help manage the interviews and oversee data compilation. The scope of the data collection allowed an unprecedented study of personality as an important predictor of parental adjustment and that general good mental health and emotional stability benefited parents as their children with IDD grew to adulthood.

Glidden also mentored undergraduate students wanting to help with the research, teaching them how to compile, sort, analyze and write about the data. Over the lifespan of Project Parenting, more than 100 students were involved and several dozen wrote or co-wrote articles and presented posters and talks at national conferences. Glidden's 19-page CV includes more than 100 articles, papers and book chapters written with students during Project Parenting. Many found the experience to be career-defining and pursued advanced degrees in psychology themselves (see sidebar on the following page).

**“Laraine is the consummate researcher and always included undergraduates in the work. She created teams of students, those with more experience on the project serving as mentors for those just joining the team. Laraine worked side-by-side with them, modeling both the specific research techniques and the critical thinking skills important to being a scientist.”**

**Wes Jordan**, *professor emeritus of neurosciences and psychology*

For grant-funded research, annual reports on that research are a routine requirement and publications are expected. “Because it takes time to set up a project like this one, recruit subjects, collect data, analyze data, begin to discern patterns, write articles, submit articles, revise articles, and wait in the queue for actual publication, most publications have a several-year lag,” Glidden explains. “Conference presentations, however, show that you are active, and help to get your research out into the community. I and my students [did] a lot of that.” By “a lot” Glidden means more than 150 invited conference presentations and papers shared by her and her students and research assistants on the findings of the Project Parenting research.

Data continued to be collected through 2011, at which time the sample had grown substantially smaller. Some parents and adult children had died; others could no longer be located. Glidden knew that the time was right to end Project Parenting. But writing about the research and findings

persisted for another five years with publications often co-authored by Glidden and former undergraduate, now graduate students. This work was supported by faculty development grants from SMCM.

Glidden’s research and sample size of 249 families living in more than 30 states and in several countries outside the U.S., followed over 20 years, remain unique in their methodology and scope. “I have been asked multiple times for my data set, or a portion of my data set, by other researchers who are compiling summary articles,” says Glidden.

In 2021, she will finish a writing project she started 15 years ago during sabbatical at Georgetown University. The subject of her research is American artist Joseph Cornell, best known for his avant-garde style and boxed collages. Glidden’s interest in Cornell, apart from his creative work, is that after his parents died, Cornell became the sole caretaker of his younger brother, who had cerebral palsy and a mild intellectual disability.



LEFT TO RIGHT: *Michael Rozalski, Brigid Cahill, Mike Kiphart, Leslie Tucker, Jennifer Willoughby, Mark Clayton, Allisen Hayworth, with Laraine Glidden outside her house in early 1990s.*

## ALUMNI OF PROJECT PARENTING

**Jennifer Willoughby '92**, earned her PhD in clinical child and pediatric psychology at University of Miami. She has worked in private practice as a licensed psychologist for many years and since 2005, has been the owner of Psychological Services Center LLC in Leonardtown, Maryland.

**“I worked on Project Parenting as a research assistant until I graduated from SMCM in 1992. After graduation, I took a gap year, and Laraine hired me as a fulltime research coordinator for Project Parenting for that year. With the help of student research assistants, I oversaw data collection and maintained correspondence and follow-up with study participants. During all of that time, Laraine mentored me and helped me conduct my own research project, which I believe was instrumental in my getting into graduate school.”**

**Brigid Cahill '94** completed her PhD at University of South Carolina in clinical-community psychology in 2002. She has worked at University of Rochester for many years, directing training programs for graduate and post-graduate students learning to work in college mental health. Since 2018, Cahill has been the director of the university’s counseling center.



“Laraine approached me when I was taking a class with her and asked me to join her group. I remember initially organizing research literature and doing lots of data entry and data cleaning. I eventually worked on my own project within Project Parenting, comparing the adjustment of parents of children with Down Syndrome vs. other disabilities by matching families to compensate for sampling biases in previous research. Being able to present at national conferences as an undergrad in 1994 and publishing work as a first and second author in peer reviewed journals (in 1996 and 1998) from work I did as an undergrad was a great experience and I’m sure helped my applications for graduate school. Laraine was incredibly generous with her time and support, keeping us all engaged at every step of the research process.”

**Michael Rozalski '94** earned his master’s and PhD at University of South Carolina, focusing on special education. He is associate professor of special education at State University of New York at Geneseo in the Ella Cline Shear School of Education.

“Laraine was, and continues to be, an inspiration. I learned so much more from Project Parenting than any other course I took. When working with my current students, I constantly push them to get involved in research projects with professors. Project Parenting is some of the best research that addresses parent and family dynamics for students with intellectual disabilities.”

**Brian Jobe '03** earned his PhD in clinical psychology from University of Maryland Baltimore County. He is associate director of the Child and Family Therapy Clinic at Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore, Maryland.

“I first became involved with Project Parenting in July 2003 after graduating from SMCM with a degree in psychology. The work was incredibly collaborative and helped me to increase my knowledge and confidence in the work of psychology. I remained with Project Parenting for two years before pursuing my PhD in clinical psychology. Without a doubt, Project Parenting prepared me for graduate school and made me a highly qualified applicant. Dr. Glidden and I continued to collaborate on research projects, and together we presented 14 research posters, published 5 articles, and two book chapters. One of my favorite things that I learned from Dr. Glidden was her dedication to training and mentoring. Project Parenting provided initial research experience for many undergraduate students at SMCM. This is something that I have continued at KKI, serving as the co-director of our undergraduate internship program for the Child and Family Therapy Clinic. The best part is that the process comes full-circle as I have been able to have several SMCM undergraduate students complete summer internships with us.”



CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: *Glidden, Brian Jobe, Amanda Lamont Link '05, Deirdre Bulger*

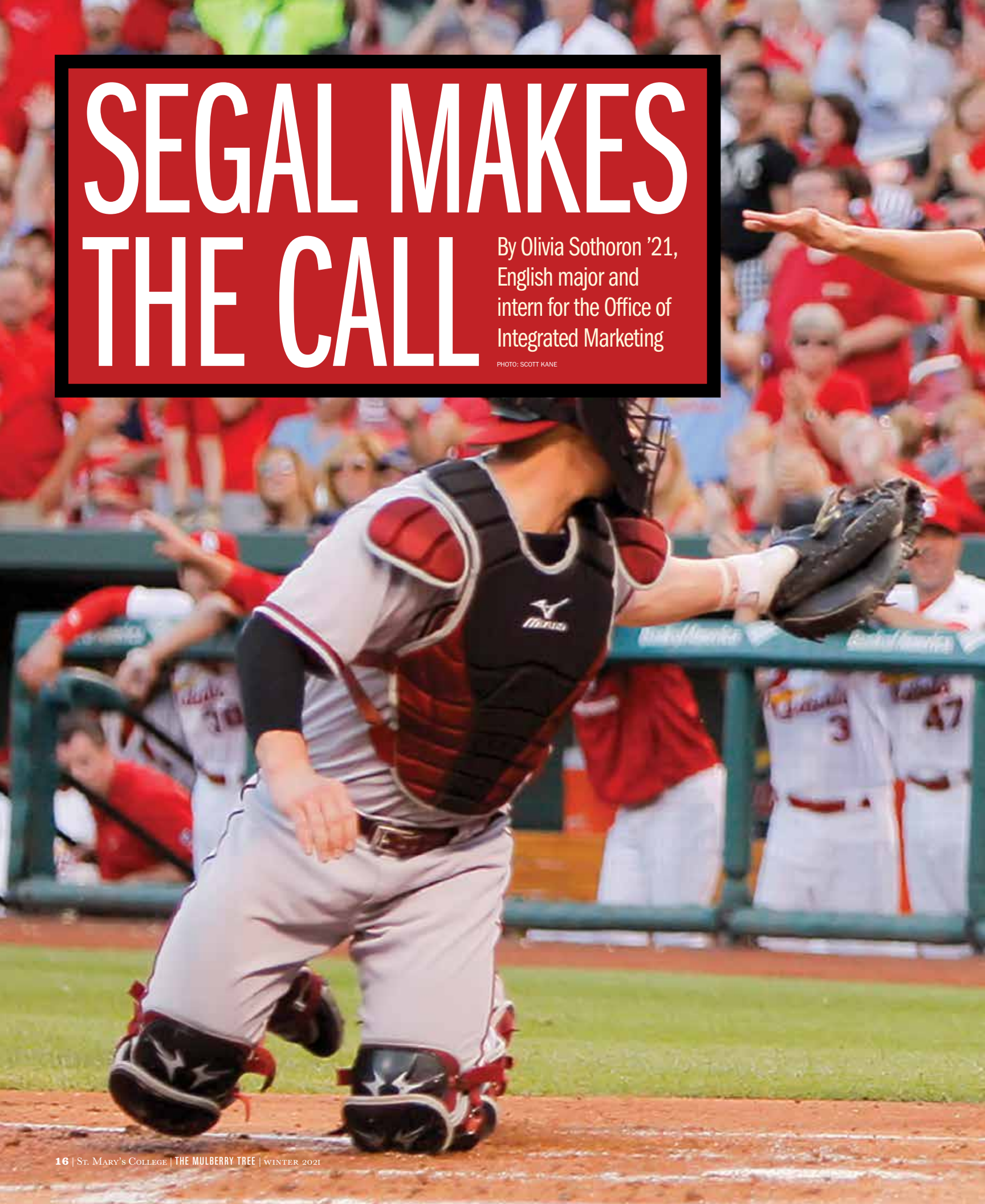
**Deirdre Bulger '04** completed a master’s degree in leadership studies and organizational development from Fresno Pacific University. She has worked in the nonprofit environment in quality assurance and behavioral support and was SMCM’s director of disability support services before transitioning to federal work in source selection for contracts with AbilityOne (the nation’s largest employer of persons with disabilities).

“After I graduated, Laraine hired me as the project manager for Project Parenting. I have always had a natural passion for persons with disabilities. I had a natural rapport with families and helped complete many of the surveys, as well as do videotaping. I was able to participate in research questions and statistical analysis of the responses as well as presenting during developmental disability symposiums. Most of my career has been spent utilizing or advocating for evidence-based practices within education, developmental plans and policy and that was reinforced as a foundation during my time with Project Parenting.”

# SEGAL MAKES THE CALL

By Olivia Sothoron '21,  
English major and  
intern for the Office of  
Integrated Marketing

PHOTO: SCOTT KANE





In February 2020, Chris Segal '05 received the call that all aspiring professional umpires dream of receiving: he was offered a position as a full-time umpire for the MLB. Wrapping up his first season as a full-time umpire, Segal's years of training and experience have prepared him to call games at the highest level, providing him with the opportunity to visit ballparks all across the country and meet some incredible people.

Segal began umpiring when he was in high school as a job to make some extra cash and be around the game he loved. The last game in his high school career ended in controversy when another umpire intentionally missed a call, preventing the game from heading into extra innings. It was this moment, Segal explained, that made him seriously consider pursuing a career as an umpire. He remarked, "I said at that moment that I wanted to become an umpire because I could do a better job than some of the other umpires out there, which is ironically a way that some umpire organizations try to recruit new umpires."

Bursting onto the baseball field at St. Mary's College, Segal wrapped up his freshman season by being named Rookie of the Year for the Capital Athletic Conference (CAC). During his time in a Seahawk uniform, Segal helped his team advance to the second (2004), third (2003, 2005), and fourth (2002) rounds of the CAC playoffs. Segal, who caught and played outfield for the Seahawks, graduated in 2005 before attending school to become a professional umpire.

During his time at St. Mary's College, Segal studied English and was an advisee of Professor Jennifer Cognard-Black. She noted that as she was adjusting to her new life as a professor, Segal was adjusting to life as a college student. The only class that Segal took with Cognard-Black was English Composi-

tion during his first semester at St. Mary's College. "Though he never took another class with me, I was his academic adviser, and so I had the pleasure of watching his abilities evolve and grow across his entire college career," she noted. "Even back then, Chris knew he wanted baseball to be a central part of his life, whether that was as a player, a sports writer, or – as it turned out – a professional umpire. I couldn't be more proud of his achievements, and I am confident that he is among the best-read and most clever umpires out there."

St. Mary's College prepared Segal for the arduous training which came with becoming a professional umpire. Segal explained that his time at St. Mary's College allowed him to better adapt to life on the road during training. "A large portion of working with baseball is working with people," he remarked, and he credits those skills to his time at St. Mary's College. Segal mentioned that the training is not as bad as many make it out to be, but there were definitely times when it was difficult. He also explained that it was challenging to see his friends from St. Mary's College starting jobs, getting married and starting families while he continued to pursue a career that did not assure a payoff at the end. He joked that the process of becoming a professional umpire is "an American Idol of umpires," for so many people are eliminated and very few make it to the final rounds. However, for Segal, the training paid off, and he noted that "for all of the downsides, there were a lot of positives along the way."

"The hardest part of this job is confidence," Segal says. "People are going to yell at you no matter what you say. Even if you're right, people are going to yell at you." The main expectation of the umpire is to maintain control of the game. "If you start doubting

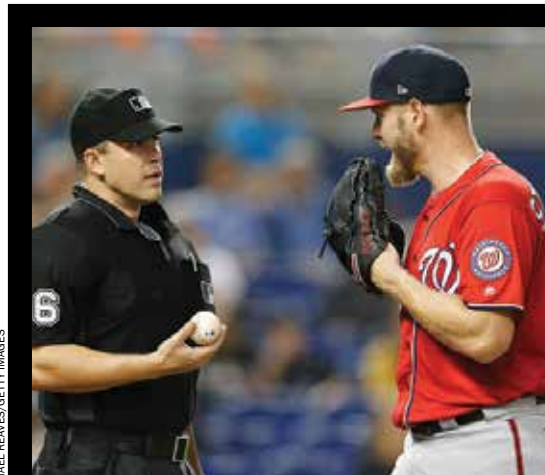
*Photo from Derek Jeter Day at Yankee Stadium courtesy of Chris Segal*



yourself, you lose control of the game,” Segal explains. Working as an umpire is a “mental game” that is all about “believing in your abilities.” Segal emphasizes this point in the camps he teaches to aspiring umpires. He also stresses the importance of not dwelling on a previous call, arguing that “the most important call you’re going to make is your next call.”

Confidence is especially important when working behind home plate. For Segal, home plate is the most stressful position as an umpire, both physically and emotionally. Adrenaline runs highest when a call is under review by the replay system. Segal admits, “I think we get the same rush out of going to replay and getting a call confirmed during a big situation that a player might get from hitting a home-run.” Additionally, Segal remarked that there is “no greater feeling than being able to walk off the field after calling a game behind the plate and know that you’ve done your job right after working an exciting game.” Although he does not have a singular position that he prefers when calling games, Segal is grateful for the rotation, for it allows him to call the game from various angles and experience the game from different points of view.

During his time in the Major Leagues, Segal has had the opportunity to travel across the country visiting different ballparks for his work. He explained that each stadium has something different and special to offer, and that he does not necessarily have a favorite stadium. He remarked that “it’s nice to be home – Nationals Park has a nice setup and Camden Yards has a good feel compared to new stadiums.” He also mentioned that Wrigley Field in Chicago is an amazing experience to work, since it is the stadium that he watched on television growing up. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 season resulted in regionalized schedules for the umpires, which meant that Segal could not call games outside of his region. This was disappointing, as he enjoys the stadiums out west, such as Angel Stadium of Anaheim and Oracle Park in San Francisco.



MICHAEL REAVES/GETTY IMAGES

“The hardest part of this job is confidence. People are going to yell at you no matter what you say. Even if you’re right, people are going to yell at you.”

**Chris Segal '05**

In addition to the opportunity to see different parts of the country, Segal has had the opportunity to be around big-name athletes and celebrities for his work. He explained, however, that he does not distinguish between “big-name” and “no-name” players during games, and that instead, he views them all as his coworkers. He remarked, “We’re all out there together and we’re all out there working for the same goal.”

But, there have been times when Segal realized how important certain players are to the game. In 2014, Segal had the unforgettable experience of working behind the plate for Derek Jeter Day at Yankee Stadium. “It was amazing,” he recalled, “just being out there and realizing the greatness and the power of what people mean to this game.” Another experience that Segal noted was in July 2017 when the third baseman for the Texas Rangers notched his 3000th career hit against the Baltimore Orioles. Recently, in September 2020, Segal was working the plate in Milwaukee when Alec Mills, the pitcher for the Chicago Cubs threw a no-hitter. Segal, who had never worked the plate for a no-hitter, remarked: “this is a rare thing; just to be alive to experience this was cool.”

Along with the professional athletes who Segal encounters during every game, he has also had the opportunity to meet celebrities through his work. In St. Louis, Segal had the opportunity to meet and spend time with comedian and actor George Lopez. In Baltimore, he met with the secretary of the Navy, who presented Segal and the other umpires with a special edition Navy coin. Segal is hoping to one day run into former President of the United States George W. Bush, who has been known to spend time in the clubhouse at the Texas Rangers stadium. “Based on all of the stories I’ve heard from my coworkers about meeting President Bush, I’m really hoping to have the opportunity to meet him someday,” Segal remarked.

Working as an umpire has provided Segal with irreplaceable experiences which would not be possible if it were not for his line of work. “Baseball has provided me with a lot of opportunities that I might not have gotten if I had not pursued this vocation,” Segal stated. In addition to the experiences which his work has provided him, Segal has also been able to spend his life surrounded by the game that he loves. From traveling the country visiting different ballparks to meeting celebrities in the clubhouse, Segal is able to make a living while living the major league dream.

# ALUMNI CONNECTION

## CLASS NOTES

### 1970s

**Skip Smith '73** was featured in the October 29, 2020, issue of *The Washington Post* for his 25-year career as a makeup artist at CNN. The article is titled, "Former CNN makeup artist started career by making people look like monsters." Skip got his makeup start at Blood Manor in Southern Maryland.

**Benjamin Bryan '78** wrote an article that was recently published in the *Korea Times* about his experience in the Peace Corps after he graduated from St. Mary's College. He volunteered in a leprosy settlement in Korea from 1979-1981. Read the article: [https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2020/12/177\\_299117.html](https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2020/12/177_299117.html)



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### 1980s

**Gregg Smith '84** has been elected board chairman of the Cybersecurity Association of Maryland. His company, Attila Security, was named Emerging Technology Company of the Year by the Maryland Tech Council.

**Caleb M. Kriesberg '85 [1]** was published in the peer-reviewed journal, *Maryland Entomologist* (September 2020, Vol. 7 No. 4) for his study, "Protandrous Arrival in a Population of the Periodical Cicada, *Magicicada septendecim*."



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**Stacie Boughn Marvin '89 [2]** was honored to be named one of the 107 recipients of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching. Stacie is one of only two awardees in the state of Maryland. The award is the highest recognition that a kindergarten through 12th grade science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and/or computer science teacher may receive for outstanding teaching in the United States.

### 1990s

**Janet Varner '91** wrote an article that was recently published in *Inside Higher Ed* titled "From the Inside Out: Reflecting on a Dual Lens," about how insights from higher education and K12 education can be used to improve each, especially during hybrid and online teaching. Varner is currently at SMCM as a visiting professor of educational studies.

**Elizabeth Pickard '94 [3]** is the author of a new children's book, "Ruth's River Dreams" (Missouri Historical Society Press, 2020). The book follows an avid lover of the Mississippi River, Ruth Ferris (1897-1993), who was a schoolteacher, a principal, an amateur historian, and a singular steward of St. Louis'



CARY HORTON, COURTESY OF THE MISSOURI HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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maritime heritage. "Ruth's River Dreams" tells the story of Ferris' childhood, when she first became captivated by the Mississippi River, its riverboats, and the stories told about and aboard them. Written for ages 3 to 7, Elizabeth's lively book fills a crucial gap in Mississippi River literature for children who are not quite ready for Mark Twain.

**Deborah Pollack '98** started a new position as assistant professor of psychology at Utica College in Utica, New York.

**Matthew Norkunas '99 [4]** has been appointed chief financial officer at Generation Bio Co. (NASDAQ:GBIO), an innovative genetic medicines company creating a new class of non-viral gene therapy. He received his M.D. from University of Maryland School of Medicine in 2004 and his MBA from Columbia Business School in 2012.

### 2000s

**Michelle Thompson Stulberger '01** was elected president of the board of directors for the United States Lactation Consultant Association, serving a three-year term which began in May 2020. She currently works as the senior



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director of clinical support services for MedStar Health Home Care.

**Jelani Wilkins '02**, "Mr. El," recently published a book, "America's Unfinished Business: Reconstruction 1865-Present" (Devine Holdings, Inc., 2020). The book is a result of 15 years of private research packed into 126 pages, motivated partly by experiences at St. Mary's College of Maryland.

**Todd Brooks '03** was recently listed as a "Future Star" in Benchmark Litigation, the widely respected guide to leading litigation firms and lawyers. Todd is a partner at Whitford Taylor Preston LLP and serves as co-chair of the firm's Business Reorganizations, Bankruptcy and Insolvency Litigation Section.

**Robert White '04 [5]** was re-elected as an at-large member of the Council of the District of Columbia. He serves as chair of the Committee on Facilities and Procurement, and vice-chair of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' Board of Directors. The Washington, D.C. native studied philosophy and political science at St. Mary's College.



**Larry E. Leak '76** serves as secretary of the Board of Trustees at St. Mary's College. He joined the Board in 2009. This past fall, Larry assumed the role of interim president at the University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC) until the search for a permanent replacement can be completed.

Larry has had a long career within the University System of Maryland, having served at what was then known as the University of Maryland University College from 2003-2007 as professor and vice provost for academic affairs, acting provost and chief academic officer, and finally interim provost and chief academic officer. Larry also served on the education faculties of Towson University and Morgan State University, and was a member of former State Superintendent Nancy Grasmick's executive team at the Maryland State Department of Education. His master's and doctorate degrees were earned at University of Maryland.



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**Mara Swaim Roane '05** is an associate director of program management at BD Biosciences. Mara has been working on a product that assesses immune function in COVID-19 patients. The product, which just launched in Europe, furthers scientists' understanding of how an individual's T cells respond to the virus and, as a result, how best to treat the specific patient.

**Brandon M. Scott '06 [6]** was elected Baltimore's next and youngest mayor, after serving as president of the Baltimore City Council since May 2019. From 2011 until taking office as Council President, he was the youngest elected councilmember at age 27, representing the 2nd District. The 36-year-old Park Heights, Maryland, native studied political science at St. Mary's College.

## Alumni Council Profile

by Molly McKee-Seabrook '10



CLOCKWISE FROM LOWER LEFT: Michele, Annie, Emily and Loren Shipley enjoying the 2019 Hawktoberfest crabfeast.

**Michele Everett Shipley '92** joined the Alumni Council in 2019 and recently became the vice president for chapter activities. Since she took on this new role during the pandemic, she has been working with the regional chapter presidents to plan virtual events to keep alumni engaged until in-person events can safely resume. She is also playing a lead role in helping to develop the newly added affinity network alumni program. Michele is a paralegal in Annapolis, Maryland, where she has worked at the law firm Hyatt & Weber for 28 years. She credits critical thinking skills honed while majoring in political science at St. Mary's College with helping her succeed in her career. Professor Susan Grogan's class covering religion and the Supreme Court first piqued Michele's interest in the law. While at St. Mary's College, she was a resident assistant in Queen Anne Hall, attending at the same time as her sister and brother-in-law (**Kathleen Everett Hornig '90** and **Rick Hornig '89**). She wishes she had been more involved in campus life, and feels working on the Alumni Council is a perfect way to get involved now and give back.

Michele and her husband live in Cape St. Claire in Anne Arundel County and have two daughters in college - Annie is in the Class of 2021 at Towson University and Emily is in the Class of 2023 at St. Mary's College. She said it is very special to see her daughter Emily experience St. Mary's College for herself, even if campus has changed a lot since Michele graduated. She's happy to see the new additions on campus, including the Commemorative to Enslaved Peoples of Southern Maryland which she had the opportunity to see in person while visiting her daughter, and she's looking forward to the new academic buildings and auditorium slated to open in 2022. Michele really enjoyed her first Alumni Weekend in 2019 as well as participating in the Great Bamboo Boat Race with her family at last year's Hawktoberfest. She is looking forward to the time when alums can gather again in-person for Alumni Weekend and other events on campus and across the country through the regional chapters and affinity networks.



**Sunny Schnitzer '09 [7]** was named Baltimore's deputy mayor for public safety by mayor-elect and fellow alum **Brandon M. Scott '06**. She will work closely with the mayor to redefine Baltimore's public safety strategy and ensure residents are safe, healthy, and protected. Sunny most recently served as deputy chief of staff for public safety in the Mayor's Office, where she oversaw the city's public safety and health agencies. She also served as the acting director and deputy director of the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice.

## Take 5: Q&A with Meredith Davis '92



**Meredith Davis '92** is associate vice president for student engagement at Syracuse University in New York, having started there in January 2020. She was formerly associate dean of students, divisional strategy, inclusion and involvement at Rhodes College in Tennessee. She also worked at the National Civil Rights Museum while in Tennessee. Meredith earned her PhD in women's and gender studies at Rutgers University in New Jersey, where she worked as associate director of social justice education and LGBT communities.

**Q1: How has your teaching experience as a professor prepared you for your position at Syracuse University?**

**A1:** I consider myself an educator with the gift of administration. Teaching in the classroom provided me with context to the classroom experience and what I need to do as an administrator to provide intentional, thoughtful and robust co-curricular experiences for students. It is my hope that this pandemic has reiterated to academic and student affairs how interconnected our areas are and they must work in tandem to develop a holistic student experience.

**Q2: How have you had to adapt to establish a community during the coronavirus pandemic?**

**A2:** The most important way to adapt to this pandemic is to maintain a level of flexibility. There are no blueprints for this global crisis. Maintaining transparency in communicating with the community and the ability to make adjustments as

swift and efficiently as possible will keep a campus open and thriving. I also believe the pandemic has shifted our paradigm on how we build and create community.

I would not be surprised if we continue some of the programs and methods of creating community during this pandemic after this crisis subsides.

**Q3: How have your prior positions helped prepare you for your work at Syracuse?**

**A3:** Working in Memphis, Tennessee, provided me with so many tools and context connecting a community with a college campus. I spent four years as Manager for School Programs at the National Civil Rights Museum and Rhodes College was a close partner with the museum. From student interns to faculty serving on our scholarship team, the connections were organic and impactful. NCRM and Rhodes taught me what a bountiful and strong community and campus relationship look like when mutual respect and reciprocity rests at the core.

**Q4: You studied sociology at SMCM: how has it grounded you in your post-SMCM career development?**

**A4:** Sociology majors are cultural forecasters. This major allowed me to understand culture in a sophisticated way. Studying culture, customs and practices are a part of my professional and personal praxis and I owe it all to majoring in sociology.

**Q5: What advice would you give now to your 20-year-old self?**

**A5:** Enter this experience with an open heart and open mind. Allow people to help you and never pretend you have all the answers. It is a disservice to yourself and those who have invested in your educational attainment if you leave this experience the same way you entered. Change is inevitable and should be embraced.



## Quentin Hillsman's Surprise Career



**Quentin Hillsman '93** went to Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina, his first year of college but had no plans to return. He played basketball in a summer league in Washington, D.C., and thought maybe he'd transfer to Howard University, but his parents wanted him to get out of the city. His mom had heard of St. Mary's College and suggested he visit. "I came to see the campus on a Friday, and started classes on Monday," Quentin recalls. "I am grateful to this day for Jay Gardiner, Rich Edgar, Jim Antonio and President Ted Lewis, because they gave me a chance."

After playing for Coach Gardiner at SMCM, Quentin played basketball on a European travel team and then a semi-pro team in Mississippi while pursuing a master's degree so he could become a sports agent. As part of his degree, he had an internship with Nike in Oregon and a mentorship placement with a basketball coach in Maryland at the Newport School, a private high school. Shortly after Quentin's arrival to the role of assistant coach for the boys' team, the coach for the girls' team quit. Quentin quickly stepped in to cover the summer league for the girls' team, led that team to its first championship, and stayed on as its head coach for a year, saying after that he was going to be a sports agent.

The same pattern repeated again and again for Quentin: he went next to Siena College near Albany, New York, as assistant coach to the women's team, working two years there under Gina Castelli. He

says now that he learned everything about being a women's basketball coach in those two years with Castelli. His father became ill and he chose to go to work at American University to be closer to home, working for former SMCM women's basketball coach Shann Hart. In Quentin's mind, these were temporary positions, since he was going to be a sports agent. So too, were the next three stops: first as athletic director and basketball coach at the Laurinburg Institute in Laurinburg, North Carolina; then as basketball coach at the Patterson School in Lenoir, North Carolina; followed by a year as assistant coach at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.

Since none of Quentin's jobs in seven years had been as a sports agent, it's almost funny to think that the next job would be in that field, and of course, it was not. He accepted the job of assistant women's basketball coach at Syracuse University after

a colleague from back in his Siena College days suggested he apply. After a year, the head coach resigned, and while he took that to mean it was time to move on, it turned out that the head coach position was offered to him and he accepted. The rest is record-breaking history for the Syracuse program under Quentin's leadership, with 12 consecutive postseason appearances, seven trips to the NCAA tournament, 18 all-conference selections, five All-Americans, and four WNBA draft picks. He is the all-time winningest coach in Syracuse's history and has established himself as one of the top recruiters in women's college basketball. He is a trailblazer as the first African American male coach ever to make it to the Final Four.

This is enough evidence for Quentin to admit that being a sports agent is not the career for him. It's the career he's in that's where he shines.



### 2010s

**Mariel Sáez '10 [8]** was named White House director of broadcast media for the Biden-Harris administration. Mariel is the deputy communications director for the Presidential Inaugural Committee and worked on the Biden campaign as women's media director. Mariel has served as deputy communications director for House Majority Leader and SMCM Trustee Steny H. Hoyer (D-Md.). She has worked for the congressman for 10 years, starting as an intern while attending St. Mary's College. After graduation, she joined his staff as a press assistant and researcher before being promoted to Maryland press secretary, national press secretary, and then deputy communications director.

**Rebecca Kaisler Williams '10** was admitted to the roll of solicitors in England and Wales in August 2020. She completed her two-year training contract with the international law firm Clyde & Co. LLP in London.

**Caitlin Fowler '12** accepted a senior success advisor position with Johnston Community College in Smithfield, North Carolina.

**Shannon Rafferty '14** received her master of landscape architecture degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 2020. She now works in Boston, Massachusetts, as a designer at Sasaki.

**Erin Chase '16** was recently promoted to be a deputy legislative officer for Maryland Governor Larry Hogan. In this role, Erin is responsible for covering all legislative matters for the human services portfolio,

as well as information technology and environmental issues. Erin joined the governor's office in 2017 and served as the special assistant to the chief legislative officer after initially serving as a member of the governor's communications team in 2016.

**Zoey Forrester-Fronstin '17** began a PhD program in behavioral neuroscience at the University at Buffalo. Since graduating from St. Mary's College, Zoey worked as a lab manager at the University of Tennessee Knoxville in behavioral neuroendocrinology.

**2020s**

**Halle Fogle '20** works as a research lab technician at UNC Chapel Hill's Nutrition Research Institute. She begins a PhD program in nutrition at UNC's Gillings School of Public Health in the fall. Halle resides in Charlotte, North Carolina.

**Rose Young '20 [9]** had an article titled "Parenting and Physics: How to Support Physics Students Who Are Raising Children" published in *The Physics Teacher*, an academic journal on teaching. The article, based on Rose's St. Mary's Project (SMP) research, was

featured as part of the journal's special collection on "Sex, Gender, and Physics Teaching." Her study addresses the obstacles and lack of support available in the U.S. for physics students who are also parents. It follows up by providing physics parents with strategies that other students like them have used and providing ideas for universities and physics faculty to support physics students who are raising children. Rose graduated with a double major in physics and math. She now works for Naval Air Systems Command in Patuxent River, Maryland.



9



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COLLEGE of MARYLAND



BILL MCALLEN

1



BRITANY DUNBAR PHOTOGRAPHY

2



3



WE ARE THE CASHMANS

4



JESSLYN MARIE PHOTOGRAPHY

5

## MARRIAGES & UNIONS

**Michelle Paris Porter '85 [1]** married Kevin Porter on October 10, 2020, at Gramercy Mansion in Stevenson, Maryland. The ceremony was intimate with fewer than 10 in-person guests, but more than 70 attended virtually via Zoom. Virtual guests included **Joan Race '84, Laurel Tringali '84, Gabrielle Leenas Lucke '84 and George Lucke '86.**

**Matthew Fox '08 [2]** married Autumn Slack on October 10, 2020, at St. Augustine Church in Elkridge, Maryland. Guests included **Jamie Waring '07 and Taso Sporidis '08.** The couple honeymooned in Austin, Texas, and Denver, Colorado. They currently reside in Glen Burnie, Maryland.

**Jackie Ward Primiano '11 and Greg Primiano '11 [3]** were married on June 13, 2020, in an intimate family ceremony in Jackie's parents' backyard in Annapolis, Maryland. The ceremony was officiated by

Jackie's older brother. The original wedding planned for May 2020 was canceled due to COVID-19, but would have included many 2011 alumni, including: **Kristen Deegan Marigos '11, Ryan O'Malley Priebe '11, Erin Cammarata Sanchez '11, Megan Tracy McIntosh '11, Meghan Nock '11, Amir Reda '11, Sean Reitenbach '11, Nick Ibello '11 and Paul Spranklin '11.** The couple resides in Washington, D.C.

**Ben Casto '10 MAT '11 and Katie Henry Casto '14 MAT '15 [4]** were married on April 6, 2019, at Springfield Manor in Thurmont, Maryland. Guests included best man **Ken Benjes '11 MAT '12,** groomsman **Michael Tornabene '11, April Ryan '09, Dan Schell '10, Kt Zawodny '11, Katie Haney '11, Catherine Skinner '11, Jules Plant '11, Jessie Morgan '11, Molly Devlin '11, Claire Morris-Jamieson '11, Dominick Morris-Jamieson '12, Alexa Milroy '12, Deanna Clements '12, Thomas Dickey**

**'12, Molly Dougherty '12 MAT '13, Lindsey Siferd '13, Ciara Willett '14, Nick Brown '14, Olivia Garahan '15, Windy Vorwick '16, Kayla Baier '16 and Stephen Parsons '16.** The couple honeymooned in Sonoma County and San Francisco, California. They recently purchased a 19th-century row home in Butcher's Hill, Baltimore.  
**Kate Cowart Koller '15 [5]** married Seth Koller on June 20, 2020, near their home in Livingston, Montana.

**BIRTHS & ADOPTIONS**

**Ryan McQuighan '05** and **Sara Waugaman McQuighan '05** [1] welcomed a son, Barrett, in November 2019. He joins big brothers Declan (8) and Conall (4). Ryan recently joined NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service as their FOIA liaison. Sara works for NAVSEA in Washington, D.C. The family resides in Owings, Maryland.

**Jessica Peterson Butanis '08** and **Jeremy Butanis '09** [2] welcomed a daughter, Sophie Ann, in August 2020. She joins older sisters Miranda (5) and Evelyn (2). The family resides in Alexandria, Minnesota.

**Melissa Mercer Poland '10** [3] and husband Mike welcomed a son, William David, in June 2020. The Polands reside in Rosedale, Maryland.

**Christopher Lewis '10** and **Jordan Gaines Lewis '11** [4] welcomed a son, Marshall Harrison, in August 2020. He joins big brother Russell (2). Christopher is a physician assistant in the Department of Otolaryngology at Penn State Health and Jordan is policy director for the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs. The family resides in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

**Caitlin Cromer Loughran '12** and **Brendan Loughran '12** [5] welcomed their first child, son Graeme Ellis, in August 2020. The family resides in Halethorpe, Maryland.

**Alyssa Nutter Weber '13** and **Jonathan Weber '13** [6] welcomed daughter Nina in January 2020. Aunts include **Rebecca Weber '20** and **Julia Weber '21**. The family resides in Columbia, Maryland.



ANTHONY ESSER

1



TARRA GARRIN

2



3



4



DAVID STUCK

5



JILL SPRINGER

6

## IN MEMORIAM

**Mildred "Milly" L. Wilson '55**, of Lutherville and Nanticoke, died September 2, 2020 at Peninsula Regional Medical Center in Salisbury, Maryland. She was 85 years old. Milly was a retired physical educator, coach, and department chairman with the Baltimore County Public School System. She obtained an associate degree from St. Mary's Seminary and Junior College and served as class president before completing her bachelor's degree at Shepherd University and obtaining her master's equivalency. For many years, Milly was a very active member of the Orchard Hills Community Association including serving on the board of directors as a district director and vice president of the association. Among her other contributions, she served on the Mildred H. Murray Scholarship Committee, was a member of Baltimore County Retired School Personnel Association and the Maryland State Athletic Directors' Association. She was also a volunteer with the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association and Baltimore County Public Schools. In 1998, Milly received the Maryland State Athletic Directors Association Distinguished Service Award for Baltimore County and in 2016, she received the National Federation of State High School Associations' State Award for Outstanding Service.

**Bonnie C. Manwell '57** died September 13, 2020 at her home in Silver Spring, Maryland. She was 83 years old. Bonnie was born in Western Maryland before attending St. Mary's Seminary and Junior College, and then settled in Washington, D.C. after graduating from George Washington University. She worked as the minister's secretary for Reverend David Easton and then as the church secretary for All Souls for many years before retiring.

**Suzanne C. Yates '59** of Aberdeen, Maryland, died September 22, 2020. She was 80 years old. Suzanne was a graduate of Aberdeen High School and served as secretary of the high school alumni for over 20 years. After graduating from St. Mary's Seminary and Junior College, she worked in the Internal Review Branch of the Comptroller's Office and Internal Review Branch of the United States Army, Aberdeen Proving Ground. Suzanne was happily married for 52 years to Lt. Colonel William Gardner Yates, with whom she traveled through Europe as well as other posts. As a military wife, she was a member of many military wives' clubs and was an active member of Grove Presbyterian Church. Suzanne was also involved in community philanthropy work as a member of the PEO Sisterhood (Chapter H) for over 40 years. She was a Girl Scout volunteer, secretary of the Aberdeen PTA and substitute teacher, and a frequent volunteer at Harford Memorial Hospital in Havre De Grace, Maryland.

**Merlin L. Taylor, Jr. '78** of Sacramento, California, died July 25, 2020 due to coronavirus. He was 63 years old. After attending St. Mary's College, Merlin earned his PhD in the School of Audiology and Speech Language Pathology at the University of Memphis in 1998. He held a variety of clinical and academic positions throughout his life and provided speech therapy to nursing home stroke patients.

**Rev. William David Boyd '87** of Baltimore, Maryland, died July 30, 2020. After graduating from St. Mary's College, he went on to serve as the pastor of The New Life Elizabeth Baptist Church.

## FRIEND OF THE COLLEGE

**Henry Thomas "Tom" Waring**, died at his home in Leonardtown, Maryland, on November 7, 2020, at the age of 98. Waring made his living in real estate development. He served on the St. Mary's College of Maryland Board of Trustees from 1991-2005. He is a descendant of Dr. James Waring, who was a trustee of the original St. Mary's Female Seminary from 1858-1882. While a member of the Board of Trustees, Tom was instrumental in bringing the needs of the College to the attention of George B. and Willma Reeves. The Reeves made a gift that was matched by the National Endowment for the Humanities and Maryland's Private Donor Incentive

Program to create the College's first endowed faculty chair. He also helped to create need-based scholarships for students in St. Mary's and Charles Counties, and in Calvert County to honor his friends, Pat and Ann Collins. The Waring Commons residences that opened in 2003 are named in his honor. In 2010, he established the H. Thomas Waring Scholarship Fund to assist financially needy, academically at-risk students. That scholarship has had a direct impact on student retention. In 2004, he created the H. Thomas Waring World Fund to support teacher education in The Gambia. The fund supported MAT students who traveled to The Gambia for student-teaching programs

# LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES, INFORMATION SCIENCE AND SMCM

By Pamela Mann (librarian) and Kent Randell (college archivist)

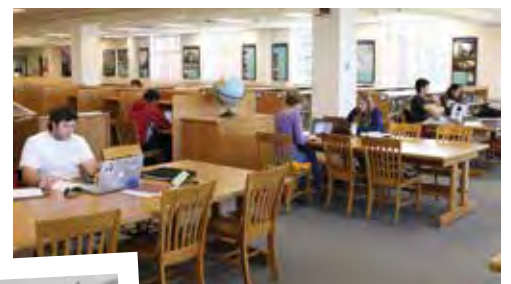
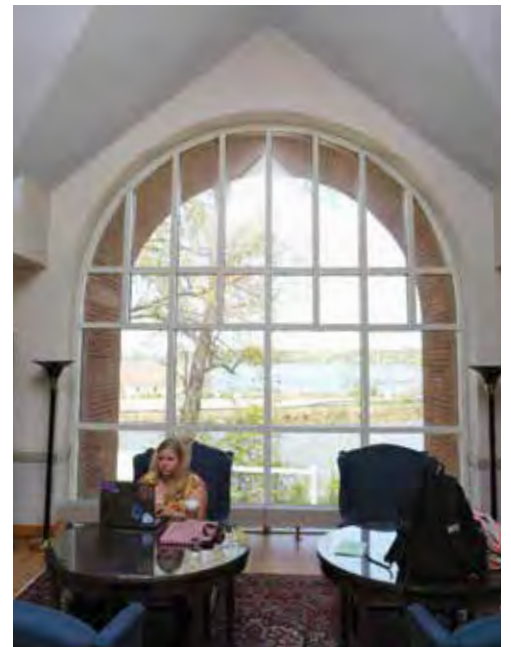
The turn of the 21st century was also a turning point for the world of libraries and archives. Libraries had already begun housing computer databases in addition to books and other “analog” materials while archives began collecting digital materials and digitizing collections. Libraries also broadened their public missions, and there is currently a growing subset of the field consisting of “UX librarians,” or user services librarians. Libraries increasingly house collaborative “maker spaces” or even “hackerspaces,” where patrons can gather to create DIY (“Do It Yourself”) projects, invent and share ideas. Gone are the days of the shushing librarians, as exemplified by the watershed July 2007 New York Times feature: “A Hipper Crowd of Shushers.” Master’s programs for librarianship and its related fields were rebranded as information schools (iSchools); the traditional MLS degree (master of library science) has been improved or supplanted by the MSI degree (master of science of information).

Prior to affordable home computers and the Internet, the role of the librarian was to bring people to information, which had to be housed in large buildings and stored in limited, quaint and old-fashioned packages like the codex book. Now, due to the portable supercomputers we call cell phones that many of us carry around in our pockets, the problem isn’t getting people to information, but rather getting people to the correct information. To address these problems, the field now emphasizes information literacy education

to help users navigate complex online information environments. The design and management of digital library catalogs and online databases are other key parts of the profession. Because librarians work in a people-centered profession and were early adopters of digital and online search technologies, it is not surprising that librarians were also early critics of tech monopolies and proprietary algorithms. Information scientists also tackle broader questions concerning information in society.

Not surprisingly, St. Mary’s College of Maryland, as a public liberal arts college, has many alumni who have gone on to information science careers. The College has faculty-rank, tenure-track librarians who assist professors and students, both in front of the classroom and behind-the-scenes, in developing and delivering learning outcomes involving information literacy. The College offers an “Introduction to Archives and Information Science” course in history and museum studies. Finally, the College’s Faculty Senate has approved an applied data science major, which will thread together math, science and information literacy.

The College continues to be on the cutting edge of information literacy and grows future leaders in this field.



ABOVE: Laptop computers are commonplace in the current-day Hilda C. Landers Library.  
LEFT: Standing shelves and card catalogs were commonplace in libraries of their day: this one from 1960 in the former Anne Arundel Hall.

# Calendar of Events

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**Center for the Study of Democracy & The Patuxent Partnership Host a Lecture by Kerry Fosher**

February 3 @ 12:00 p.m.

**Healthy St. Mary's Partnership Webinar #3 COVID-19 and E-Cigarettes: Learn How to Stop Both**

February 5 @ 4:30 p.m.

*Registration required*

**Center for the Study of Democracy & The Patuxent Partnership Host a Lecture by Major General Bolden, Ret.**

February 10 @ 1:00 p.m.

**Healthy St. Mary's Partnership Webinar #4 COVID-19 and E-Cigarettes: Learn How to Stop Both**

February 12 @ 4:30 p.m.

*Registration required*

**VALUMtine's Virtual 5K**

February 12-15

[www.smcm.edu/alumni](http://www.smcm.edu/alumni)

**Museum Studies Speaker Roundtable "Communities of Care"**

February 18 @ 4:00 p.m.

**VOICES Reading Series Performance Artist**

**José Torres-Tama**

February 18 @ 8:15 p.m.

**Neuroscience Seminar Series With Joaquin Lugo**

February 19 @ 3:00 p.m.

**An Evening to Honor the Legacy of Lucille Clifton With Li Young Lee and Leah Naomi Green**

March 1 @ 7:00 p.m.

**Neuroscience Seminar Series With Dan Kircher '10**

March 15 @ 4:45 p.m.

**Bay to Bay Service Days**

Throughout the month of April

[www.smcm.edu/alumni](http://www.smcm.edu/alumni)

**VOICES Reading Series 50 Years of Poetry at SMCM Hosted by Michael Glaser**

April 1 @ 8:15 p.m.

**The Mark Twain Lecture Series With Janelle James**

April 10 @ 7:30 p.m.

**Psychology Lecture Series With Maneeza Dawood**

April 14 @ 4:45 p.m.

**Awards Convocation**

April 16

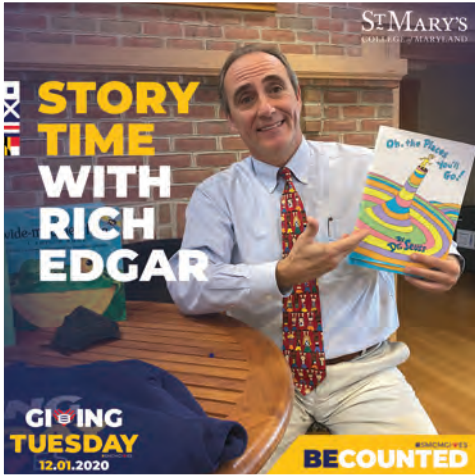
**Commencement, Class of 2021**

May 8

**Commencement, Class of 2020**

May 15

**For registration and information on these and other upcoming events, visit [www.smcm.edu](http://www.smcm.edu) and click on EVENTS. Events are subject to change.**



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