

# ST MARY'S

COLLEGE of MARYLAND

*The National Public Honors College*

## *The* **MULBERRY TREE**

SPRING 2021

### **SEAHAWKS TAKE FLIGHT AFTER SPORTS HIATUS**

*Adapting to the Pandemic*

[ PAGE 10 ]

ST. MARY'S COLLEGE  
of Maryland

# The MULBERRY TREE

SPRING 2021, VOL. XLII, NO. 2

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

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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.*

# CONTENTS

SPRING 2021

## ST. MARY'S COLLEGE OF MARYLAND

July 2020 — June 2021

### ALUMNI COUNCIL

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Vacant

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*Southern Maryland:*  
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*Western Maryland:*  
Vacant

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Tuajuanda C. Jordan, PhD



[ PAGE 10 ]



[ PAGE 16 ]



[ PAGE 20 ]

OPPOSITE & INSIDE BACK COVER:

*Photos from the College's collection,  
taken by Gretchen Phillips*

### FEATURES

PAGE 10

## Seahawks Take Flight after Sports Hiatus

After a nine-month COVID-19 shutdown, varsity sports manage a mini season blitz.

PAGE 16

## Built to LEAD

Externships on the Professional Pathway

PAGE 20

## Science and Other Ventures

An interview with Charles Adler, professor of physics and science fiction author.

### DEPARTMENTS

- 2 President's Letter
- 3 College News
- 24 Alumni Connection
- 28 From the Archives

COVER: #5 Chanel Lucas '22 and the varsity volleyball team got a chance to play five games (masked) during its mini season during the pandemic.  
COVER PHOTO: Bill Wood.

**F**OR MORE THAN A YEAR, WE HAVE ALL TRIED TO PERSEVERE AND PERSIST AMIDST a global pandemic. The challenges have been real, as families, businesses and schools try to stay afloat in a shut-down world. When we are able to lift current restrictions to campus and classroom capacities and enjoy in-person, unmasked activities, it won't mean that we return to normal. We're in a new place now that helps us move forward with the lessons we've learned during COVID-19.

We've accomplished a lot. Last fall, we launched our LEAD initiative with its enhanced CORE curriculum for all new students in the Class of 2024, *our largest class in five years*. As these students progress through their coursework for their academic major, they will simultaneously develop professional skills with credit-bearing courses and hands-on opportunities that help them build pipelines to post-college jobs.

A revised array of academic programs rolls out this fall, having been unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees in February and including new majors in marine science and neuroscience (pending MHEC approval) and a varsity track and field program. These changes are part of the outcome of a program prioritization review that took place over the past 18 months with task force work involving input from faculty and trustees (see summary on p. 7).

With our gains in enrollment, our LEAD initiative, and new and upcoming programs that include business administration, applied data science and the performing arts, St. Mary's College will emerge from this global pandemic more vibrant and relevant than before.

When we can safely celebrate in person, it will bring me joy to congratulate the Classes of 2020 and 2021 on a tough job, well done and to thank all the faculty and staff who made it possible.



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

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#### Editor's Note

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**T**HE FLOWERING DOGWOOD IS AN Eastern North American tree whose bark was once used as a burgundy dye and a remedy for malaria.

Each spring, I seek out the flowering dogwood, peeking from the edges of the woods, along the border between forest and clearing. Its flowers open up gently, like a welcoming hand, reaching out as if to say "join me." This is its moment, but it does not scream springtime like the returning osprey. It beckons me, quietly, to notice that spring has arrived.

An achingly beautiful pair — one pink, one white — conjoin in an erotic twist behind the building that houses the Office of Public Safety on campus.

By the time this issue reaches you, the flowering dogwood will be dressed in leaves, its moment on the stage gone until a new season restarts the cycle. So it is with students at St. Mary's College; they are here, and before we realize, they are graduated and gone, and a new batch of students restarts the cycle. Yet each student finds their moment on the stage while they're here. Some find it in the classroom; others on the athletic field. Some are helped to their moment by the welcoming hand of a working professional who invites them to join their work as an extern.

This issue celebrates those moments.

LEE CAPRISTO, *editor*

CORRECTION: In the article "Called to Action" (fall 2019 issue) the inaugural recipient of the Jordan Teaching Exemplar Award was incorrectly named. The inaugural recipient was Veronica Arellano Douglas, who was honored with the award in 2017.

## CAMPUS & COMMUNITY NEWS



## Rising Before Our Eyes

Work continues on the new academic buildings and auditorium, scheduled to open for the fall 2022 semester. The main building will house the Department of Music and a 700-seat auditorium. The west building will house the Department of Educational Studies, a study commons and a café.



## SGA Keeps Focus on Students

When St. Mary's College of Maryland pivoted to address health guidelines early in the COVID-19 pandemic, it altered many aspects of campus life, but the College's Student Government Association (SGA) stepped up to help in a big way for students both on and off campus.

"A lot of emphasis has been placed on students' needs during this time of COVID-19 and we believe that the money in the funds should benefit the student more [directly] as it is theirs to begin with," said **Josh Ajanaku '22**, president of SGA.

Ajanaku has been building on prior administrations' work and supporting new projects. Ajanaku said he is most proud of two unanimous votes from SGA to donate to the College's Recovery Fund. The Recovery Fund assists SMC students with financial hardships they may face due to the pandemic.

"It really showed our true potential as an SGA to support students. Not only did we do it once, but we did it twice," Ajanaku said. SGA donated \$50,000 to the fund during the spring 2020 semester and an additional \$25,000 in the fall.

The SGA also voted to allocate \$10,000 toward campus flu vaccinations and \$60,000 to replace the floating dock at the waterfront.



## CASE/Collegiate Awards

The Institutional Advancement's integrated marketing team earned a CASE District II Silver Award for its COVID Response: The St. Mary's Way entry in that annual awards competition. The entry highlighted the key components of the College's COVID communications response between March-August 2020 related to the safe reopening of the College. The integrated marketing team also earned a Gold award in the 2020 Collegiate Advertising Awards for the design of a giveaway apparel item for newly admitted students. The design was done by **Keely Houk '17**. This makes 13 national awards that the team has earned in the past two years.

## New Major Offered in Marine Science

The marine science major came about through a year-long process that reviewed proposals for new majors as part of the College's task force work. The new major will embrace the College's waterfront environment with the use of the St. Mary's River and Chesapeake Bay to create a one-of-a-kind program that will be unique, rigorous, and innovative. Because of the location of St. Mary's College on the St. Mary's River and because of the College's close association with the St. Mary's River Watershed Association, many opportunities exist for marine science that are not available at the other Maryland higher education institutions. Marine science will consist of a rigorous curriculum of foundational physics, chemistry, and biology courses along with advanced courses that utilize the campus' resources.

The major will create new in-state opportunities for Maryland students. The state of Maryland belongs to the Academic Commons Marketplace (ACM), which is a consortium of several southeastern states. It allows a student from one state to attend another state's public universities and pay in-state tuition if the student's major is not offered in their home state. According to the Maryland Higher Education Commission records, nearly 1,000 Maryland students used the ACM and left the state to enroll in undergraduate programs in marine science and marine biology between 2008-2018.

Pending approval by the Maryland Higher Education Commission, the marine science major will be offered in fall 2021, along with the new neuroscience major approved by the Board in October 2020. In development are three additional majors: applied data science, business administration and performing arts.



## Comedian Janelle James Gives Invited Twain Lecture

“An Evening with Janelle James” took place on April 10 via Zoom. James was the 15th performer for the Annual Twain Lecture Series on American Humor and Culture. James is a Los Angeles-based comedian who can be seen on “The Comedy Lineup” on Netflix, “Late Night with Seth Meyers,” and “Crashing” (HBO). She is currently a staff writer on “Black Monday” on Showtime.

St. Mary’s College’s Mark Twain Lecture Series on American Humor and Culture was launched in 2007. Since then the series has grown to one of the largest events in Southern Maryland. Past performers include Jordan Klepper, Roy Wood Jr., Tig Notaro, The Onion’s Scott Dikkers, and W. Kamau Bell.

## Alumna Directs TFMS Production

SMCM’s Department of Theater, Film & Media Studies virtually presented “Baltimore,” Kirsten Greenidge’s drama about racism on college campuses, February 25-28. Greenidge’s drama reveals the effects of a racially charged incident on a college campus that divides resident adviser Shelby’s first-year students, and Shelby finds herself in the middle of a conversation she does not want to have. The production was directed by **A. Lorraine Robinson ’92**.

## CSD Hosts Range of Speakers

St. Mary’s College of Maryland’s **Center for the Study of Democracy** and The Patuxent Partnership, presented two guest lecturers virtually in February. The first was by Kerry Fosher, director of research for the United States Marine Corps University, on February 3. The second was by Major General Charles Bolden (ret.), former NASA administrator and former astronaut, on February 10.

The Center, in partnership with the College’s **Division of Inclusive Diversity, Equity, Access and Accountability** and the College of Southern Maryland, also sponsored the series “Bridging Our Gaps: Community Conversations to Rebuild Our Democracy” from late February through mid-April. Topics included U.S. immigration policy; attitudes on race; electoral integrity; attitudes on policing.

The Center also hosted award-winning journalist Kavitha Cardoza on March 24, who discussed her work on undocumented children in U.S. public schools.



## Ethics Bowl Team Goes 2-2 at Nationals

The St. Mary’s College Ethics Bowl team was one of the top 36 teams in the nation to compete in February’s National Championships.

Coached by Associate Professor of Philosophy **Michael Taber**, the team of **Robert Artiga-Valencia ’21**, **Asia Dofat ’21**, **Mollie Rudow ’22**, **Darah Schillinger ’22**, **Nathan Villiger ’24**, and **Hannah Yale ’23**, went 2-2 against schools like DePauw University and the U.S. Naval Academy. The 17 cases this year included issues like what tech companies should do in the face of spreading conspiracy theories, changes in Title IX policies, the (over)use of comfort animals, sex in the times of (supposed) social distancing, and whether public school teachers should be forced to return to in-person instruction.

## SMCM Partners with TheDream.US

St. Mary’s College of Maryland has partnered with TheDream.US, a national program that provides college scholarships of an amount which typically covers the difference in the lost Pell grants and federal loans that Dreamers are not eligible to receive. The Dream.US offers two scholarships: The National Scholarship is for high school or community college graduates; the Opportunity Scholarship is for students who live in a state where they are not eligible for in-state tuition. For graduates of Maryland schools, this financial aid would be in addition to any state financial aid they may be eligible for by completing the Maryland State Financial Aid Application.

## WGSX Colloquium on Activism

The annual Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies Colloquium ran virtually on March 17-18. The colloquium’s theme was “Activism Now: Building Feminist Futures” and focused on the unfolding strategies and goals of a new generation of feminist activists and scholars working in the movement today. Speakers included Maria Goyanes, artistic director of the Woolly Mammoth Theater; Soraya Chemayl, executive director of The Presentation Project; Noorghan Akbar of Free Women Writers; faculty panelists **Argelia González-Hurtado** and **Jessye McDowell**.

## Dual Degree Offered in Engineering

St. Mary's College of Maryland has partnered with Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, to offer an engineering dual degree program. The program, considered one of the country's premier engineering programs, is now in its 48th year at Washington University.

"While the St. Mary's College students that are most likely to be interested have a focus in physics, chemistry, math, and material sciences, the dual degree program is open to all students independent of major," said **Erin De Pree**, SMCM

associate professor of physics and department chair. "The advantage for an applied physics major is that we are accepting some of the upper-level engineering courses as replacements for student capstone experience at St. Mary's College. This will make it easier for students to complete their requirements in a timely manner."

St. Mary's College students should apply to Washington University in their junior year. There is no application fee and no additional testing is needed. According to Washington University, clear eligibility criteria result in a dual degree admission rate of nearly 90 percent. That criteria includes students taking specific courses that contribute to both liberal arts and engineering

degrees, achieving a minimum cumulative 3.25 GPA in all coursework and in STEM coursework, and an endorsement from students' pre-engineering adviser.

Those admitted to the engineering dual degree program have two tracks from which to choose: 3-2 Option: Earning a St. Mary's College bachelor's degree and a Washington University bachelor's degree or the 3-3 Option: Earning a St. Mary's College bachelor's degree plus a Washington University bachelor's degree and Washington University master's degree.

## SMCM Transfer Edge Program

St. Mary's College of Maryland and the College of Southern Maryland have partnered to create the SMCM Transfer Edge Program (STEP), which allows CSM students to pursue their associate degree and simultaneously work towards their bachelor's degree at SMCM by taking one course per semester up to a total of four courses at a 50 percent discount. CSM students participating in the program will also have access to SMCM advising, the Hilda C. Landers Library, recreation facilities, and can attend campus student events.



ST. MARY'S COLLEGE OF MARYLAND

*RECOVERY*  
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## CONTRIBUTING TO A SPIRIT OF CARING

The Recovery Fund was created to help with the unexpected hardships and challenges facing our students due to the pandemic. The Recovery Fund has provided and is still delivering a lifeline to students. Over \$129,000 has been awarded through 141 grants to students for basic needs, books and technology, and tuition and fees. The requests keep coming. Please lend your support for this essential fund today.

**GIVE NOW:**



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**ST. MARY'S**  
COLLEGE of MARYLAND

## PRESIDENT'S NEWS



The **Office of the President** presented ESPN analyst and bestselling author Jay Williams on March 11 via Zoom. Williams, who was the #2 pick in the 2002 NBA Draft, is now an analyst on “College GameDay” and a regular commentator on ESPN and ESPN2’s weeknight studio coverage. Following a motorcycle accident in 2003, Williams was forced to retire from basketball after just one season with the

Chicago Bulls. Rather than letting the near-fatal accident destroy his future, Williams parlayed his experience on the court into a successful career in broadcasting and business. Drawing from his time in recovery and building his brand, Williams has established himself as a premier keynote motivational speaker for various executive business conferences and charitable organizations nationwide.

**President Jordan** presented her Trailblazer Award, the Jordan Exemplar in Teaching Award, the St. Mary’s Award and 17 new junior faculty professorships at the Awards Convocation virtual ceremony on April 16. **Laurie Scherer**, director of the Wellness Center, received the Trailblazer Award for her health management leadership during COVID-19; Professor of Political Science **Sahar Shafqat** received the Teaching Award; **Brad Newkirk ’04**, director of the physical plant, received the St. Mary’s Award. The following received the new junior faculty professorships:

**Emily Brownlee** (biology)  
**Andrew Cognard-Black** (sociology)  
**Torry Dennis** (neuroscience)  
**Jeff Eden** (history)  
**Gili Freedman** (psychology)  
**Jerry Gabriel** (English)  
**Liza Gijanto** (anthropology)  
**Argelia González-Hurtado** (ILC-Spanish)  
**Cassie Gurbisz** (environmental studies)  
**SooBin Jang** (educational studies)  
**Ellen Kohl** (environmental studies)  
**Kelly Neiles** (chemistry)  
**George MacLeod** (ILC-French)  
**Michelle Milne** (physics)  
**Amy Steiger** (theater)  
**Troy Townsend ’07** (chemistry)  
**Antonio Ugues** (political science)

[www.smcm.edu/academics/awards-convocation](http://www.smcm.edu/academics/awards-convocation)

During its February 6 Board meeting, the St. Mary’s College of Maryland trustees approved a freeze in tuition and fees for the 2021-2022 academic year, the second consecutive year for such action. The Board also authorized an increase of 2 percent for room and board (dining) rates for 2021-2022. At the same meeting, the Board unanimously voted to adopt the following academic program changes, effective for all new students entering in fall 2021 (current students noted will not be affected and will be able to graduate in their chosen programs):

**A new major in Performing Arts will be created comprising Music, Theater Studies and Dance and be more inclusive of non-Western forms of expression. The new major will complement the new auditorium building to be complete in 2022.**

**Majors and minors in Art History, International Languages & Cultures (ILC)-German, Latin American Studies, Physics-Fundamental; Religious Studies; and Theater, Film and Media Studies (TFMS)-Film & Media will no longer be available to new students starting fall 2021.**

**The minors-only programs in Democracy Studies, Mathematics-Applied, Physics-Astrophysics, and TFMS-Dance will no longer be available to new students starting fall 2021.**

**Students can minor, but not major, in ILC-Chinese, ILC-French, Music and TFMS-Theater Studies.**

**The current Core 101/301 course will be reimagined as writing intensive, humanities-focused courses to ensure that the humanities continue to be prominently represented.**

The program prioritization review evolved over the past 18 months with task force work involving input from faculty, trustees, **Provost Michael Wick** and **President Jordan**. Among the criteria, academic programs were measured for effectiveness, efficiency and equity. “I am confident that the outcomes from the program review, combined with gains in enrollment, student engagement, the LEAD initiative, among other areas, will ensure that our students will be in an even stronger position to compete in the ever-changing and competitive world in which we live,” said **President Jordan**. *See details of fall 2021 programs: [www.smcm.edu/academics/fall-2021-curriculum](http://www.smcm.edu/academics/fall-2021-curriculum)*

**President Jordan** participated in a panel discussion at the American Association of Blacks in Higher Education’s (AABHE) virtual conference on March 15. Presidents from Ithaca College, Central State University, University of Southern Indiana, and Columbia College Chicago joined **President Jordan** to provide insight into the current landscape of higher education, including financial and academic disruptions to institutions across the country brought on over the last year because of the pandemic.

The virtual conference was featured in *Diverse Issues in Higher Education*.

The **Office of the President** with the VOICES Reading Series presented “An Evening to Honor the Legacy of Lucille Clifton” on March 11 via Zoom. Poets Li-Young Lee and Leah Naomi Green were recognized for their work during the event, which welcomed a record-breaking number of participants.

## FACULTY, STAFF &amp; STUDENT NEWS

The online journal *Age of Revolutions* has published Professor of History **Christine Adams'** paper based on her live talk with Newberry Library Director of Fellowships and Academic Programs Keelin Burke on Jan. 15. The subject of the talk was the three "flash points" in the French Revolution: the September Massacres of 1792, the Reign of Terror, and the fall of Maximilien Robespierre. Adams is on sabbatical working as a Newberry Library residential fellow in Chicago, Illinois, through June 2021.

To read her paper, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/277n5b49>

**Leo Boucher '23** placed first in the International Laser Class Association (ILCA) at the 2021 West Marine US Open Sailing Series - Clearwater. The West Marine US Open Sailing Series is a new, U.S.-based racing and training series of Olympic-class regattas. The regatta was the third and final stop of the three-event Florida tour. Other SMCM athletes in the series included **Farrah Hall '03**, who took third in board sailing and **Markus Edegran '16**, who was leading in kite sailing after 11 of 18 races before an injury ended his race. The West Marine US Open Sailing Series picks up again this summer in California.

Assistant Professor **Geoffrey Bowers**, Professor **Randolph Larsen**, and Associate Professor **Kelly Neiles** recently published their implementation of a new scholarly laboratory model for upper-level chemistry courses in the *Journal of Chemical Education*. The model teaches students about the fundamental skills of a particular field in a first-semester laboratory course, then puts the students in the research lab working on faculty scholarly work in the second semester as an example of a course-based undergraduate research experience (CURE). In their model, students work in teams on a small, semester-long research project that feeds directly into the supervising faculty member's scholarly goals. Students engaged in these scholarly labs report they are highly engaged in all steps of the scientific method and that they integrate, implement, and improve the research skills gained throughout the four-year research skill curriculum in chemistry and biochemistry. Participation in the scholarly based laboratory model led to a statistically significant (10%) improvement in lab notebook, final presentation, overall lab, and overall course grades for the scholarly lab cohort compared to a traditional lab cohort in second-semester physical chemistry.

To view the article, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/y5pss5fj>.

**Karen Crawford**, professor of biology, has been appointed to the external advisory committee for the Vermont Biomedical Research Network (VBRN). The VBRN is funded by a grant from the National Institutes of Health to promote biomedical research in the state of Vermont. The external advisory committee for VBRN assists with the evaluation of proposed awards at participating institutions, faculty and student development within the network, and overall evaluation of VBRN itself. Crawford sits alongside SMCM Board Trustee Peter Bruns on this advisory committee.



Assistant Professor of Psychology **Kristina Howansky** and collaborators recently published their research in the journal *Teaching of Psychology*. The research found that identity safety cues — signals to let students know diverse identities are valued in the higher-ed classroom — were associated with more positive impressions of a student's professor, a higher sense of belonging in the class, and fewer

absences. In addition, Howansky was interviewed on the AskPsychSessions podcast about being an early career academic during the pandemic. Posing the question, "How can I employ radical empathy to teach during a pandemic," they discussed using safety cues to increase belongingness and how radical empathy can make classes go more smoothly.

**Sue Johnson**, professor of art, has been awarded a 2021-22 residency for one month at Delaware's Winterthur Museum, Garden and Library. She will do research for her project, "Woman, As Advertised," which focuses on 19th and early 20th century material culture sources for the creation of new works for her ongoing project, "Hall of Portraits from The History of Machines."

**Katherina von Kellenbach**, professor of religious studies, is one of 100 international scholars to contribute to the *Encyclopedia of Jewish Christian Relations*. The encyclopedia is a project for which, in 200 scholarly entries, more than 2,000 years of Jewish-Christian interaction will be summarized, assessing achievements and addressing fundamental issues. *Professor von Kellenbach's entry can be found online: <http://www.ejcr-project.com>.*

**Sarah Malena**, assistant professor of history, has been published in the volume *Scribes and Scribalism* (T&T Clark, 2020). Malena's contribution, "Influential Inscriptions: Resituating Scribal Activity During the Iron I-IIA Transition," examines the significance of inscriptions in a time of extremely limited literacy and great social and political turmoil in the ancient Levant.



Assistant Professor of Digital Art & Animation **Jessye McDowell** was one of four artists invited to create a new work for the Wassaic Project's 2021 Winter Benefit, which took a novel form during the pandemic. Consisting of four events, the artists were paired with a collector of their work, who gave a virtual tour of their home and art collection. Each tour was a collaboration between the collector and the artist — with the collector exploring how the artist's work fits within their collection, and the artist exploring their creative process. Each featured artist also produced a limited-edition print exclusively for the event. McDowell, who attended the Wassaic Residency in 2016, contributed her new work, "Future Sets (Unknown)", 2021. In addition, McDowell, who is currently serving a three-year term as president of the New Media Caucus, contributed programming to highlight new media art and scholarship to the 2021 College Art Association conference, held virtually in February.

**Pamela Mertz**, professor of biochemistry, was one of the organizers and moderators for a conference hosted by ASBMB Student Chapters, "Constructing Narratives for Teaching Science," held virtually on February 6. This was the first virtual ASBMB Catalyst Conversation, showcasing talks on teaching strategies/projects that are works in progress as a means to generate ideas and discussion. For this Catalyst Conversation, participants were encouraged to talk about how their response to the pandemic will inform their teaching moving forward, when more faculty are back in the classroom face-to-face with students.

Chair and Associate Professor of Chemistry & Biochemistry **Kelly Neiles**, along with colleagues at St. Mary's College of Maryland, have accepted an invitation from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) to participate in an Inclusive Excellence Learning Community. The award includes \$30,000 to support participation in the Learning Community, which focuses on the evaluation of inclusive teaching and is meant to build capacity for inclusion of all students, especially those who have been historically excluded from science. Neiles stated that she and her team "are excited for the opportunity this will provide the College both in terms of educating ourselves on this important topic, and also in positioning ourselves to gain future support for this work."

Neiles' team will participate in a learning community cluster with approximately 14 other teams from other institutions, focusing on evaluation of inclusive teaching. Two other clusters will concentrate on content of the introductory science experience, and effective partnerships between 2- and 4-year institutions.

**Serdar Ongan**, visiting professor of economics at St. Mary's College of Maryland, has six new publications in 2021:

"Monetary Policy Uncertainties and Demand for Money for Japan: Nonlinear ARDL Approach" in the *Journal of the Asia Pacific Economy*, 26(1), 1-12 (SSCI);

"How Do Various Health Insurance Coverages Affect COVID-19 Related Stay-at-Home Tendencies of People Across U.S. States?" in the *Journal of Health Management*, 1-8 (ESCI);

"Money Stock Determination Process and Money Multiplier: Case of South Korea" in the *Journal of Financial Economic Policy*, February Volume. (ESCI);

"The Increases and Decreases of the Environmental Kuznets Curve (EKC) for 8 OECD Countries" in *Environmental Science and Pollution Research*, published 2/4/21 (SSCI);

"Convergence Analysis of the Ecological Footprint: Theory and Empirical Evidence from the USMCA Countries" in *Environmental Science and Pollution Research*, published 2/24/21 (SSCI);

"Economic Growth and Environmental Degradation: Evidence from the US Case Environmental Kuznets Curve Hypothesis with Application of Decomposition" in the *Journal of Environmental Economics and Policy*, 10(1), 14-21 (ESCI).

Adjunct Professor of Environmental Studies **Laura B. Schneider** has published an article in the *Journal Science & Children* with Kayce Wills, a staff member at Duke Elementary in Leonardtown, Maryland. The article centers on using scientific phenomena to study the fossils of the Calvert Cliffs region of Maryland. It includes a data set of photographs of roughly 300 Miocene fossils allowing classrooms around the country to be able to have access to analyze and interpret data and complete an investigation. The article teaches how to use fossil data to make inference about past environments. The article can be found online: <https://tinyurl.com/3pzkk9n3>.

**Donald Stabile**, professor of economics and professor of the College and a leading expert on the history and economics of the living wage, was a guest speaker at the Notre Dame Just Wage Forum 2021 on February 12. The forum offered a series of conversations between scholars and practitioners in pursuit of a fairer and more inclusive economy. Stabile's topic was "The Seven Just Wage Criteria: A Perspective from Historical Study of a Living Wage."

Professor of Psychology **Libby Nutt Williams** has recently been recognized for her contributions by being named a fellow of the American Psychological Association's Division 2 (Society for the Teaching of Psychology). Williams is also a fellow of several other APA Divisions (17: Counseling Psychology, 29: Psychotherapy, and 35: Psychology of Women).

**“Having no competition last fall was pretty tough, but what was really tough was not being allowed around my teammates outside of practice workouts.”**

Christian Oliverio '22





# Seahawks Take Flight after Sports Hiatus

BY OLIVIA SOTHORON '21 WITH DEVIN GARNER '21 AND GRETCHEN PHILLIPS

OVER THE COURSE OF THE PAST YEAR, PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WORLD SET ASIDE their traditions to adhere to mandates to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus, adapting to life behind masks and six feet away from the ones they love. One aspect of life which was especially impacted by the pandemic was sports. The NCAA College Basketball Tournament — which was held even during World War II — was canceled entirely, bringing countless collegiate careers to a crashing conclusion. Major League Baseball canceled their Opening Day games, unable to start its season until mid-July, with a number of big-name players deciding to opt out of the season due to health concerns. Football stadiums were quiet due to the absence of fans, and even the Super Bowl only welcomed healthcare workers who were already fully vaccinated.

St. Mary's College of Maryland athletes were also greatly impacted by the pandemic. Spring athletes in the Class of 2020 were unable to compete in their final seasons as Seahawks. The College announced before the start of the fall 2020 semester that there would be no fall sports season, bringing an end to the athletic careers of SMCM students who would graduate in December. The absence of competition caused many athletes to question whether the early morning practices were worth it, and if they were ever going to be able to compete this academic year.

However, after a successful winter season of both men's and women's basketball, St. Mary's College announced that fall sports would compete in spring 2021 on condensed seasons. This meant that the men's and women's soccer teams, rowing teams, sailing teams, field hockey team and volleyball team would all be able to compete in the spring to make up for the absence of competition in the fall. Just as the men's and women's basketball players were consistently tested for COVID-19 throughout the season, so too would the fall and spring athletes be held to these requirements. The continued practices and conditioning sessions throughout

the fall that sometimes felt like they were all for naught would prove crucial when it came time for these teams to compete.

"Our student-athletes have been the critical piece of making this whole operation go; they have committed to decreasing contact with everyone outside their living spaces in their free time, even other teammates," said Director of Athletics and Recreation Crystal Gibson. "Our students have committed to remaining on campus and not seeing family and friends in order to make sure their 'bubble' stays secure, this is a HUGE sacrifice and extremely demanding. However, it has worked, and we have been successful in continuing outside competition."

In addition to the importance of athlete adherence to restrictions, Gibson reflected on the role of coaches in making sporting events possible. Their abilities to communicate with the athletic department, athletes and families have proven critical throughout this challenging time. "Our coaches have also been critical communicators with our student-athletes and parents, relaying important updates and information, while holding the groups accountable for their actions," Gibson added. "More than anything,

our coaches have remained committed to the growth, stability and mental, physical and academic health of our student-athletes. Helping each student find the necessary resources and help on and off campus to make them successful - the same as any year, even before or after the COVID-19 pandemic.”

All St. Mary’s College students, staff and faculty have worked relentlessly to adhere to the restrictions implemented in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Members of the St. Mary’s College community have worn masks, social-distanced, taken their food from the Great Room in to-go boxes to eat in the safety of their rooms and sat six-feet apart from their classmates and professors. The return of Seahawk athletics represents the return of a sense of normalcy. Although fans were unable to cheer on the basketball teams in the Michael P. O’Brien Athletics and Recreation Center Arena, they continued to livestream the games and cheer from the safety of their homes. St. Mary’s College athletes and coaches represent so much more than just an athletic team at the College, for when they display the Seahawk across their chests, they are representing the entire St. Mary’s College community. Even if it means being swabbed in the nose throughout the entire semester, members of the SMCM community are committed to doing what they must in order to safely return to play, and bring an end to the pandemic.

## SEAHAWK BASKETBALL

**Caitlin Mays ’21** was very grateful for the opportunity to play basketball for one last season in as a Seahawk. She stated: “It meant so much to me to play for one more season, especially since I don’t plan on playing after college. I am really grateful to have had the opportunity to be on the court for a final time.” Mays will miss practices the most because they served as an opportunity for her to stay in shape and be with her teammates.

One of the things that **Cameron Mangold ’22** missed most during this basketball season was the fans in the arena, cheering on the Seahawks. “Hearing their cheers and voices really does uplift our teams during games,” she said. Although the pandemic complicated the season, Mangold explained communication among the women’s basketball team has improved greatly.



“It meant so much to me to play for one more season...”

Caitlin Mays ’21



“We have found a way to communicate and understand each other that maybe we would not have been as efficient at doing had we not been forced to because of COVID,” she stated.

## SEAHAWK SOCCER

As a dual-sport athlete, Mangold is used to the rigorous testing schedule, and does not mind having to be tested regularly if it means that she gets to play both basketball and soccer. She stated, “I just want to compete and if around the clock testing is required, then I am ‘all in’ in order to play the sports I love.” She explained, “There is such a limited amount of time for us to compete as collegiate athletes. Our seasons have been drastically shortened and while I am so fortunate to be able to play both of the sports I love, I will mourn the opportunities that I have missed to play.”

**Haley Bullis ’21** reflected, “As a senior, I felt responsible for setting a good example for the rest of the team in terms of staying safe. This often meant missing out on key events that are important to every student, especially the seniors at SMCM, but it was worth it to get our season in the spring.”

## SEAHAWK FIELD HOCKEY

**Emily Pulkowski ’21** stated that the limited amount of time that players could spend at practices with their coach made them more appreciative of her instruction and guidance. Pulkowski noted that being tested for COVID-19 regularly ensures the safety of the players, and is therefore not much of a burden. “It allows me to be comfortable to play without masks alongside my teammates as well as against opponents, and is a step towards guaranteeing safety for all. Testing allows us to play at our high intensity level without masks while also ensuring we are not part of the spread of COVID,” she explained. “Being able to put on our jerseys and play competitive field hockey is something I will forever be grateful for especially during COVID.”

**Hannah Dietrich ’21** added that head coach **Jessica Lanham** has been extremely supportive during these challenging times. She stated: “It means so much to me that Coach Lanham has had our backs through it all and pushed us to grow, even during a pandemic!”

**“Being able to  
put on our jerseys  
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during COVID.”**

Emily Pulkowski '21





**“I think the other seniors and myself tried to make it feel more normal for the younger guys on the team.”**

**Andy Collins '21**

## SEAHAWK ROWING

**Christian Oliverio '22** reflected, “Having no competition last fall was pretty tough, but what was really tough was not being allowed around my teammates for outside of practice workouts.”

**Lilly Stein '22** added that in addition to securing the single boats and scheduling a virtual regatta in the fall, head coach **Anna Lindgren-Streicher** has worked hard to secure extra space in the Jamie L. Roberts Stadium for the team to set up their ergometer machines, allowing them to practice together, outdoors and socially-distanced.

**Graham Bos '21** explained, “It’s important to me to be able to finish out my time here at SMCM with something that has been such an integral part of my time here. Especially having lost the 2020 spring season to COVID, I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to practice and compete given the circumstances in 2021.” Bos will miss the people on the team most after he graduates, as well as “the added motivation to wake up and accomplish something early in the morning.”

## SEAHAWK CROSS COUNTRY

**Tyler Wilson '22** credits assistant coach **Cathy Friedel** with creating workouts for the athletes to complete in the fall during the absence of meets. “It was not a perfect system, but I think Coach Cathy and the team did the best that we could considering the circumstances,” he explained. Wilson reflected back on his first two seasons at SMCM, explaining that he misses the exhilaration of meets the most. “Seeing the crowd by the start line just sent shockwaves of adrenaline through my body because I knew then and there that me and my team were going to show the world that St. Mary’s is a force to be reckoned with,” he stated.

**David Salazar '24** added that new cross country and track and field coach **Reava Potter** has made an impact on the program since her arrival in November 2020. Coach Potter did this by “encouraging and pushing us to be better every day, getting us ready to compete, and expanding our team,” Salazar explained.

## SEAHAWK TENNIS

**Brooke Oliver '21** found tennis to be a way to relieve stress during this challenging time. “With all of the chaos and isolation that a pandemic brings, spending the afternoons on the tennis courts with my team has been the greatest stress-reliever this semester,” she stated. “Among the many challenges that come with competing during a pandemic, one of the biggest challenges for me is the distance I am expected to keep from not only my own team, but our competitors as well. There is no shaking hands with your opponents, and no high-fives to your teammates. Although it feels strange and impersonal, I know it is for everyone’s well-being that we follow protocol.”

## SEAHAWK BASEBALL

One of twelve seniors on the baseball team, infielder **Andy Collins '21** explained that this year’s graduating class worked hard to provide a welcoming experience for the team’s underclassmen. “I think the other seniors and myself tried to make it feel more normal for the younger guys on the team,” Collins stated. “They obviously aren’t getting a normal first year of college, and

**“I feel so lucky that doing something I love is my actual job, so now every practice – rain or shine – I am just so thankful to be out there with my team.”**

**Erin McDonnell**  
Women's lacrosse coach



we all remember how welcomed we felt and how great it was to be part of a team.” Collins also added, “The biggest challenge has just been adjusting after going almost a year without playing competitively as a team. Games themselves don’t feel much different than normal times, just a lot quieter without having family and fans at the games.”

## SEAHAWK GRADUATES

**Ellyse Sutliff '20** graduated a semester early in December 2020 with a major in environmental studies and minor in political science. She is currently working as a regulatory technician with Wetland Studies and Solutions, a company she interned for over the summers while a student at St. Mary's College. As a member of the volleyball team, Sutliff was unable to play her senior season due to the fact that all competitions were moved to the spring, after she had already graduated. Sutliff asserted that she misses her volleyball teammates. “Through everything we

went through as athletes (injuries, losses, or busy schedules) I was always thankful for the relationships we made and the fun we had as students,” said Sutliff, who looks forward to returning for alumni games.

## SEAHAWK COACHES

Women's lacrosse coach **Erin McDonnell** recounted the devastation that followed the announcement of the cancellation of the 2020 season. “At first, we were dealing with the shock of having our season literally ripped from our hands. There was definitely a time where we just let the team breathe and get their bearings while trying to adjust to the fact that they had to stay at home for quarantine.” Coach McDonnell held frequent virtual meetings with her players at the start of the quarantine and throughout the summer. Similarly, field hockey head coach **Jessica Lanham** explained that she encouraged her players to focus on everything that they had to be grateful for, stating: “A big message we

kept emphasizing was focusing on what we can control, looking for positives, and finding ways to grow during this time.”

Virtual recruitment has allowed both Coach Lanham and Coach McDonnell to enjoy more time at home with their loved ones, and has made them realize how important it is to appreciate every second they have with their team. “It was heartbreaking to have our season cut short and the cliché saying that you don’t realize what you had until it’s gone, is very true. I feel so lucky that doing something I love is my actual job, so now every practice – rain or shine – I am just so thankful to be out there with my team,” Coach McDonnell reflected.

# Built to LEAD

## Externships on the Professional Pathway

BY LEE CAPRISTO WITH OLIVIA SOTHORON '21 AND CRYSTAL OLIVER

As part of the College's rollout of its Learning through Experiential and Applied Discovery (LEAD) initiative, all SMCM students begin a series of courses, called the Professional Pathway, that starts in the first semester and continues into the major. This is the part of LEAD that blends together their academic experience with professional skill development, weaving credit-bearing courses and hands-on opportunities throughout the entire college experience. The courses help build awareness of career opportunities, expand professional networks and offer real-world work experience through a semester-long externship which often leads to summer and year-long internships and eventually full-time employment. The externship course is designed to remove barriers to internship participation for students, while simultaneously acting as a recruitment pipeline for employers. Unlike a traditional internship where students must apply and be selected, SMCM students are placed in an externship that aligns with their academic and professional goals. "Externships are a precursor to internships and serve as an opportunity to test out a career while gaining hands-on experience with an employer who is committed to hiring SMCM talent," explains Ciara Williams, associate director of career education.

**Crystal Oliver**, lecturer in English, has been a partner with the Career Development Center since 2018 in developing and piloting the three Professional Pathways courses. In the first two courses, students identify their strengths and interests, explore how their academic choices compare to their professional goals, develop a resume, attend a career fair and practice for job interviews. The third course — the externship course — is Oliver's favorite, she says, because "students put into practice the skills they've learned while getting that practical, hands-on, resume-ready experience to complement their discipline and degree."

The challenge to match students and externship host sites is real. "I absolutely consider each student's experience, interests and strengths before placing them," Oliver says. "I meet with students to get an idea of what would be the best fit for them (and for the organizations where they are

placed). I also have the students document their strengths and interests and submit a resume so that I can get the best picture possible."

Oliver has observed that the experience for students provides huge rewards. "The theoretical and hypothetical become actual, and they get to see, first-hand, how their liberal arts education has prepared them for the real world," she says. So what do these experiences look like from the perspectives of the students and of their externship and internship hosts? These are a sampling of perspectives taken during the past 12 months.

**Personalized Therapy LLC** in California, Maryland, has hosted SMCM student externs and interns for several years, mostly those studying psychology and looking for a field placement experience. Often, the students are able to do more than one placement with the clinic, which enables them to engage in different therapeutic disciplines within



**Kristina Norgard '22** landed a paid internship with *EcoTheo Review* as social media editor following her CORE 201 externship with the magazine.

the practice. For some, the assignment has led to full-time employment after graduation.

Jennifer Tennyson, the business operations director at Personalized Therapy, says that the opportunity to host students at the practice allows her to share with them the range of therapy services and disciplines. "Our therapy services are extremely necessary for many individuals, but a lot of people do not have knowledge about them until they need them," she says. "We also hope to create an interest in possible careers for future therapists."

For **Hannah Dietrich '21** (psychology major), these experiences combined to give her a noticeable edge for applying to graduate school in occupational therapy. “I began by taking CORE 103 and 104 as well as 201 in an effort to help the Career Development Center with the initial trial runs of the classes,” Dietrich explains. “Little did I know how much they would help me in my future career path. The 103 and 104 classes exposed me to new career options and got me thinking about exactly what I wanted to do after undergrad.”

“I got the opportunity to do a job shadow at Personalized Therapy. I was able to observe various types of therapy, such as occupational therapy, ABA therapy, speech therapy and physical therapy. I fell in love with occupational therapy and was left wondering what I could do to be more involved with it,” she continues. “I then participated in the initial Personalized Therapy externship class, which was a perfect opportunity for me. At this externship, I learned more about OT, fell more in love with the field and decided this was going to be what I wanted to do in the future. Without that externship class/opportunity I wouldn’t have learned all that I have and been able to get an internship with an OT clinic near my home.”

In the summer of 2019, Dietrich was hired as the head counselor at a pediatric OT clinic’s camp for children. The internship earned her more than double the hours needed for her OT graduate school application. This summer, she begins her doctorate of OT program at Mary Baldwin University, where she plans to specialize in outpatient pediatric OT.

Jason Myers is editor-in-chief of the **EcoTheo Review**, a 501(c)3 that publishes a printed magazine and a website (ecotheo.org) that “enlivens conversations and commitments around ecology, spirituality and art.” He has hosted CORE 201 externs as well as SMCM interns working in all aspects of the magazine and website. “They have assisted in layout, helped share calls for submissions, and essentially participated in every level of putting together a literary magazine and getting a nonprofit off the ground.”

Since EcoTheo Review has always operated online, the pandemic did not hamper the ability for students to work. They joined in Google meetings and shared work assignments through Google Drive. For **Kristina Norgard '22**, nervousness about the externship assignment was typical of any first-experience and not more or less so because of being remote. “My first assignment as an extern for The EcoTheo Review was to collect and organize contact information for heads of departments and deans at art schools and institutions with MFA and divinity programs,” says Norgard. “This was used for EcoTheo to reach out to the students of these programs and see if they were interested in submitting their work for the next issue.”

Myers finds it interesting that with student volunteers, each takes a different approach in terms of the level of freedom vs. engagement they desire/require and their aptitudes for creative vs. administrative assignments. “The host experience has helped me, I hope, to be an agile and thoughtful supervisor.”

Norgard landed a paid internship with EcoTheo Review as social media editor after her CORE 201 externship. “I was able to find a way to translate the position into a credit-bearing off-campus internship during the fall 2020 semester.” An English major, she plans on basing part of her St. Mary’s Project (SMP) on the experience of working with EcoTheo Review. “My experience with working for EcoTheo certainly helped in expanding my perspective being exposed to the variety of pieces and creatives that were featured in the issues,” she says. “A good amount of the submitted content within each issue dealt with similar ideas that I am interested in incorporating into my SMP. It was also incredibly beneficial to hold a perspective within EcoTheo of what creative writers are producing and doing after undergrad/graduate school.”



**Rachel Pettit '21's** externship with the Sola family's Rolling Stone Farm, ABOVE, a new organic cattle farm, enabled her to learn and practice grant writing.

**Rachel Pettit '21** (English major) was looking for an externship aligned to social justice; when there was not one to be had, she opted for the chance to learn and practice grant writing for a newly founded organic cattle farm. Pettit’s work of researching possible farming grants for the Solas filled a need they had with a new perspective. “Rachel looked at things from a different perspective than we would have and found some interesting opportunities,” says Jon Sola. “I don’t think we would have found those grants and opportunities ourselves.” With the Solas’ help, Pettit contributed to the writing of a successful grant proposal for a fencing project. The fencing of the 14-acre farm in Park Hall, Maryland, was completed in early March 2021, just days before a dozen Hereford cattle arrived.



**Lenny Rudow '90**, TOP LEFT, is the “angler-in-chief” of *FishTalk* magazine. *FishTalk* has hosted several SMCM students as externs and interns including Rudow’s daughter **Mollie Rudow '22**, TOP CENTER, **Devin Garner '21**, RIGHT and **Cameron White '22**, FAR RIGHT.

Working remotely during COVID-19 was an obstacle toward the Solas’ goal of their extern being on site to “get the full experience of what we are working towards,” but the progression of the externship via remote channels (Zoom meetings, shared documents and email) served as a valuable learning experience. Pettit currently serves in a remote internship with Lutheran Social Services in the National Capital Area and credits her remote work with the Solas for giving her an advantage. “It was extremely helpful to gain experience working entirely remotely with Rolling Stone Farm,” she says. “I was able to learn how to effectively communicate remotely with supervisors and complete tasks in an all remote format — which is something that I am doing now as well. Learning how to effectively communicate with my externship supervisors only via email and Zoom was sometimes a challenge, but also a valuable skill that is very applicable to today’s work environment.” Pettit also credits the professional writing course she took alongside her externship with helping her to learn more about project management and professionalism.

For Jon Sola, impactful externship and internship experiences during his undergraduate years contribute to his desire to help SMCM students

first was with the Philadelphia Eagles Sales & Marketing department and the second was with a [St. Mary’s County, Maryland] government contractor. The Eagles co-op opened my eyes to the cut-throat, dog-eat-dog world of high-profile organizations like that and I realized that was not where I wanted to be. My co-op back in St. Mary’s County was when I met Roberta and both made me realize I wanted to move home.”

**Lenny Rudow '90** is the “angler-in-chief” of **Rudow’s FishTalk** magazine, a monthly print magazine with an online version at [fishtalkmag.com](http://fishtalkmag.com). His daughter, **Mollie Rudow '22** (English major) is part of the family business, compiling and writing the weekly fishing reports, a key digital component of the magazine read by as many as 5,000 anglers each week. “She’s an excellent writer,” brags her father, “And yes, she does like to fish!”

Rudow has hosted several SMCM students as externs and interns with *FishTalk* magazine and is glad for the chance to show them the importance of understanding how to write for both a print and online publication. “To be a successful writer in today’s marketplace you really have to be able to write for both,” says Rudow. For him, the biggest help the students offer is in creating “cornerstone content.” “In order to utilize search engine

optimization (SEO) to its fullest, you need to have a bank of content that relates to many different articles and posts and can act as a hub for linking other articles and posts to, over the long term,” he explains. “The species-specific articles our *FishTalk* interns have worked on get linked with new posts going online on a weekly basis. That makes Google happy, which means our web pages rank higher when people search for terms related to our content.”

**Devin Garner '21** (English major) grew up in Huntingtown, Maryland, on the Chesapeake Bay. He’s an occasional fisherman. His CORE 201 externship with Lenny Rudow last summer threw him headfirst into the world of fishing. “I did have some knowledge of fishing terminology, but not much,” says Garner. “I had to do a lot of research before, during and after the articles that I wrote for *FishTalk* so that the articles were accurate and credible.” Garner wrote an article each week during his externship, with each article being published in the magazine during the fall and winter months.

Garner’s toughest assignment was to interview eight professional anglers to get their best tips and tricks for regional fishing. “I researched background information on each specific fisherman and came up with questions based on their background so that I could learn different strategies and techniques from each of them.” His most rewarding experience was an interview with David Sikorski of the Coastal Conservation Association. “I learned many state and federal regulations that have been put in place to conserve the striper population,” says Garner. “Through learning about such conservation efforts and regulations that are being put in place to conserve our local waterways, I feel as if I have gained a renewed sense of hope for the health of the Bay moving forward.”

**Cameron White '22** (English major) currently interns with *FishTalk* and says that the biggest challenge for him has been learning to write for a larger audience and keeping in mind the importance of attention-grabbing hooks and sentence structure that keeps the reader engaged. “So far, this internship has shown me that careers

in writing [are something] that you have to work hard at,” says White. “I’ve also noticed that having a sharp eye for different things in your work, such as the clientele type you are writing to, is especially important to becoming a successful writer.”

Rosa Hance is the chair of the Maryland Chapter of the **Sierra Club**. For her, the opportunity to work directly with SMCM students benefits the Sierra Club in Maryland and as a whole. “Getting students engaged and ready to take on their own local advocacy on campus is the greatest help,” she says. “Having students launch their own student group is a help in the climate movement overall and also helps our ‘brand’ expand and have an even more youthful face.”

Hance hosted several SMCM students as CORE 201 externs, and did so remotely by video chats and virtual meetings. For **Abbey Clements ’21** (environmental studies and economics double major), it was a useful learning experience. “Being remote helped me practice a new form of communication that I didn’t have a lot of experience with.”

“One way my externship experience prepared me for my potential career path is to introduce me to how a major nonprofit organization works,” says Clements. “I am pursuing a master’s degree in public policy or public administration after college and this externship gave me direct experience that will complement either of these programs.”

Working directly with the chair of the Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club offered insight on how the organization approaches environmental policy.

Clements is writing a research paper for her environmental studies senior capstone class on the effectiveness of renewable energy and future green energy projects in Maryland. She is grateful for the Sierra Club connection for that reason. “One of the Sierra Club’s driving missions is the promotion of green energy, so I know I have a great resource to reach out to for my project if needed.”

For **Paige Stevens ’21** (biology major), the externship has made her reconsider her career options. “The externship actually made me realize I wanted to take a more hands-on career path working in sustainability,” Stevens admits.

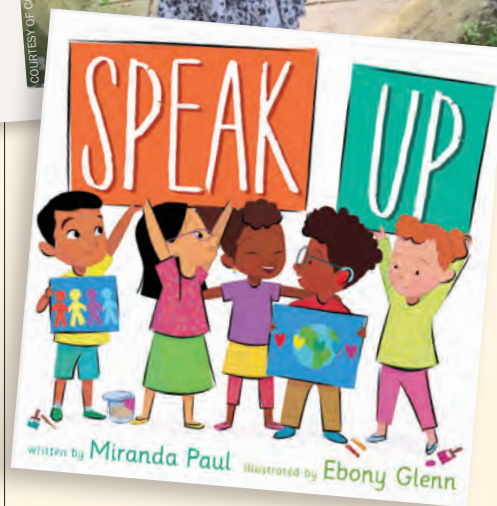
“Before, I thought I would just be working in a lab or something, but I realized I wanted to be on the frontlines with grassroots organizations.” As she and her fellow externs worked with Hance to establish a campus Sierra Club Student Coalition, she was energized by the enthusiastic campus response as they worked the process through the Student Government Association’s club chartering process. “One of the most rewarding parts of the externship was getting emails from other students hearing about it and wanting to join,” says Stevens. “It makes you feel like you may have a real chance at making a difference.”

**Caitlin Mays ’21** (English major) externed with Century 21 last summer, writing real estate listings; she also wrote for Southern Maryland Woman magazine. She is now interning with The BayNet, a local online news agency. “My experience with Century 21 taught me how to use my writing skills to write professional, attention-grabbing paragraphs to sell a product,” says Mays, “while The BayNet is helping me grow in my ability to engage an audience and edit the work of others.” Mays plans to work in editing and publishing, so the exposure has been directly on point. “I have been published five times so far with The BayNet as a result of the internship,” says Mays. “I am proud of these accomplishments and I am thankful I have had this opportunity.”

**Miranda Paul ’04** is the award-winning children’s author of “One Plastic Bag” and “Water is Water,” both named Junior Library Guild selections. Her titles have received starred reviews from School Library Journal and Publisher’s Weekly in addition to being named to several recommended and “best of” reading lists. Paul’s “10 Little Ninjas” was named an Amazon Best Book of the Month (August 2016). “Speak Up” was published in July 2020; “Peace” in March 2021; “BEYOND: Discoveries from the Outer Reaches of Space” in April 2021. **Brenna Litynski ’21** (art, environmental studies double major) externed with Paul last spring, just as “Speak Up” was released, and helped with the promotion of the book on social media. “The most rewarding aspect of the externship was producing an author and illustrator You



COURTESY OF CAITLIN MAYS



**Caitlin Mays ’21**, TOP, externed with Century 21 last summer writing real estate listings; she also wrote for Southern Maryland Woman magazine.

**Brenda Litynski ’21** externed with award-winning children’s author **Miranda Paul ’04** and helped with the promotion of the release of Paul’s new book, “Speak Up” ABOVE.

Tube video in which I interviewed Miranda Paul and Ebony Glenn about ‘Speak Up,’ says Litynski. The experience solidified her career choice of being an author and illustrator. “This externship helped me achieve a greater understanding in the creation process, editing, reviewing, copyrighting, promoting, and so much more.”

Boasting a career outcome rate 10 percentage points higher than the national average, SMCM truly seems to be built to LEAD the way in career preparation.



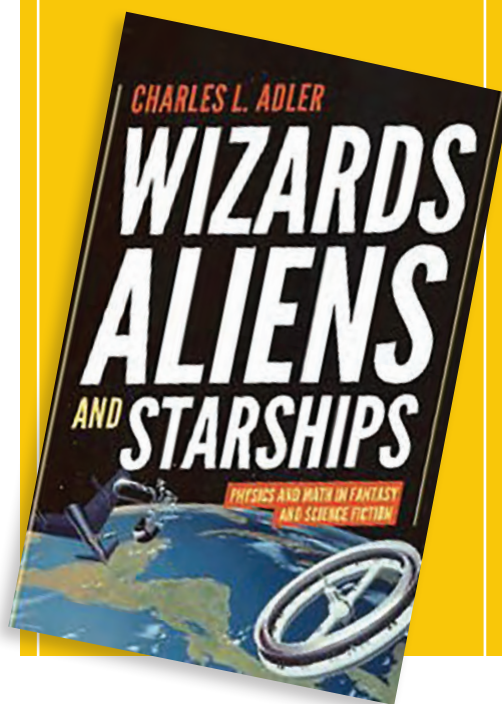
# SCIENCE AND OTHER VENTURES

Professor of Physics **Charles Adler** earned his bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in physics from Brown University, where he focused on experimental laser physics. He joined the faculty of St. Mary's College in 1997. The author of more than 40 papers on experimental physics, optics and mathematics, Adler has also co-edited four issues of the scientific journal *Applied Optics* on the topic of meteorological optics. For this interview, editor **Lee Capristo** asked Adler about his commercial ventures into writing and recording science and science fiction for non-scientists.

**T**he possibility that “Wizards, Aliens, and Starships: Physics and Math in Fantasy and Science Fiction” could be a book came from a conversation between Adler and an editor for the Princeton University Press who accompanied a guest speaker to St. Mary’s College for the NS&M Colloquium Series. Two years later, Adler sent the editor his idea; four years after that the book was published. In 2015, it was a co-winner of the Science Writing Award for Books from the American Institute of Physics and was named to several lists of notable science books, including that of The Guardian. Through it all, Adler learned several things about writing a book.

“The book is for my 15-year-old self,” Adler admits. “When I was very young, I wanted to be a science fiction writer before I wanted to be a scientist. One of the authors I read a lot was Isaac Asimov. His style of writing influenced me the most in my own writing. Another is Poul Anderson [to whom he dedicated his book]. His essay ‘On Thud and Blunder’ is really amazingly accurate even today. Other authors I admire are Steven Jay Gould, Richard Feynman and Peter Medawar; they are very good scientists and write for a general audience. A more recent influence is Randall Munroe, creator of the webcomic ‘xkcd’ and author of ‘Thing Explainer: Complicated Stuff in Simple Words.’ In that book, he uses only the 1,000 most commonly used words in the English language to explain complicated science and technology. Basically, the desire to write came from being an avid reader and choosing certain authors that I wanted to emulate.”

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Having no previous writing experience in genres other than scientific papers, Adler jumped in deep with “Wizards, Aliens, and Starships.” His self-described single superpower was a key to staying afloat: “I read really fast, much faster than most people. I can read a 200-page novel in about an hour. Popular science, fantasy, science fiction, history: these are the things I read an awful lot of.” He went about the project with the mindset of “read a lot, write a lot; that’s how I get better at writing.”

But how does a full-time faculty member find time to write a book? “You have to be disciplined and spend a scheduled amount of time doing it,” he says. “There was a lot of research in addition to the writing. It was fun but it was a lot of work. I actually enjoy writing, so that helped a bit.”

“The editing process with Princeton was tedious but not horrific,” he recalls. “The editor focused on specifics like word choice more than structural issues.” As a result of this, he learned all the editor’s typographical symbols and the difference between page proofs and galley proofs, which is an interesting but in his own words, “pretty useless” skill. The book had a print run of 5000 hardback and 5000 paperback copies. It was also translated and published in Japanese and Chinese.

Preparing for recording The Great Courses series “How Science Shapes Science Fiction” was like writing “Aliens, Wizards, and Starships” in that each of the 24 lectures in the series was scripted and so had to be written out. Unlike the book, the editing process with TGC was with a whole team rather than a

single editor. A content manager helped Adler decide on the topics and arranged clearance with Princeton University Press for the material to be used. A producer directed the content and graphics and helped script each lecture to fit the 30-minute timeframe. "We determined that 4,400 words turned into a 30-minute video," Adler says, "so it was about 100,000 written words for all of the videos combined." Adler recorded all 24 lectures during one week in March 2020, just before COVID-19 shut everything down. Video and audio editing and recutting took another six months. The series was released by TGC in October 2020.

That week of recording in March 2020 handed Adler some uncomfortable moments. "First of all, I have to say that it was a great thrill to do this," he admits. "The most unnerving thing about it was the amount of control that you have to have over your own body when giving the lectures. I'm used to making big gestures, going off on tangents, and speaking loudly in class and none of that worked well on camera at all. I had to be careful to make only very controlled movements on camera and modulate my voice to a lower level. I also learned that very long sentences and big words just sound awful when read out loud on camera. I remember seeing in my script on the teleprompter that "incongruous" was coming up and I knew I wasn't going to want to say it: it's too long!"

These uncomfortable moments stuck with Adler after the recordings were complete. "The whole issue of control over the body and voice has influenced me in the classroom and over Zoom. The issue of word choice that was noticeably a problem on camera but not

something I thought about in person is another thing for which I now make more conscious choices."

Adler is currently working on a book about the science of Leonardo da Vinci with Oxford University physicist and colleague Matthew Landrus. "COVID really upended us on this; we're just now getting back together to work on this ongoing project. We intend to write it to explain Leonardo's understanding of science in his time. He was a genius on the one hand; on the other hand, he did not have a modern understanding of certain things that are fundamental and common knowledge today."

Is there a novel in his future? "Maybe," he admits. "I have outlines of half a dozen novels on my computer at home. I have ideas, and one that is almost in first draft form, but I don't know if it's any good."

In between teaching, writing books and recording a lecture series, Adler is a baking enthusiast. "When I was about 11, my family went to France," he says. "When I came back I decided to learn to bake bread. I wanted to know why it is so hard to bake a good baguette at home. It turns out commercial steam ovens give baguettes their unique texture and crust. The way that you get that extra crispy crust is to inject steam into the beginning of the baking process." Applying a scientist's mind to the task, Adler eventually achieved his "Voilà!" His method: "Tent the loaf in foil and spray it with water. Start it in a very hot oven; remove the tent later and lower the temperature."



# ALUMNI CONNECTION

## CLASS NOTES

### 1970s

**David Cribbs '74**, professor in residence of neurology at University of California, Irvine, was identified as one of the top 2% of the world's scientists based on publications and citations in a recent report from Stanford University. Cribbs previously served on the SMCM faculty and the Alumni Council.

### 1980s

**Sue "Niki" Nickerson Byram '86 [1]** published a second book of poetry in February 2021, titled, "The Book of You, You Not Me." The book is interactive in that the reader is invited to write thoughts within the pages and is available through Amazon and Barnes & Noble. Byram resides in Daytona-Beach, Florida.



### 1990s

**Lindsey "Elle" Plaut Cosimano '95's [2]** book, "Finlay Donovan is Killing It," is being adapted for television by I. Marlene King, the writer, producer and director best known as the executive producer and showrunner of teen drama series "Pretty Little Liars." The book is an award-winning mystery, published in February 2021, about a single mother and suspense novelist, Finlay Donovan, who becomes involved in real-life murder investigations. The book has also been included in Goodreads' "36 Most Anticipated Thrillers of 2021," as

PEOPLE Magazine's "PEOPLE Picks: The Best New Books," and Parade Magazine's "Best 2021 Releases to Read This Winter."

**Mark Christie Garcia '96 [3]** joined the staff of the UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center as director of research administration and operations in March 2021. In this role, he leads a team that provides financial, HR, grants management, and IT services for the Center's research enterprise. Garcia credits the liberal arts education he received at St. Mary's College, along with the invaluable experience of being a dramatic arts major, to his career success.

**Coya Paz-Brownrigg '97 [4]** has been named interim dean of The Theatre School at DePaul University in Chicago, Illinois.

### 2000s

**Stephanie M. Chesney '05** was elevated to partner at MG+M Law Firm, a national litigation and trial firm that provides coordinated, coast-to-coast services for corporate clients in high stakes matters. Her experience includes representing clients in diverse business and commercial litigation matters, including employment, general liability, products liability, construction and premises liability. Chesney also handles professional liability matters in the defense of health care providers and institutions. She received her J.D. from New England School of Law.

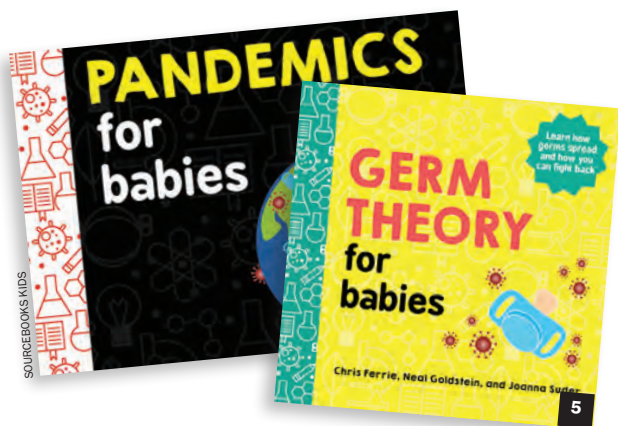
**Jessica Fitzwater '05** announced her plans to run for Frederick County Executive after serving seven years as a member of the County Council. She represents District 4 in her position as Councilwoman, and has worked to address issues



including representing the voices of all Frederick County citizens, making education a priority and helping provide support during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to her position on the County Council, Fitzwater has taught music at Oakdale Elementary School in Ijamsville, Maryland, for 16 years. "As County Executive I will ensure we do not rest on outdated ideas, nor will we chase trends. I will lead with deep caring, listening, accountability, confidence, and action. I will lead our County to represent the Government of the people, for the people, by the people -- meaning all people of Frederick County." The primaries will be held on June 22, 2022, with the general

election occurring on November 8, 2022.

**Joanna Suder '07 [5]** and husband Neal Goldstein, together with their coauthor Chris Ferrie, wrote two children's books about public health. The first book, "Pandemics for Babies," was released in October 2020 and breaks down the complex scientific topics and vocabulary that adults use to discuss pandemics. The second book, "Germ Theory for Babies," was released in February 2021 and discusses what germs are and how we can practice good hygiene. Suder is a public health attorney and Goldstein is an infectious disease epidemiologist. The couple resides in Wilmington, Delaware.



## 2010s

**Cara Eser '12 [6]**, DJ and producer, started their own record label called Chub Rub. In November 2020, Eser had a track hit #1 under their stage name, "Baby Weight." Eser is based in Arnold, Maryland.

**Andrew McDowell '12** had poetry and short stories published in four anthologies in 2020: "Faery Footprints," "Nightmare Whispers: Madness Echoes," "Fae Dreams," and "As the World Burns: Writers and Artists Reflect on a World Gone Mad."

**Nicole DeAngeli '14** completed a PhD in psychological and brain sciences from Dartmouth College in 2020. She is currently a first-year medical student at the University of Nevada Las Vegas School of Medicine.

**Keely Houk '17** was recently hired by Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, as the graphic designer for the Purdue for Life Foundation. Keely will be working directly under the senior creative director and alongside a team of designers, writers and web developers. After graduation, Houk worked

as the senior graphic designer at St. Mary's College, in the Office of Integrated Marketing. She will be greatly missed by her colleagues at St. Mary's College, who wish her the best of luck with her new position.

**JR Rhine '17 MAT '18 [7]** was featured in the Southern Maryland News article, "Third-year teacher works creatively to keep students engaged" published February 25, 2021. Rhine is a fourth-grade teacher at George Washington Carver Elementary School in St. Mary's County and recently published a children's book titled, "Jimmy Loves His Long Hair."

## 2020s

**Erin Moran '20 [8]** was recently honored with an ADDY Award in the American Advertising Federation-Baltimore's 2021 student competition. Moran earned a silver award won for her illustrations in the fall 2020 edition of The Mulberry Tree.

**Delilah Parks '20** is a marketing assistant at Charter Communications, a telecommunications company in Charlotte, North Carolina.

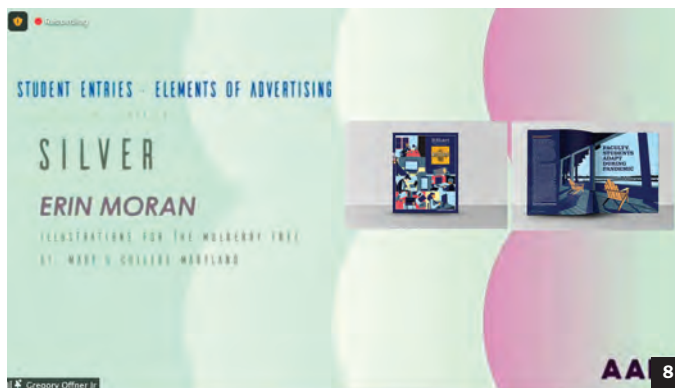
## IN MEMORIAM

After missing for more than 14 months, the remains of Brian **Patrick Kennedy '04**, age 39, were found on January 12, 2021 in Richmond Hill, Georgia. The exact cause of death is unknown. He was born on September 23, 1981 in Washington, D.C., and attended St. Mary's High School before attending St. Mary's College of Maryland, where he played lacrosse and majored in political science. Kennedy was employed as a CAD designer by John J. Magnolia Plumbing Inc.

prior to moving to Savannah, Georgia in 2019.

**Don Stapleson '80**, age 66, died on January 31, 2021 after a long battle with cancer. He studied at the Berklee College of Music and earned degrees from St. Mary's College of Maryland and the University of Maryland. Stapleson taught saxophone and directed the Jazz Program at St. Mary's College of Maryland for over 25 years. He played saxophone and flute with his own groups, The Don Stapleson Quartet and "TheClazzical Project," as well as with the popular classical/jazz

crossover group, "Clazzical Jam." He performed with a number of notable musicians during his lifetime, including Ray Charles, Dexter Gordon, Nancy Wilson, Wayne Newton, and Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee Martha Reeves; he also appeared on MTV with Danny Gatton. Stapleson performed at the National Theater as a member of the pit orchestra during its productions of "Annie Get Your Gun" and "Cats." He was a former member of the Peabody Ragtime Ensemble and appeared as a guest soloist with the Chesapeake Orchestra.





ERICA LYNN STUDIOS

1



BRITTANY DUNBAR PHOTOGRAPHY

2



BROOKE TYSON PHOTOGRAPHY

3

## MARRIAGES & UNIONS

**Jacqueline Caminiti '09 [1]** married Arthur Williamson on August 1, 2020 in Ijamsville, Maryland. The original wedding was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and replaced with an intimate backyard ceremony at Caminiti's childhood

home. Guests included maids of honor **Megan McDonough '09** and **Kathya Orellana '09**, bridesmaid **Tiffany Johns '09**, and **Chris Sauter '09**. The couple resides in Cabin John, Maryland.

**Elise Valkanas '13** and **Patrick Montague '15** postponed their wedding in Historic St. Mary's City until 2021 and opted to elope near their home in Boston, Massachusetts, on October 15, 2020.

**Danielle Norwood '14** and **Tyler Wates '14 [2]** were married on November 14, 2020 in Bel Air, Maryland. Members of the wedding party included co-maids of honor **Rachel Braunstein '14** and **Laura Rodriguez '14** and groomsmen **Julian Lamphear '13**, **Stephen Masson '13** and **Jacob Mullen '14**. The couple resides in Crofton, Maryland.

**Zoe Smedley Hersey '19 [3]** married KC Hersey on August 2, 2019 at St. Louis Catholic Church in Clarksville, Maryland. The reception was held at Springfield Manor Inn in Thurmont, Maryland. Members of the wedding party included **Matt Rados '16**, **Katie Flores '19**, **Jenna Pastel '19** and **Haley David '20**. Wedding guests included **Luke Green '15**, **Jess Konecke '16**, **Chiko Kulemekka '18**, **Joshua Akwara**

**'19**, **Lauren Hall '19**, **Nora Hetzler '19**, **Emily Huey '19** and **Ben Webster '19**. The Herseys reside in Mülheim an der Ruhr, in North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany, where Zoe works as an English speaker in a preschool (KITa) and KC plays professional soccer.



ALLIE ELIZABETH PHOTOGRAPHY

## BIRTHS & ADOPTIONS

**Carrie Hughes Peery '01 [1]** and husband Jonathan welcomed a daughter, Emma Louise, on October 30, 2019. Emma joins older brothers Thomas (6), Charlie (9) and Jack (11). The family resides in Severna Park, Maryland.

**Courtney Russell Hedrick '02 [2]** and husband Nick welcomed a daughter, Ashlynn Elise, on April 20, 2020. Ashlynn joins older brother Matthew (4). The family resides in Monkton, Maryland.

**Justin Bates '06 [3]** welcomed a daughter, Mila Genevieve, on August 30, 2020. Justin resides in Baltimore, Maryland.

**Devin Carlson '07** and **Chrissy Holt Carlson '08 [4]** welcomed a son, Theodore "Teddy" Holt, on October 7, 2019. This pre-pandemic photograph features Teddy and his fellow SMCM friends Isla Carrier (daughter of **Tim Carrier '08** and **Lisa Crear Carrier '08**) born July 24, 2019 and Cecelia Pundt (daughter of Paul and **Rachel Boyer Pundt '08**) born October 8, 2019.

**Galen Brew Brown '08 [5]** and husband Bill welcomed a daughter, Maren Louise, on September 9, 2020. The family resides in Vineyard Haven, Massachusetts.

**Alexandra "Allie" Scott Bowden '09** and **Michael Bowden '11 [6]** welcomed a son, Bryce Christopher, on December 30, 2020. Bryce joins older brother Cameron (1.5). The family resides in Baltimore, Maryland.

**Danielle Krause Haig '14 [7]** and husband Bill welcomed a daughter, Vivian Mona, on August 11, 2020. The family resides in Falls Church, Virginia.

# EVERETT L. MERRITT

By Kent Randell, college archivist

Many people, including myself, have walked by the College's sundial while traveling from Kent Hall, past the May Russell Lodge, and down to the James P. Muldoon River Center without considering the ingenuity, astronomy and geography of its design. This is no ordinary sundial, and neither is the man behind its creation, Everett L. Merritt.

Merritt began a career in photomapping while serving in the Marine Corps during World War II, where he received the Bronze Star. He later headed the Research and Evaluation Division of the Naval Photographic Interpretation Center and served as technical director of an Argentine survey of Antarctica. Merritt published the landmark textbook "Analytical Photogrammetry" in 1958 (the practice of

astronomical observatory in his home, he also busied himself by coaching the College canoe and kayak team to national victory in 1977 and 1978 using vessels which were built by Merritt himself. Everett's sons Bruce '84 and Barry were members of the U.S. national canoe racing team. Bruce competed in the 1984 and 1988 Summer Olympics. Everett Merritt was also an avid archer and knife thrower.

The original version of the College's sundial, dating from 1979, was the result of a summer course titled "Astronomic Theory and Design Variation of Sundials," taught by Merritt and constructed by Merritt's sons Bruce and Barry, John Allard, Mike Ironmonger (director of the waterfront) and Bobby Abell (director of maintenance). It showed "solar time" and was accurate within two minutes of "true sun time."

Later, as a 350th Anniversary present to the College, Merritt updated his design to take into account the movement of the earth around the sun and the solar analemma (the sun's daily "figure 8" movement through the sky caused by the earth's tilted axis and elliptical orbit). This necessitates the curved lines on the present sundial's inner arc which appear on a grid that divides the curved metal plate into hours of the day and months of the year. The gnomon (vertical structure that casts a shadow) is calibrated to the College's latitude and longitude. This improves the "clock time" accuracy of the sundial to 15 seconds! Upon the occasion of the updated "equatorial" sundial's installation in 1984, Merritt explained to The Enterprise newspaper: "A sundial is a clock whose moving parts are the earth's rotation."

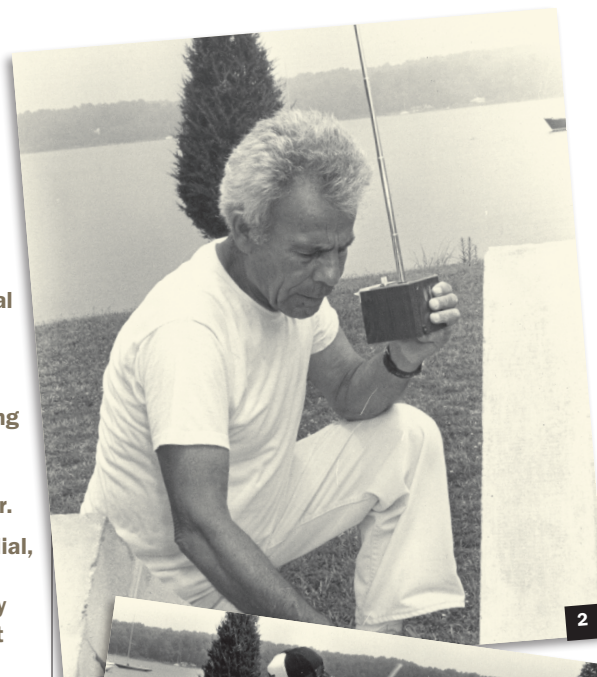
Everett L. Merritt, explorer of both poles, died January 7, 1991 at age 78 and was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery. The brick, mortar and metal sundial will be enjoyed long into the future by countless casual observers and astronomy devotees.



LEE CARPISIO

extracting three-dimensional measurements from two-dimensional photographs), in addition to publishing numerous scientific publications and articles. Interestingly, Merritt served on the Photographic Analysis and Enhancement Panel for the House Select Committee on Assassinations following the death of President John F. Kennedy.

When Merritt "retired" in 1976 to Ridge, Maryland, he began teaching courses in celestial navigation and astronomy at St. Mary's College, where his son was a student. In addition to building an



[1] The sundial today, with the inner arc showing the photo was taken at 1530 EDT. [2] Everett L. Merritt during the construction of the sundial, P1983\_1070E. [3] Merritt's sons, Bruce and Barry, helped construct the sundial, P1983\_1070A. [4] Merritt in his home observatory, P1987\_1332.

# Calendar of Events

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**Virtual Commencement,  
Class of 2021**

May 8

**Grad Walk, Classes  
of 2020 & 2021**

May 8

**Summer Classes Begin**

May 17

**Mulberry Music Festival**

June 18

**Folklife Festival**

June 23-25

**Governor's Cup Yacht Race**

July 30-31

**Fall Semester Classes Begin**

August 30

**Hawktoberfest &  
Family Weekend**

September 24-25

**Winterim Classes Begin**

December 20

**Spring Semester Classes Begin**

January 18, 2022

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

PRESIDENT TUAJUANDA C. JORDAN

*The Commemorative to Enslaved Peoples of Southern Maryland on the College campus adjacent to the Jamie L. Roberts Stadium, was dedicated in a virtual ceremony, "From Absence to Presence" on November 21, 2020. Visitors to the commemorative remark on its power, its beauty, its starkness, its ability to stir the soul and spirit.*

Learn more: [www.smcm.edu/commemorative](http://www.smcm.edu/commemorative)

