

ST MARY'S

COLLEGE of MARYLAND

The National Public Honors College

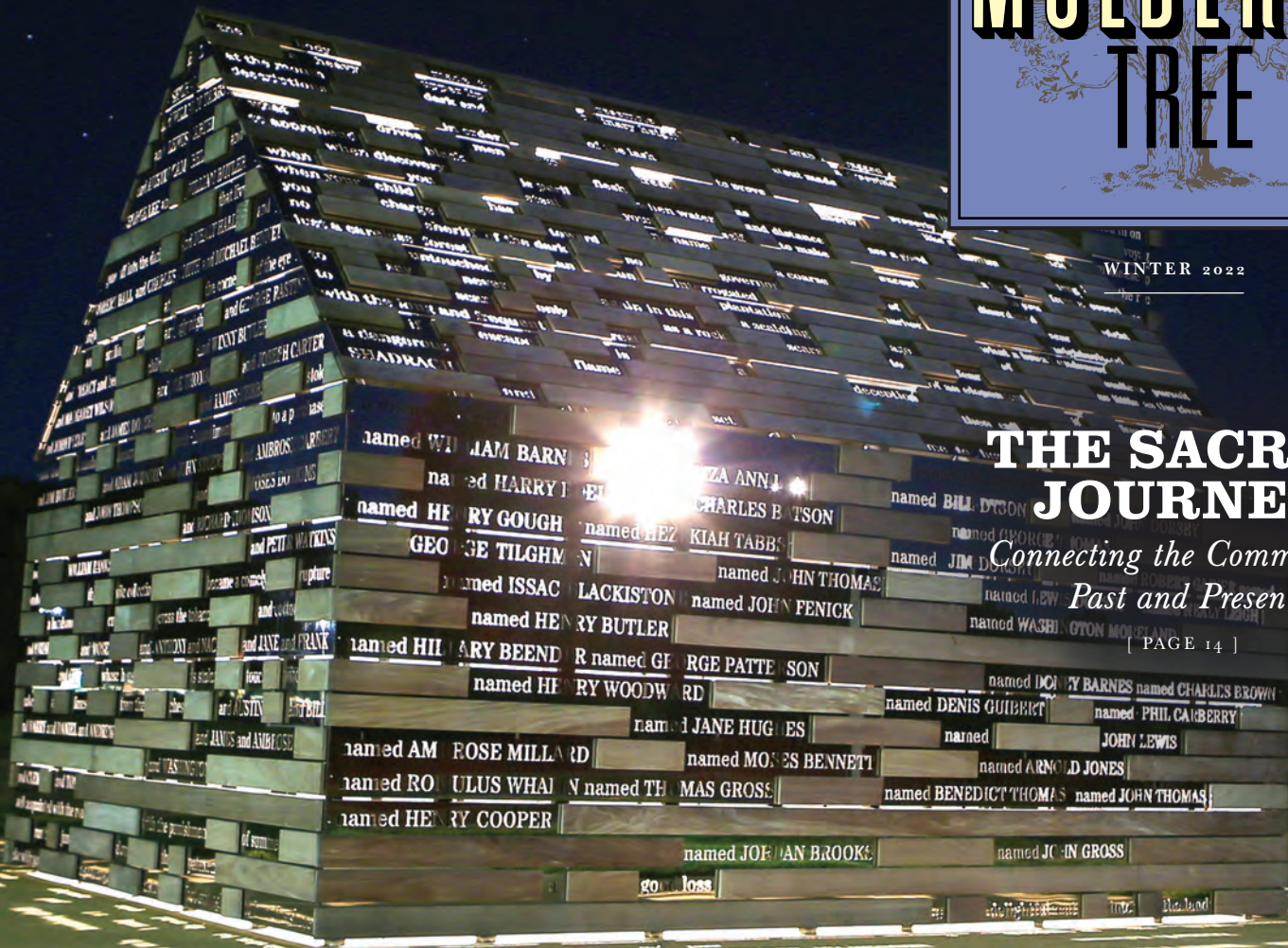


WINTER 2022

THE SACRED JOURNEY

*Connecting the Community,
Past and Present*

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ST. MARY'S COLLEGE
of Maryland

The MULBERRY TREE

WINTER 2022, VOL. XLIII, 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 Yaocomoco people and on the trunk of which public notices were posted in the mid-1600s. The tree endured long into the 19th century and was once a popular meeting spot for St. Mary's College students.

The illustration of the mulberry tree on the cover was drawn in 1972 by Earl Hofmann, artist-in-residence when St. Mary's College President Renwick Jackson launched the magazine.

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*St. Mary's College of Maryland has offset
7,534 pounds of paper used to produce this issue
by planting 60 trees in the U.S.*



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PRESIDENT

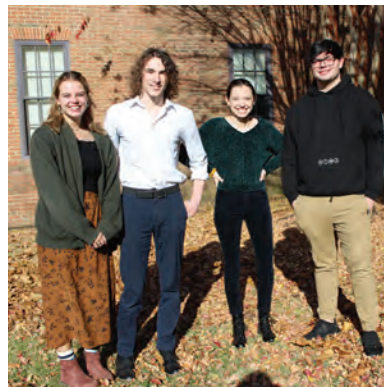
Tuajuanda C. Jordan, PhD



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COVER: *The Commemorative to Enslaved Peoples of Southern Maryland shines as a beacon on campus at night.*
COVER PHOTO: *Bill Wood*

THE GREAT MOMENTUM WITH WHICH WE OPENED OUR FALL SEMESTER, FULLY in-person and on-campus, continues to be our position as we navigate COVID-19 variants in 2022. We are making real progress in a number of important areas:

- Survey data tell us that being on-campus is a deciding factor to prospective students too. Our in-person open houses and campus tours strongly influence students and their families to choose St. Mary's College of Maryland. Our new major in marine science is the one most asked about by prospective students.
- Student learning opportunities through mentored internships have been a recent highlight of the student experience and those opportunities are ramped up now with new offerings through the Center for Career and Professional Development. Amidst COVID-19 concerns, I hope these will be able to continue as in-person learning experiences in 2022.
- Our incredible Seahawk family – alumni, friends, students, staff and faculty – shattered previous records on Giving Tuesday, with more than 2,000 donors raising over \$277,000 in support of current and future students of SMCM.
- Marking the one-year anniversary of the Commemorative to Enslaved Peoples of Southern Maryland, we honored those who toiled here and in so doing, we activated this memorial and ourselves.
- Progress continues on the new Performing Arts Building and Learning Commons, with most work now being interior. These two new buildings open for the fall 2022 semester. Concurrently, the second oldest building on campus, Calvert Hall, is offline this semester in order to replace the windows and install a new HVAC system. The Office of the President is temporarily located in the May Russell Lodge, once the home of the aforementioned president of the College.

Professor of Music Larry Vote directed two inspired live vocal performances during the holiday season: Handel's "Messiah" to a full house in Auerbach Auditorium and with the PING ensemble, a beautiful rendition of "We are Lights." It is that song's refrain that shall be our call in 2022: "We are lights, we are lights, we are shining on and on..."



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

Editor's Note

BE STILL. SUCH A SIMPLE THING TO DO yet so hard to do. But the truth is, we long remember what we learn from those singular moments of inner reflection. We know that feeling in a moment of clarity – that sudden lifting of lethargy replaced by the energy that comes with sure purpose.

Chris Becraft '11 recalls such a moment: his economics major got him a job with NASA at Goddard Space Flight Center after graduation but he soon realized he hated the work. He remembered a rain garden he designed as part of a class his senior year at SMCM (and which was selected and built near Waring Commons). The satisfaction of the design/build threaded back to earlier years of working for his architect dad on odd jobs. That memory led to a chance encounter with two people working at Maryland Department of Natural Resources and that encounter led Becraft to a job with DNR. His DNR work exposed him to environmental design/build work and to Underwood & Associates, where he is now partner in regenerative ecological restoration projects throughout the Chesapeake Bay region. Read more on p. 8.

Joshua Ajanaku '22 describes the emotional impact of reading aloud the names of the enslaved during the Sacred Journey candle-lighting ceremony this past November. Nigerian by birth, Ajanaku was struck in the moment of speaking the names that these people were his ancestors, his countrymen. Honoring them by naming them aloud touched his heart in unexpected ways that now influence his career choice. Read more on p. 14 and online at www.smcm.edu/sacredjourney.

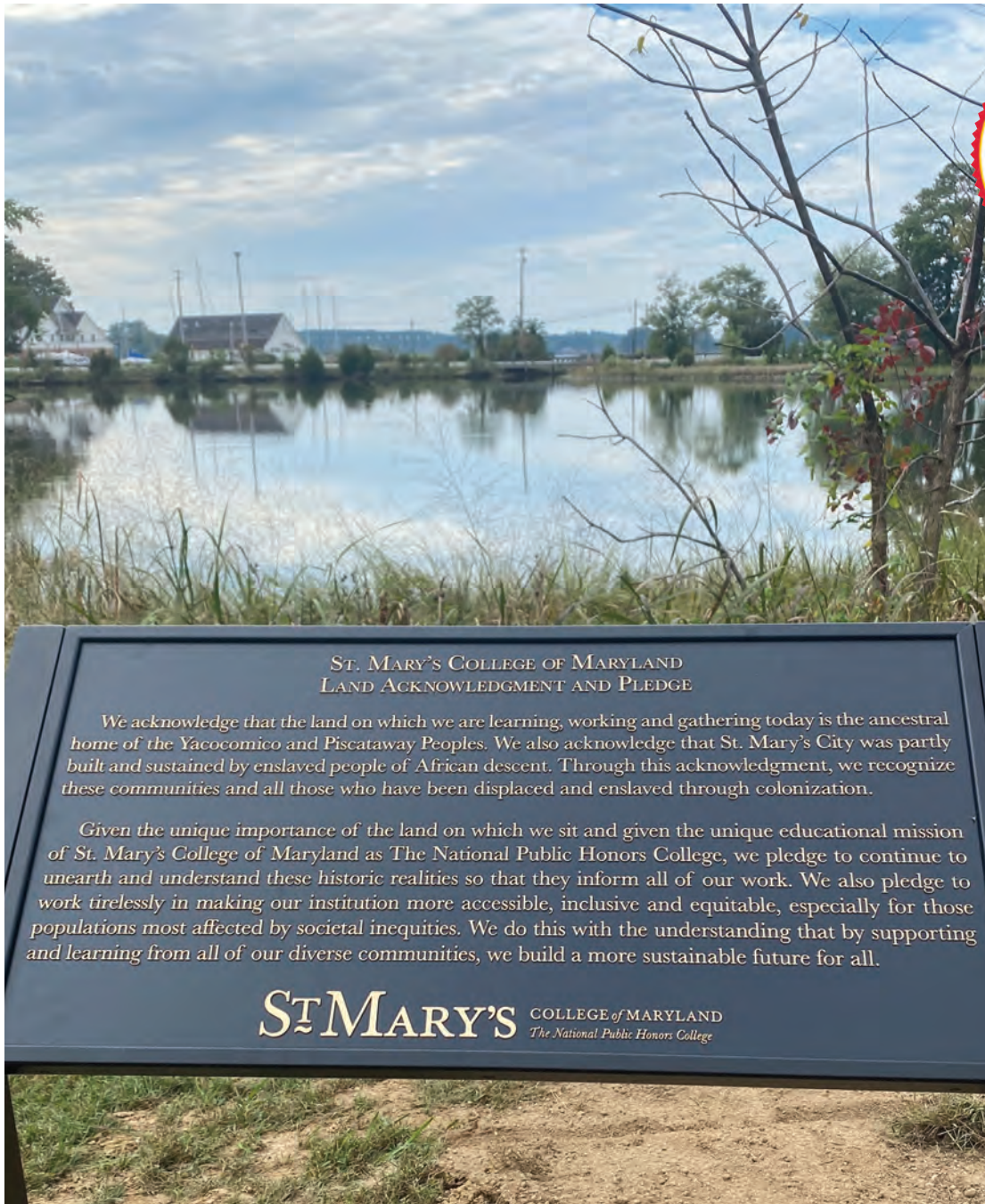
Moments like these stay with us and they do so for the simple but important reason that they helped us to grow. Life is full of such moments if we will just take pause to notice and act.

Here's to a new year of unexpected moments, peace of mind and sure purpose.

LEE CAPRISTO, *editor*

COLLEGE NEWS

CAMPUS & COMMUNITY NEWS



In August, St. Mary's College of Maryland initiated a land acknowledgment and pledge to be displayed throughout our campus and read at the start of campus events.



St. Mary's College of Maryland is ranked by U.S. News & World Report's "2022 Best Colleges" as 6th best public liberal arts college and 89th on the national liberal arts colleges list, public and private. USN&WR also named St. Mary's College a "best value" school and ranks the College among the top performers on social mobility, based on enrolling and graduating large proportions of disadvantaged students awarded with Pell Grants.

For the fourth year in a row, the College is named a "Hidden Gem" by CollegeRaptor.com and recognized by Niche.com as one of the Best Colleges in Maryland (and #1 college food in Maryland).



St. Mary's College of Maryland has been recognized as a Tree Campus Higher Education institution by the Arbor Day Foundation.



LEFT Yamiche Alcindor, White House correspondent for “PBS NewsHour” and moderator of “Washington Week,” gave the Benjamin C. Bradlee Distinguished Lecture in Journalism on November 8, 2021. Her topic: “Truth in Journalism: Reporting on Politics and Identity in America.” RIGHT Congressman Jamie Raskin (D-Md.) delivered the Constitution Day Lecture on September 17, 2021. Both speakers were hosted by the Center for the Study of Democracy.

BOARD & FOUNDATION BOARD NEWS

Cindy Broyles '79 was recognized by the College's Board of Trustees in October 2021 with the Order of the Ark and Dove citation for distinguished service to the College. Broyles was a member of the College's Board of Trustees from 2007 to 2019, when she was given emerita status. Previously, she served on the Alumni Council from 2004-2006. Broyles most recently supported the College's Learning through Experiential and Applied Discovery (LEAD) initiatives, the Recovery Fund and the \$2.5 million Capital Campaign Challenge, for which she will name the rehearsal hall in the upcoming Performing Arts Center. In 2011, she created the Cindy Broyles Scholarship to benefit students with financial need. For her lifetime giving in support of the College, Broyles is recognized in the Presidents Circle.

Last fall, three new members were welcomed to the SMCM Foundation's Board of Directors. **Brittany Toscano Gore '08** is communications manager at Georgetown

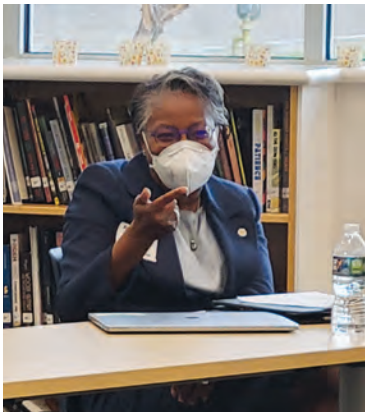
University's Red House and Baker Trust for Transformational Learning. She majored in English and political science and served as student trustee from 2007 to 2008. Blu Putnam is chief economist and managing director of CME group. He previously served on the Foundation Board from 2001 to 2008 and was a visiting professor in history and social science at the College from 1988 to 1989. **Daniel Schiffman '91** is a wealth management adviser with Northwestern Mutual and has built a successful business in Frederick, Maryland. He majored in political science. **Don McDougall '83** completed his term and was recognized for his years of service to the SMCM Foundation which began September 2015. Elected officers for 2021-22 are **Bonnie M. Green '74**, president; **Paul Schultheis '98**, vice president; **Chris Holt '86**, treasurer; and Susan Paul, secretary. Read more at <https://www.smcm.edu/giving/smcm-foundation>.

PRESIDENT'S NEWS



President Tuajuanda Jordan gave the keynote address at “A Celebration of Justice and Equity, Benjamin Hance Marker Unveiling” on November 1, 2021 at the Leonardtown Jail Museum in Leonardtown, Maryland. The marker commemorates Benjamin Hance, a young Black man from Leonardtown, who is the only documented lynching victim in St. Mary's County in 1887. Her keynote address was titled “Enlighten. Educate. Empower. - The Age of the Awakening.” President Jordan said in part, “Benjamin Hance and thousands of others were murdered without due process just for being Black in America. Let us be their purveyors of truth and justice. Every act to memorialize the atrocities of our history serves to enlighten, educate, empower we the people, and prevent history from repeating itself. Every act to honestly and truthfully tell the history of our nation and uplift the oppressed propels this country one step closer to living up to its creed.”

Dr. Jordan has been appointed by Governor Larry Hogan to the Historic St. Mary's City Fort to 400 Commission. The commission is responsible for planning and conducting observances in 2034 commemorating the 400th anniversary of Maryland's founding. The commission was established earlier this year. “I am honored to be appointed to this commission with the charge to help tell a richer, more complex and diverse history of the founding of the nation and the birth of democracy from the perspective of not just the colonizers but the indigenous peoples and the enslaved peoples as well,” said Jordan. The governor also appointed Michael R. Alderson Jr., Mary Anne Harms, Barbara A. Ives, Julian Blacklock Wills III, and designated Brian K. Norris as chair of the commission. The appointments took effect October 1, 2021.



LEFT **President Tuajuanda Jordan** delivered the keynote address “A Celebration of Justice and Equity, Benjamin Hance Marker Unveiling” at the Leon andtown Jail Museum, ABOVE LEFT **President Jordan** speaks with Leadership Southern Maryland, ABOVE RIGHT **President Jordan** and playwright, actor and educator Anna Deavere Smith.

Dr. Jordan published an article titled, “Can We Be Better Allies and Advocates? A Roadmap for Institutions to Challenge Systemic Racism” in the December 2021 issue of the Social Innovations Journal. Jordan’s article explores the difference between ally-ship and advocacy, defines systemic racism through the lens of institutions of higher education, and offers a roadmap for social impact sector organizations of all kinds to address the challenges for people of color, women and students.

President Jordan participated in the Leadership Southern Maryland (LSM) Class of 2022’s educational session held at St. Charles High School in Waldorf, Maryland on December 2, 2021. President Jordan participated in a panel discussion on the long-haul implications of COVID-19 on education. Participants also included the superintendents from Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary’s counties, as well as the president of College of Southern Maryland and the executive director of University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland.

The Office of the President

presented playwright, actor and educator Anna Deavere Smith on November 10, 2021 on the St. Mary’s College of Maryland campus. In her speaking events, Smith discusses the many “complex identities of America,” and interweaves her discussions with portrayals of people she has interviewed to illustrate the diversity of emotions and points of view on controversial issues.

Dr. Jordan was a featured guest on “AMplified with Aisha Mills,” discussing the Commemorative to Enslaved Peoples of Southern Maryland during the November 30, 2021 episode which looked back at the last year of controversies and discussions of Confederate monuments and memorials, and how the country can reckon with the history of slavery and the Confederacy.

FACULTY, STAFF & STUDENT NEWS

The following faculty have been reappointed with tenure and promoted to associate professor: **Geoffrey M. Bowers** (chemistry and biochemistry), **Daniel T. Chase** (chemistry), **Amy L. Steiger** (theater) and **Troy K. Townsend** (chemistry). The economics faculty welcomed **Huaiyuan “Peter” Wang** as assistant professor of economics.

earned two college credits upon the successful completion of the program.

Chuck Adler, professor and chair of the physics department, was interviewed on the programs “Mission Log Live” and the “Coffee in Space” podcast on November 8, 2021. He discussed topics involving the science of science fiction with the hosts of the two programs.



During the fall semester, a “Through the Lens” photography mentorship program was sponsored by St. Mary’s College’s division of Inclusive Diversity, Equity, Access and Accountability (IDEAA) and Department of Art and Art History, along with St. Mary’s County Arts Council and Community Bank of Chesapeake. The free-to-participate program for underrepresented youths ages 16-18 (grades 10-12) was led by St. Mary’s College student mentors – **James Than ’24**, **Abigail Planta ’24**, **Jazmine Kellmel ’23**, **Jay Mendoza ’24** and **Piper Deleon ’22** – under the guidance of St. Mary’s College Assistant Professor of Photography **Tristan Cai**. The participants learned to use professional photography equipment, had the opportunity to display their works in an exhibition, and

Adler is the author of the popular science book “Wizards, Aliens and Starships: Physics and Math in Fantasy and Science Fiction”, and the speaker for the Wondrium lecture series “How Science Shapes Science Fiction.”



Professor of History and Religious Studies **Betül Başaran** recently had a chapter published in the 26th volume of

Brill’s Companions to European History, “A Companion to Early Modern Istanbul.” Her chapter in the volume is entitled “Crime, Violence and Urban Policing” and emphasizes the notable impact that violence perpetrated by state authorities made on the lives of Istanbul’s inhabitants.



LEXI PLINE PHOTOGRAPHY

Leo Boucher '23 claimed the Glen S. Foster Trophy for the second time in his career as the Inter-Collegiate Sailing Association (ICSA) Men's Singlehanded National Champion. Boucher put up a 27-point victory at November's 2021 ICSA Men's Singlehanded Nationals hosted by the Severn Sailing Association in conjunction with the U.S. Naval Academy. He is one of just five men to win this championship multiple times.



Andrew Cognard-Black, assistant professor of sociology, was named a lifetime Fellow of the National Collegiate Honors Council at the November 2021 ceremony in Orlando, Florida. Cognard-Black is finishing a three-year term on the NCHC Board of Directors and has produced over 25 chapters, articles, working papers, and conference presentations on the provision of honors programs in American universities.

Jeffrey Coleman, professor of English, published "Singing Is Swinging: The Soul Force of Twentieth Century Black Protest Music" in "The Black Intellectual Tradition: African American Thought in the Twentieth Century" (University of Illinois Press, 2021). The book presents essays on the diverse thought behind the fight for racial justice as developed by African American artists and intellectuals, performers and protest activists, institutions and organizations, and educators and religious leaders. Coleman's essay analyzes blues protest songs from the sharecropping era as well as music from the Civil Rights movement and songs from the initial conscious era of rap and hip hop.

Visiting Assistant Professor of Mathematics **Seth Cowall** was published in the Journal of Plankton Research. His paper, titled "Data-driven Dynamics of Phytoplankton Blooms in a Reaction-Diffusion NPZ Model," looks at the causes of seasonal phytoplankton blooms in the ocean.

Todd Eberly, associate professor of political science and public policy, has been selected by The Daily Record editorial staff for the Power 30 Higher Education List. The group is composed of the most significant, influential and respected leaders in higher education, men and women who are innovating and leading in their fields. Eberly is one of only two faculty selected for the list.

Jeff Eden, assistant professor of history, published "From the Khan's Oven: Studies on the History of Central Asian Religions in Honor of Devin DeWeese," co-edited with Eren Tasar and Allen J. Frank.

This collection of essays features Eden's latest article: "Saints, Lost and Found: The Discovery of Sacred Graves in Sufi Hagiography (With a Translation of the Legend of the Seven Muhammads)." The volume can be found here: <https://brill.com>.

Gili Freedman, assistant professor of psychology, recently published an article entitled, "Applying Social Psychology to a Global Crisis: Student Engagement in a Laboratory Class During the COVID-19 Pandemic," in the journal *Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in Psychology*. SMCM alumni **India Oates '21** and **Shannon Kirk '21** are co-authors.

Interim Dean of Faculty **Katie Gantz** was published in the summer 2021 issue of *Liberal Education*, the flagship publication of the American Association of Colleges and Universities. Her article, entitled, "Staying Power: Make Sure Mentor-



Eli Hill '21 displayed his body of work titled "Metropolis Scrolling" in the College's Dwight Frederic Boyden Gallery as part of the St. Mary's Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) program. Hill was mentored by **Carrie Patterson**, professor of art. The gallery, under the direction of **Erin Peters**, was recently awarded a Maryland State Arts Council grant in recognition of its efforts to expand creative and underrepresented voices.

ing for New Faculty Has Lasting Effects,” focused on the launch of the Faculty Mentoring Cohort (FMC) initiative in 2016 at St. Mary’s College of Maryland designed to bolster retention of new faculty. As the FMC enters its fifth year, Gantz will begin to track the retention of the first mentee cohort to tenure. The earliest pre-tenure participants soon will become senior faculty and, Gantz hopes, participate again as mentors.



Kristina Howansky, assistant professor of psychology, was lead author on the article “Him, Her, Them, or None:

Misgendering and Degendering of Transgender Individuals” recently published in the journal *Psychology and Sexuality*. Co-authors were Natalie Wittlen (Yale University), Dara Bonagura (University of Tennessee), and Shana Cole (Rutgers University). Kristina Howansky and collaborators at Rutgers University (Melanie Maimon) and Diana Sanchez recently published “Fostering Inclusivity: Exploring the Impact of Identity Safety Cues and Instructor Gender on Students’ Impressions and Belonging” in the journal *Teaching of Psychology*. The article was included in its special issue on social justice pedagogy: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the *Teaching of Psychology*.

Art works by **Sue Johnson**, professor of art, were in a three-person exhibition “Creative Research Practices” on view at Stevenson University, Owings Mills, Maryland, from September 20 – November 12, 2021. Johnson showed seven works from “Hall of Portraits from The History of Machines,” with new works not shown previously.



Sue Johnson, installation view, *Creative Research Practices: Sue Johnson, Ebony Kenney and Johan*, Stevenson University (2021).

Pamela Mertz, professor of biochemistry, has been appointed to the steering committee for BioMolViz, an NSF-funded project (RCN-UBE #1920270) that has been developing resources to improve the pedagogy of biomolecular visualization. Mertz has been working on the project since March 2021 and was recognized as a BioMolViz Fellow this past summer for “outstanding contributions to the project.”

Jessye McDowell, assistant professor of digital art, delivered a presentation on November 12, 2021 at [Re]generation: [Re]Visited Arts & Technology Summit at Connecticut College.

Boyden Gallery and Collection Director **Erin Peters** gave an invited lecture in October 2021 as part of the 5th Annual Alumnae/Alumni

Lecture of the Institute of Egyptian Art & Archaeology at the University of Memphis. Her topic: “Dendur in the Dodekaschoinos, Towards a Stratigraphy of Stories.” Her lecture discussed how the design and decoration of the iconic temple of Dendur contributed to its functional and dynamic use as a cult center. Peters is a three-time project director awardee from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Don Stabile, professor of the College and economics, has made a multi-year philanthropic commitment of \$1 million for the Don Stabile Scholarship, created in January 2013 to help the College recruit and retain exceptional students. His giving, which began in 1986 with his first gift of \$20, grew to over \$1 million before this most recent commitment. Stabile joined the

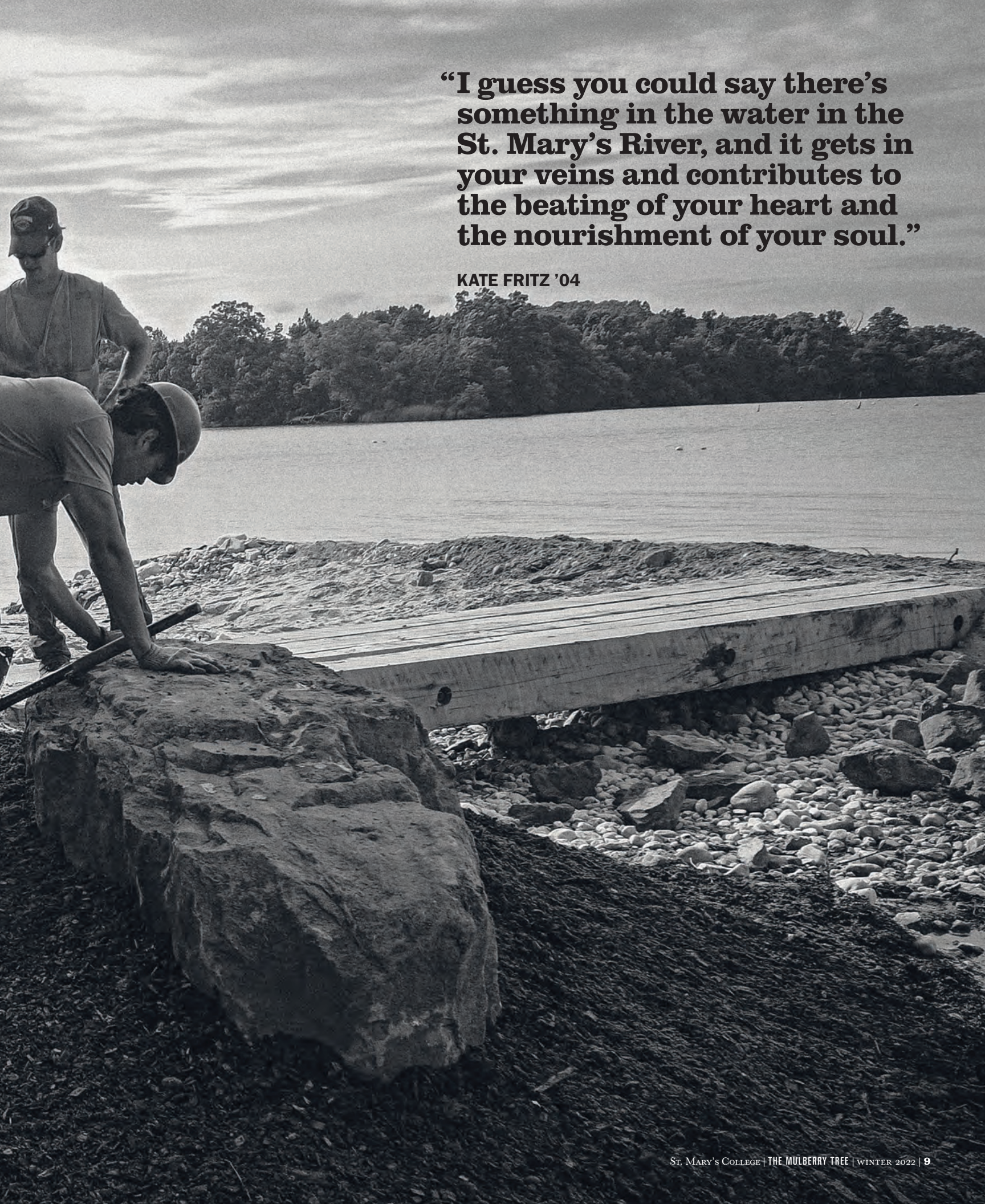
economics faculty at St. Mary’s College in 1980. He was named an honorary alumnus of the College in 2004.

Professor of Psychology **Elizabeth Nutt Williams’** textbook titled “Counseling Psychology” is now in its fourth edition. Williams co-authored the textbook with Charles J. Gelso, University of Maryland. “Counseling Psychology” remains one of the leading, trusted introductory texts orienting students to this expansive and dynamic field, according to the American Psychological Association.



Alumni Take Action for Ecological Restoration

BY SIMONE LLANOS '22, MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS INTERN



“I guess you could say there’s something in the water in the St. Mary’s River, and it gets in your veins and contributes to the beating of your heart and the nourishment of your soul.”

KATE FRITZ '04

THE SHORELINE OF THE WEST River United Methodist Center in Shady Side, Maryland, was plagued with environmental challenges. The shoreline, comprising about 45 acres, was hardened and left the shore vulnerable to rising tides, coastal storm surges and torrents of stormwater runoff and erosion. A failing bulkhead seemed to be the culprit for these challenges, leaving the locals unable to spend their time swimming or wading in the water, making it essentially off limits. Local coastlines suffering from these issues is not a new problem, as rising sea levels produce a variety of challenges for coastal communities. Chris Schliecker, WRUMC's director, shared his concerns with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, led by **Kate Fritz '04**. The Alliance offered to help by writing a project funding proposal that was submitted to **Nicole Carlozo '08** at the Maryland DNR. That's when the Living Shoreline Project came into fruition, a collaborative effort with multiple partners who put all their efforts into the restoration of the West River shoreline. The \$1.2 million project was the first of Governor Hogan's Resiliency through Restoration Initiative (launched in 2017) and was completed in August 2021. An article by the Bay Journal states that the aim of the Living Shoreline project is to "help communities and individual landowners adapt to the threats to property and life posed by climate change."

Underwood and Associates (U&A), an environmentally conscious design/build firm based in Annapolis was contracted to repair the damaged shoreline. Reflecting the values of their company, U&A planned the restoration efforts by using sustainable nature-based solutions they knew would create a resilient ecosystem for years to come. The conceptual design was led by **Chris Becraft '11**, who describes the work of ecological restoration as "using the principles found in nature and energies found in tidewater and streams and using those principles and energy to fix a resource that's been degraded by human interaction and to manage future issues." For this project, Chris was joined by his U&A colleagues **Heather Johnson '98**, **Sam Eckert '11**, **Michael Becraft '17** and **Ellie Chetelat '14**. Johnson has been with U&A since 2011



ABOVE **Chris Becraft '11** (speaking) with Maryland Lieutenant Governor Boyd Rutherford at the completion of the WRUMC shoreline. RIGHT The WRUMC shoreline during construction.

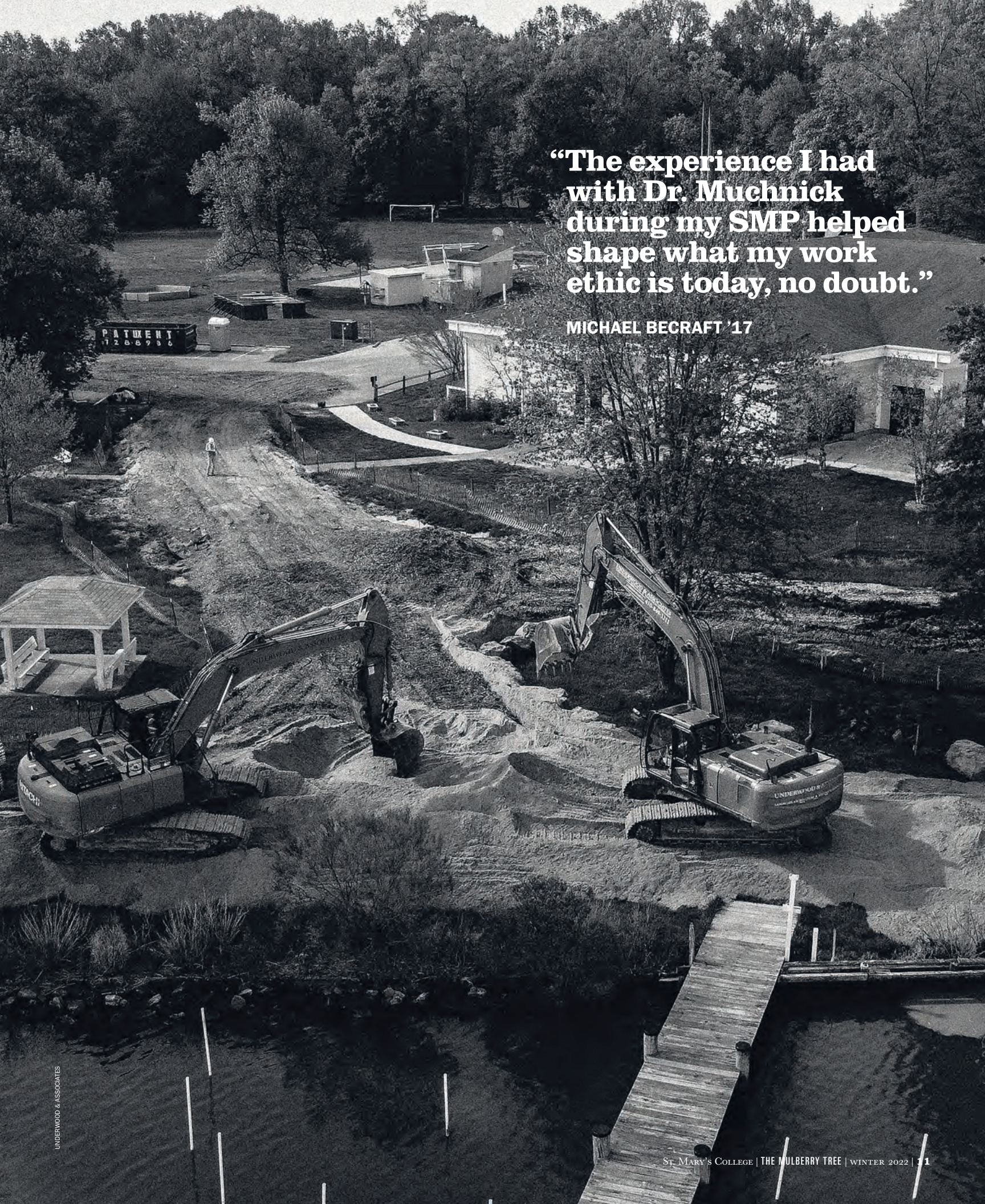
and works as operations manager. "Everything I know about the environment, natural resources, and climate change I've learned through my experiences here. I love that my job allows me to make a visible, positive impact in my local area," says the SMCM history/political science double major. "I love organizing community planting events and tours — those are where my organizational abilities and team-focused mindset really come together," she adds.

Sam Eckert and Michael Becraft took on the roles of construction and build management at U&A for this project. The collaboration and teamwork of the contracting agency shone through when Eckert stated he "loves working for Underwood because we all wear many hats." Eckert previously worked for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, where he "gained a ton of general knowledge about Chesapeake ecosystems" inspiring the work he does now. Michael Becraft is on the management team at U&A working as the surveyor, although was initially hired as a field technician. Becraft commended his experience at SMCM, recounting his St. Mary's Project which was done in collaboration with the Environmental Studies Department's own

Dr. Barry Muchnick. "The experience I had with Dr. Muchnick during my SMP helped shape what my work ethic is today, no doubt," he said. Becraft is enthusiastic about creating connections between U&A and St. Mary's College, stating that "We would like to introduce native plant species to be cultivated in the new campus farm high tunnels!"

However, the collaboration didn't stop there. Ellie Chetelat's role in the project was to make sure the proposed budget was accurate by documenting the project as it went on. In addition to that, in her role at U&A, Chetelat stated that she specializes in the "management of our 'sister' native plant nursery, where we focus on propagating and growing native wetland vegetation," a crucial component of ecological restoration.

The enthusiasm of ecological restoration is shared with Chris Becraft, who knew he wanted to pursue a career in this field when he built a rain garden at the St. Mary's College Waring Commons residential building. "My dad's an architect. My brother and I grew up working for him so I always wanted to build," he said.



**“The experience I had
with Dr. Muchnick
during my SMP helped
shape what my work
ethic is today, no doubt.”**

MICHAEL BECRAFT '17

BEFORE

Aerial of the WRUMC shoreline before construction started.

UNDERWOOD & ASSOCIATES

AFTER

Aerial of the WRUMC shoreline after completion.

UNDERWOOD & ASSOCIATES



“I love that my job allows me to make a visible, positive impact in my local area.”

HEATHER JOHNSON '98

Nicole Carlozo and Kate Fritz are also both extremely passionate about ecological restoration and the improvement of water quality, something Fritz didn't realize she wanted to be the focus of her career until later on. “When I started my career as an environmental professional after I graduated from St. Mary's College, I had no idea where I was headed, but I knew that the connection between land, water and people interested me,” she says. Now, Fritz serves as the chief executive officer for the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, which helps oversee restoration efforts across 64,000 square miles of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Nicole Carlozo has experience working at the local, state and federal levels of government, and focuses her current work with Maryland DNR on ecological restoration as a constant group effort; not an easy task. Carlozo describes the major obstacle of her work as “collaboration, inclusion and buy-in from all different levels.” Despite the challenge, Carlozo says that ecological restoration is something we can all work towards. “Simply planting trees is an important strategy for improving water quality.” One of Carlozo's most recent collaborations is with SMCM alumna **Liz Brown '17 MAT'18**. Brown currently is in charge of the WRUMC waterfront, working to “get visitors, and especially summer campers, informed and involved in the project.”

She and Carlozo are currently working towards creating a curriculum that educates local visitors and youth about WRUMC's new ecosystem. The project completed as a result of the collaborative effort by various St. Mary's College alumni reflects the knowledge they gained in their college years, fueled by their passions. Chris Becraft describes that interdisciplinary skillset one must have to enter the workforce of environmental restoration and conservation this way: “You have to be well rounded; not just engineering, not just biology. You have to be able to write. You have to be able to apply for grants.” All the time, effort and resilience gained throughout their academic



ALLIANCE FOR THE CHESAPEAKE BAY



UNDERWOOD & ASSOCIATES

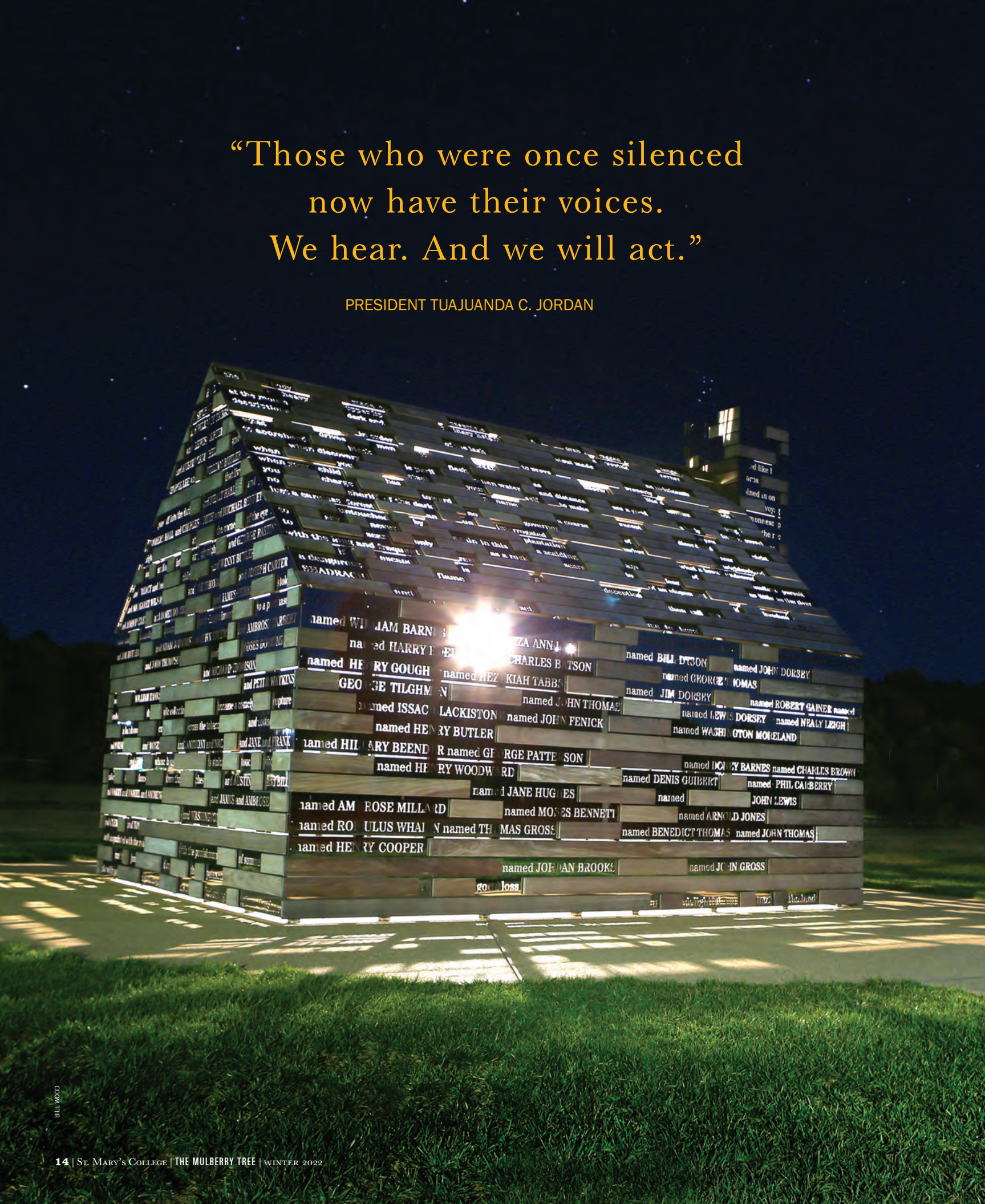
TOP WRUMC group photo at the completion of the project. From left: **Sam Eckert, Michael Becraft, Kate Fritz, Heather Johnson, Liz Brown, and Chris Becraft.**

ABOVE Anne Arundel County's Matt Johnston plants native species along the WRUMC shoreline with **Kate Fritz'04** of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay.

careers at SMCM and postgraduate endeavors prepared these alumni to work together and restore the ecosystem. “What we saw at West River was all of that coming together,” observes Chris Becraft. Kate Fritz reflects on the water quality monitoring she worked on while a student on the St. Mary's River. “I guess you could say there's something in the water in the St. Mary's River, and it gets in your veins and contributes to the beating of your heart and the nourishment of your soul,” she says. With the support given to these alumni during their transformative years in college, the impact of the St. Mary's College ethos has created a lasting effect on the Chesapeake Bay, and the world, around us.

“Those who were once silenced
now have their voices.
We hear. And we will act.”

PRESIDENT TUAJUANDA C. JORDAN



named WILLIAM BARNES named HARRY GOUGH named GEORGE TILGHMAN named ISSAC LACKISTON named HENRY BUTLER named HILARY BEEND named AM ROSE MILLARD named ROULUS WHAL named HENRY COOPER named HARRY WOODWARD named JANE HUGHES named MORIS BENNETT named THOMAS GROSSE named JOE DAN BROOKS named JOE DAN GROSS named BILL DITSON named JOHN DORSEY named GEORGE TOMAS named JIM DORSEY named ROBERT GAINER named LEWIS DORSEY named NEALY LEIGH named WASHINGTON MORELAND named DENIS GUILBERT named PHIL CAMPBERRY named ARNOLD JONES named BENEDICT THOMAS named JOHN THOMAS named JOE DAN GROSS

14 | ST. MARY'S COLLEGE | THE MULBERRY TREE | WINTER 2022

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THE SACRED JOURNEY CONNECTS THE COMMUNITY, PAST AND PRESENT

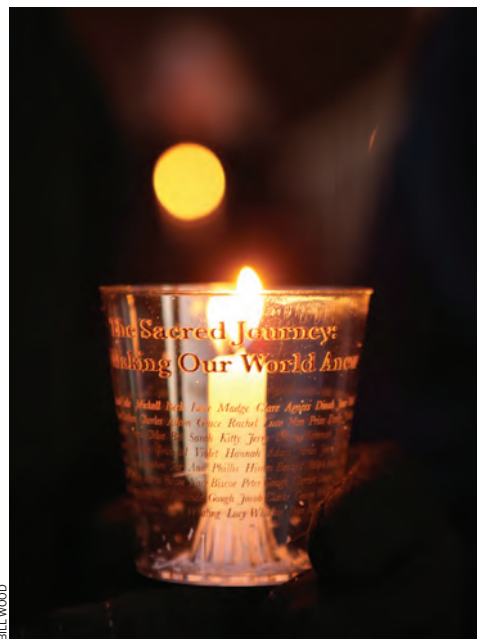
BY MICHAEL BRUCKLER, LEE CAPRISTO AND SIMONE LLANOS '22

ON NOVEMBER 13, 2021, ST. MARY'S COLLEGE OF MARYLAND PRESENTED The Sacred Journey: Re-Making Our World Anew in observation of the first anniversary of the dedication of the Commemorative to Enslaved Peoples of Southern Maryland.

The event was overseen by the Sacred Journey Steering Committee consisting of **Garrey Dennie**, associate professor of history; **Kelsey Bush '94**, chief diversity officer; **Julia King**, professor of anthropology; **Ellen Kohl**, assistant professor of environmental studies; and **Erin Peters**, director of Boyden Gallery and Collection and lecturer for museum studies. It was produced by the College's **Institutional Advancement** team.

What transpired on this cool, crisp fall day was a powerful coming together of people from different backgrounds, experiences and perspectives in a common commitment to work for a future where equality, justice, and peace prevail. Reflecting upon the day, Ellen Kohl said, "I was struck by the contrasts of the day, pain and beauty, past and present, remembering and moving forward."

The event began with a Panel of Remembrance and Reverence that focused on the experiences of the enslaved and their descendants. The panel was made possible in part by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and began with a welcome from Regina Faden, executive director, Historic St. Mary's City. Maya Davis, historian, archivist, activist and director of Riversdale House Museum in Prince George



BILL WOOD

County, Maryland, gave the keynote address. Davis helped create the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Park and Visitor Center on Maryland's Eastern Shore. "I've been fortunate for 20 years to dedicate my life's work to bringing to light the individual stories of people whose soul and humanity are buried deep in the bottomless chasms of the Chesapeake Region," said Davis. "Let us say their names, let their names be a blaze and across buildings, let the sites of their burials be marked with their names."

Other panelists included Julia King, professor of anthropology at St. Mary's College; Travis Parno, director of research and collections, Historic St. Mary's City; and Gwen Bankins and Angela Wilson from the descendant community of Sotterley Plantation in Hollywood, Maryland.



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“I was awed by the power of connected community through action — in joining together through the reverence of performing ritual, we activated the monument and ourselves.”

ERIN PETERS

director of the Boyden Gallery and Collection,
lecturer for Museum Studies and
planning committee member

“The Commemorative to Enslaved Peoples of Southern Maryland is about exactly that, and its representation of their resilience is remarkable.”

HAYDEN WOLINSKI '25



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[1] **President Tuajuanda C. Jordan** and **Garrie Denney**, associate professor of history, lead the Procession of Dignity. [2] Participants reflecting at the Commemorative. [3] **Francine Dove Hawkins** leads the Libation Ceremony as **Zayon Murphy '24** plays percussion. [4] Professor of Anthropology **Julia King** with candle. [5] **President Tuajuanda C. Jordan** begins the candle ceremony. [6] **Jonathan Zutt '25** accompanied the Procession of Dignity on the Chimes. [7] Greeting the arrival of the processionary at the waterfront was the **First Missionary Baptist Church men's chorus**.



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Travis Parno provided the audience some history relevant to the discussion, which included the story of an enslaved whose murder in St. Mary's City in 1656 by his owner was dismissed by the Maryland provincial court. Parno and King both emphasized the shared responsibility to moving forward. "The concept of remaking the world anew is uplifting and challenging, all while identifying and elevating opportunities for education and empowerment," said Parno. "It also charges us to confront the social and political structures that hold us back."

Bankins and Wilson, both descendants of the enslaved at Sotterley Plantation, gave personal accounts of the importance of learning their family history. "In remaking the world anew," Bankins said, "we have to continue to talk about those things that are painful so that we can heal." Angela Wilson asserted that "knowing about the past is not living in the past, it's knowing from where your strength comes and knowing you are capable of overcoming obstacles."



Following the panel, Father John Ball of Trinity Episcopal Church offered this blessing in the Trinity churchyard: "Help us acknowledge that there can be no love without justice, and there can be no justice without some form of repairing an injustice. Give us the wisdom and wherewithal to commit ourselves to becoming the Beloved Community, where equality, justice, and peace prevail." **President Tuajuanda C. Jordan** then led the Procession of Dignity, traversing the campus to the Commemorative to Enslaved Peoples of Southern Maryland, where she noted:

"The reflective journey we are undertaking and the voices of the enslaved emanating from this Commemorative—all are acts to reflect on a more honest and truthful telling of the history of our nation that is emerging and to learn from



BILL WOOD

"I didn't appreciate just how powerful the Commemorative truly is until I took my two separate classes there after sundown. In both cases, the students and I read the poems and the names out loud and we walked around the cabin, seeing ourselves in the reflective words as we spoke them, and seeing them imprint our bodies as the light shined through them, showing us in a powerful way that we in the present are still bound to the hatred and violence—and the will to freedom — from the past."

JENNIFER COGNARD-BLACK
professor of English, Senior
Fulbright Scholar and Robert Foster
Cherry Awardee for Great Teaching

its atrocities. We give voice to people who had none, knowing that while the past cannot be changed, the future is dependent on what we do today."

President Jordan welcomed St. Mary's County NAACP's BJ Hall, who also offered remarks at the Commemorative. The Southern Maryland Community Gospel Choir joined with St. Mary's College Chamber Singers in a performance of "Lift Every Voice and Sing" led by Professor of Music **Larry Vote**. From the Commemorative, the Procession of Dignity continued,



BILL WOOD

accompanied by SMCM student percussionists **Zayon Morgan '24** and **Jonathan Zutt '25**, to the St. Mary's River.

Greeting the arrival of the processionary was the First Missionary Baptist Church men's chorus. As the sun set across the river, blessings were offered by the Right Reverend Bishop Mariann Budde of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, D.C. and Father Larry Swick of St. Cecilia's Catholic Church in St. Mary's City. A blessing was read on behalf of Rabbi Ken Cohen of Beth Israel Synagogue in Lexington Park, followed by a libation ceremony led by community member and educator Francine Dove Hawkins. President Jordan initiated a candle-lighting celebration, during which the lives of the enslaved were honored with a reading of their names by SMCM students **Joshua Ajanaku '22** and **Sean Kratoville-Lavelle '23**. A reception of reflection included remarks by **Dylan Parham '24** (SMCM Black Student Union and student body vice president) and messages read on behalf of Congressman Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) and U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-Md.). President Jordan concluded the event with this promise: "Those who were once silenced now have their voices. We hear. And we will act."



The Quest to Save Izzy

BY CYNTHIA MAY, biology lab coordinator

The biology department's beloved mascot, Izzy the terrapin, became ill this past summer and was brought back to health by four amazing students working as biology and wet lab assistants. **Slade Decker '22** and **Jesse Majane '22**, together with **Ryan Ostrowski '22** and **Lela Versteegan '22**, worked as a team to creatively solve the dire health problems plaguing Izzy.

For those that may not know, Izzy joined the biology department in 2003. **Ben Carr '04** was studying the nesting habits of diamondback terrapins as part of his St. Mary's Project. During his research, he came across a nest that was ravaged by predators. Only one egg survived. Based on his experiences, he felt the predator would return later to finish off the nest. He decided to bring the egg to campus to hatch safely, intending to release it back into the wild.

When hatching, the sex determination of terrapins and other turtles is dependent on temperature. Carr aimed to have the egg hatch female, which required a higher incubation temperature. The egg was incubating on a heating pad and under warm lights when Hurricane Isabel hit Maryland on September 19, 2003. The power was interrupted during the storm and the air conditioning went out. The temperature of the lights and heating pad rapidly rose to levels that can sometimes cause physical abnormalities.

When the terrapin finally hatched it was born female, but with an extra scute (shell piece) and ill-formed toes. Those involved with her care worried about her survival in the wild and opted instead to care for her within the Biology Department, making her a beloved mascot of sorts. She was named Izzy, after that fateful September storm, and has been thriving in the halls of Schaefer ever since.

She is regularly cared for by student workers - being fed, cleaned, even walked around campus. She loves to interact with people walking by her tank in Schaefer Hall.

But things weren't looking too good for Izzy this past summer. The 18-year-old terrapin refused to eat and her skin turned pink. Researching this, Slade, Jesse, Ryan and Lela learned this could be a sign of poor water quality. However, her tank water seemed normal at the time. They tried changing Izzy's environment during meals, tried offering her different types of terrapin foods, tried taking her on long walks (something she loves). Nothing worked.

Fearing for her safety, the fantastic four continued to dive deep into solving Izzy's health crisis. They reached a strong hypothesis that Izzy was "egg bound," a serious condition in which a reptile's eggs become lodged in the oviduct. This tends to happen when an animal's water quality is especially poor, reinforcing their suspicions that the tank's water was to blame. And yes, female terrapins will still lay eggs even in the absence of mating! However, the eggs will be unfertilized and will not hatch.

Realizing the priority was to get Izzy out of her existing environment, Ryan and Lela quickly got to work building Izzy a vacation home in our basement wet lab. They used their creativity and ingenuity to design and build a space containing both water and dry land. They crafted a bridge between the two environments for Izzy to navigate when needed, as terrapins often, but not always, exit the water to lay their eggs.

While Ryan and Lela were busy crafting a new temporary home, Slade and Jesse got to work figuring out the water quality issues in the tank. They analyzed the water using skills learned in their previous biology classes, learned about suitable substrates for terrapin tanks, performed a complete water change of the huge 200-gallon tank. They also replaced the old substrate with clean oyster shells and realized they needed to adjust salinity and find a way to remove phosphates to eliminate algae overgrowth.



OPPOSITE *Izzy with her caregivers, left to right, Jesse Majane '22, Lela Versteegan '22, Slade Decker '22 and Ryan Ostrowski '22 in front of Schaefer Hall. ABOVE LEFT Ryan checking Izzy for eggs. ABOVE CENTER Izzy getting ready to enter her temporary home. ABOVE RIGHT A healthy Izzy enjoying some outdoor time.*

Over the course of several weeks, lots of research, tons of hard work, and constant Izzy-sitting, the tank was restored to good health and Izzy was placed back into her permanent home. We noticed an immediate improvement in her behavior as she seemed less anxious and more calm. Over the following days, Izzy laid SIX eggs and began eating normally again. Her skin returned to its normal color and Izzy is once again thriving!

The responsibility of caring for Izzy requires a lot of dedication from student workers under normal circumstances, let alone a health crisis. We couldn't be more proud of our summer lab assistants for their combined efforts, creative problem solving, and heart-felt care for our beloved Izzy. Thank you, Slade, Jesse, Ryan and Lela.

If you want to see Izzy, pop on over to the ground-level hallway of Schaefer Hall. She'll be happy to see you!



The
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GIPHY.COM/SMCM

ANDY HAMED '21, originally from the State of Palestine, graduated in December with a major in art. Andy interned as a digital content creator for the College's Office of Integrated Marketing during the fall semester, designing and animating an array of Solomon the seahawk characters for use on social media. "Getting the opportunity to do creative work for a brand has been very motivating," says Andy. See and share at <https://giphy.com/smcm>.

ALUMNI CONNECTION

CLASS NOTES

1990s

David Jasinski '91 [1] is publishing a book with his wife and business partner at Green Fin Studio, Paula Jasinski. "Speaking of the Environment: What your science classes didn't teach you about effective communication" is scheduled for release in January of 2022. Jasinski recently collaborated with assistant professor of environmental studies, **Cassie Gurbisz**, to curate materials for the Environmental Protection Agency's Chesapeake Bay Program regarding underwater grass restoration in the Chesapeake Bay.



1

Eric Hatch '96 [2] is the newly appointed director of music and film programmer at the True/False Film Fest in Columbia, Missouri. Hatch previously served as director of the Maryland Film Festival and has collaborated on events with a number of musicians, including Beach House, Dan Deacon and Animal Collective. He also co-founded The Red Room, which hosts a music festival each year,



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and Beyond Video, a nonprofit video library. Hatch has curated the works of gifted film directors like Academy Award nominee, Greta Gerwig, and Academy Award winner, Barry Jenkins, before they became famous. He emphasizes the connection between music and film at True/False, where musicians perform as opening acts before all film screenings.

Coya Paz-Brownrigg '97 [3]

is the director of Chicago's historic Free Street Theater and serves as interim dean and associate professor of the Theatre School at DePaul University. She is co-founder of the Proyecto Latina collective, former co-artistic director of Teatro Luna and co-author of "Ensemble-Made Chicago: A Guide to Devised Theater." Paz-Brownrigg received her PhD in performance studies from Northwestern University and recently presented a Ted Talk on the historical significance of ghost stories.

2000s

Todd Brooks '03 [4] was recognized by Benchmark Litigation, a widely respected guide that identifies leading lawyers and litigation firms across the nation. Brooks co-chairs the largest practice group

at Whiteford, Taylor & Preston LLP, a law firm with more than 175 attorneys in seventeen offices throughout the Mid-Atlantic region.

Bonnie McCubbin '09 [5]

received a City of Baltimore citation on the 250th anniversary of Historic Old Otterbein United Methodist Church in Baltimore, Maryland. Mayor of Baltimore **Brandon Scott '06** presented the citation. Rev. McCubbin is the 55th pastor of Old Otterbein United Methodist, the oldest church on its original foundation still in use in Baltimore. Rev. McCubbin is also director of pilgrimages and museums for the Baltimore-Washington Conference of The United Methodist Church where she oversees 33 religious historic sites and museums in the area.



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2010s

Nikki Yesalavage Samuels

'10 [6] announced the release of her debut children's book, "Nature Parade" (Tiny Twigs Press), an imaginative story of outdoor adventure written for children ages 2-6. Inspired by her two young children and her nature-based teaching experience, Samuels seeks to bring the wonder of the outdoors to children everywhere through the whimsical illustrations and lyrical rhythm of "Nature Parade," which is available on Amazon. Samuels received her master's degree in elementary education from Northeastern University in 2013. She lives in East Burke, Vermont, along with her husband **Sam Samuels '09** and their two young children.



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Congratulations to the Hall of Fame Class of 2021

St. Mary's College of Maryland inducted five new members into the Athletic Hall of Fame on Saturday, September 25, 2021. The Class of 2021 includes (pictured, left to right) **Nicholas LaGuerre '15** (basketball), **Nairem Moran '99** (field hockey/lacrosse), **Kelly Heyde '13** (swimming), **Andrew Gear '14** (tennis) and **Andrew Toussaint '02** (lacrosse). The Hall of Fame was established in 1990 to recognize outstanding athletes, coaches and staff members who serve as positive role models for student athletes, both during their time at St. Mary's College and in their professional life. It is the highest distinction in Seahawk sports.



Laura VanBlargan '10 [7] co-lead a study with the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri, which identified an antibody that is highly protective against a broad range of viral variants. She is the primary author of the resulting publication, "A potentially neutralizing SARS-CoV-2 antibody inhibits variants of concern by utilizing unique binding residues in a highly conserved epitope" (Immunity, 2021). VanBlargan is transferring to the National Institutes of Health where she



Elaine Bucknam Clarke '16 [8] was recently awarded a predoctoral fellowship from Autism Speaks to support her graduate studies at University of California - Los Angeles. Autism Speaks is a "global non-profit dedicated to promoting solutions for the needs of people with autism and their families" (Autism Speaks). This award will fund the next two years of Clarke's research on work and wellbeing outcomes for adults with autism.

will continue to conduct virology research in their Intramural Research Program.

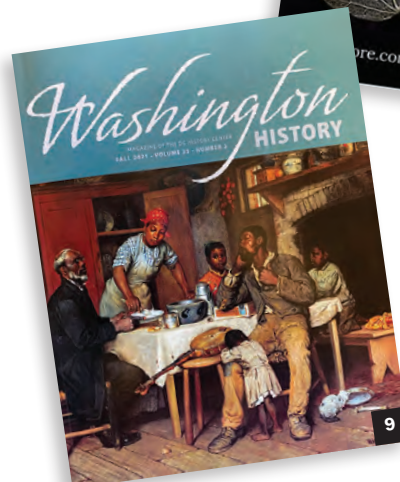
Brendan McFall '14 was named to the "40 under 40" Class of 2021 by Security Systems News of Yarmouth, Maine. The members of the class are a mix of security systems integrators, security consultants, security dealers and monitoring professionals, as well as end users and other industry professionals. McFall works for Northland Controls and lives in Leesburg, Virginia.

JR Rhine '17 MAT '18 [9] was published in Washington History (Vol. 33, No. 2, 2021). Rhine's article, "The Free Space: Ian MacKaye and DC's Hardcore, Straight Edge Scene," grew out of his St. Mary's Project mentored by Professor of History **Charles Holden**. Rhine is the author of several chapbooks of poetry and also a children's book, "Jimmy Loves His Long Hair." He lives in Asheville, North Carolina.

Rita Druffner '18 is pursuing her doctorate in school psychology at Mississippi State University.

Rie Moore '19 [10], adjunct music instructor at SMCM, was recently awarded a Creativity Grant from the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) for her project titled "Decaying." The funding covers expenses associated with creating a prerecorded audio-visual program for piano and violin on the theme of finding beauty in what is decaying. The filmed program will be made available virtu-

ally to the public for free via Moore's YouTube channel as well as embedded on her website. Moore is one of 48 competitors who will perform at the Cliburn International Amateur Piano Competition in Fort Worth, Texas, in June 2022.



Alumni Legacy Scholarships

BY RAPHA AYUK '24,
alumni relations social media and marketing intern



Kolton Roy Blackistone '25

is a 2021 Alumni Legacy Scholarship recipient and the child of **Kimberly Blackistone '97**. After hearing stories of the beautiful campus, small class sizes and impressive soccer program at St. Mary's College of Maryland, he decided to visit for himself and discovered that "it felt like home."

Kolton is excited to create his own Seahawk memories, both on the soccer field and in the classroom.



Gabrielle Lorraine Castle-Smith '24

is a 2021 Alumni Legacy Scholarship recipient and the child of **David Smith '92** and **Heidi Castle-Smith '93**. As a soccer athlete and STEM student, she is committed to making her personal mark at St. Mary's College of Maryland in the areas of leadership, community and academics. She has a "passion for helping others" and actively participates in the Best Buddies program at St. Mary's College and community outreach

in her hometown of Ellicott City, Maryland.

Don Stabile Post-Graduate Scholarship



Carolyn Barranco '17, currently residing in California, Maryland, is the 2021 recipient of the Alumni Post-graduate Scholarship generously supported by **Professor Don Stabile**. After earning her bachelor's degree in math with minors in computer science and art, Carolyn worked as a software developer and engineer for three years before realizing her true passion for teaching. She set her sights on the MAT program at St. Mary's College of Maryland and plans on

using her mathematics and computer science expertise to positively impact the minds of middle and high school students.

Don Stabile Doctoral Scholarship



Nezia Munezero Kubwayo '08

is the 2021 recipient of the Alumni Doctoral Scholarship generously supported by **Professor Don Stabile**. Nezia completed her master's in international human rights law in 2014 and is currently pursuing a doctorate in conflict analysis and resolution at Nova Southeastern University. She is the director of philanthropy at Shepherd's Clinic and was previously employed with the Ethiopian Community Development Council

and the U.N. Office of Humanitarian Affairs. Her long-term goals include educating future generations of peacebuilders and participating in conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction efforts in the U.S. and abroad. She credits St. Mary's College of Maryland for ingraining volunteerism and civic engagement into her daily life, and she hopes to continue working to identify the most urgent research needs related to peace education for children and youth. Her story was featured in the winter 2021 issue of Mulberry Tree.

IN MEMORIAM

Joan Carver Bender '59HS, '61JC died on November 3, 2020 at age 79. Born in Takoma Park, Maryland, Joan and her husband lived at many U.S. Army bases before retiring in Port Townsend, Washington. Along with raising two sons, Joan owned a needlework shop, volunteered as a docent and was an active member of Grace Lutheran Church. Joan is survived by her husband of 59 years, her two sons and her sister, **Jean Carver Dixon '56HS '58JC**.

Sally Louise Tribull Stanford '65JC died on November 11, 2020 at age 74. A devoted friend, Sally was beloved by fellow alumni from the Junior College Class of 1965: **Muffy Russell Caputo**,

Pam Price Sawyer, Thomas Daugherty, Carolyn (Candi) Clark Sorge, Margaret (Peggy) Longest Crist and John Fletcher. Her St. Mary's College friends miss her dearly and are grateful for the many fond memories.

Alison Gay Norville McKim '72 died on June 24, 2021 after a battle with colorectal cancer. Alison contributed 30 years of service to Anne Arundel County Public Schools, teaching two generations of students and winning 9th grade Teacher of the Year at Southern High School in 2001. She was a freelance writer for the Bay Weekly and for Galesville United Methodist Church where she was a long-time member, and served as literary editor for Southern High School and St. Mary's College of Maryland. She is survived by beloved husband and caregiver Jack McKim.

Henry F. "Jack" Long III '75 died on November 23, 2021 at the age of 68. After graduating from St. Mary's College of Maryland, Jack obtained his J.D. from the Potomac School of Law and was a respected professional in the fence manufacturing industry for many years. He served as best man for long-time friend and SMCM roommate **Christopher Paris '75**. Jack is survived by his wife of 43 years, Mary Ann Hayward Long, two daughters and a son.

Col. Michael G. Cheston '77, USMC, Ret., died on July 29, 2021 after a courageous battle with cancer. Col. Cheston's career centered around aviation, security and the U.S. Marine Corps, where he served for 28 years. In retirement, he volunteered his talent as a private pilot with

the Winston Salem Composite Squadron Civil Air Patrol and his security expertise with Crisis Consulting International. He is survived by his wife of 32 years, Laurie Wesely, and two sons.

Harold S. Lee '95 of Lexington Park, Maryland, died on August 5, 2021 after a courageous battle with cancer. Harold studied biology and chemistry and was a multi-sport athlete at St. Mary's College of Maryland. After graduation, he worked in the food and consulting industry, eventually becoming manager of The Green Door Tavern where he left a profound impression on the Southern Maryland community. He remained an active member of the St. Mary's College Alumni Association and a supporter of Seahawk Athletics, regularly attending sporting events,

homecomings and reunions on campus. He is survived by his mother and brother.

St. Mary's College baseball alumnus **Christopher D'Antuono '06** died on May 25, 2021. After graduating with a major in economics, Chris worked many years as a contract specialist for the Patuxent River Naval Air Station. He was long-time member of the Charles and St. Mary's Adult Baseball League, earning the Sportsmanship Award in 2009, League MVP in 2011 and 2015, Home Run and RBI Leader three times and Manager of the Year in 2019 for his work with The Green Door Tavern team. He is survived by his wife, **Elizabeth Thompson D'Antuono '06**.



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For more information, please contact Institutional Advancement at (240) 895-4282 or advancementoffice@smcm.edu.

MARRIAGES & UNIONS

Rusty Cox '06 and **Liana Merrill [1]** were married on September 19, 2020 with a vow reaffirmation and celebration occurring from September 17-20, 2021 at the Waybury Inn in Middlebury, Vermont. Alumni in attendance included **Chelsea Ebmeier Rohner '06**, **Freddie Rohner '06**, **Peter Heliotis '07** and **Donna Smawley L. West '76**.

Catherine Krikstan '08 and **Brendan Kelly [2]** were married on October 3, 2020 at Mount Lubentia of Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Alumni in attendance included **Elina Snyder '07**, **Eli Park-Yanovitch '04** and **Lauren Park-Yanovitch '04**. The couple honeymooned in Tilghman Island and currently resides in Annapolis, Maryland.

Jessica Porter '08 and **Dorian Brown [3]** were married on May 2, 2021 during an intimate ceremony at the Elm Room in Baltimore, Maryland. The bride was supported by her sisters, **Nichole Porter Sappington '06** and **Amanda Porter '11**. Alumni in attendance included **Mallory Kwiatkowski '08**, who served as floral designer for the wedding, and **Francisco Rodezno '14**. The couple (and their two dogs) reside in Baltimore, Maryland.

Joe Francella '09 and **Heidi Davis [4]** were married on June 25, 2021 in Baltimore, Maryland. Members of the wedding party included best man **Nick Francella '06**, groomsmen **Ifeanyi Ezeigbo '08** and **Justin Perry '10**, and bridesmaid **Elizabeth Kohlway '10**. **Kathy Scott Zamostny '74**



1

AMANDA GILLEY PHOTOGRAPHY



2

WENDY HICKOCK PHOTOGRAPHY



3



4

DAVE MCINTOSH



5

KELSEY BARDOFF



6



7

was in attendance. The couple honeymooned in Hawaii and currently resides in Baltimore, Maryland.

Diana Roman Devers '12 and **Allyson Roman Devers '14 [5]** were married on October 10, 2020 at the Historic St. Mary's City State House. **Karen Espinoza '14** was the maid of honor for Allyson, and women's

rugby coach **Dustin Allan '09** officiated the ceremony. Other alumni in attendance included **Kerry Maguire '14**, **Megan Catterton '14** and **Andrew Ridenour '14**. The couple resides in Reisterstown, Maryland.

Monty (Caitlin) Fowler-Schatz '12 married **Charlie Schatz [6]** on August 20, 2021

in Sims, North Carolina. The couple resides in Wilson, North Carolina.

Shelby Mullennix Sashkov '13 MAT '14 and **Artem Sashkov [7]** were married on December 5, 2020 at their barn in Hollywood, Maryland, after two weddings were cancelled due to COVID-19. **Cecilia Blanc Manogaran '13** was the maid

of honor. **Jennifer Rindone '13** and **Elle Bejerano Christenson '12** were bridesmaids. **Travis Tracey '12** officiated the ceremony. The couple honeymooned in Vermont and currently resides in Hollywood, Maryland.

Kaylie Jasinski Huber '14 and **Nick Huber '13 [8]** were married on October 1, 2021 at the



Autumn Fisher Eaker '16 and **Jared Eaker '15 [11]** were married on May 15, 2021 in St. Mary's City, Maryland. Alumni in attendance included **Alex Lenovitz '14**, **Hunter Mohler '16**, **Emily Sinton '16 MAT '17** and **Meghan Griffiths '17**. The couple resides in Leonardtown, Maryland.

Raymond Gore '16 MAT '17 and **Maria Claudia Garcia-Rada Gore '17 MAT '18 [12]** were married on November 6, 2020 with a small reception occurring on July 23, 2021 in Solomons Island, Maryland. Members of the wedding party included bridesmaids **Emily Smith '17** and **Mollie Shedlick '17**, and groomsmen **Jacob Traver '18 MAT '19**. The couple honeymooned in Hawaii and currently resides in California, Maryland.

Gregory Mainolfi '16 and **Jessica Maddox '18 [13]** were married on October 2, 2021 in Ellicott City, Maryland. Members of the wedding party included best man **Max Beker '16**, groomsmen **Toby Hall '15** and **Taylor Lampasona '16**, and bridesmaid **Stephanie Donovan '18**. The couple honeymooned in Playa del Carmen, Mexico, and currently resides in Baltimore, Maryland.

Krista Steele Brownell '19 and **Jerry Brownell [14]** were married on July 31, 2021 in Nanjemoy, Maryland. **Anna Taflan '19** was a bridesmaid, and **Leila Shirvan '19** was in attendance. The couple resides in Waldorf, Maryland.

Andrea McCloskey Windsor '19 and **Allen Windsor [15]** were married on August 14, 2021 at the Trinity Episcopal Church Parish Hall in St. Mary's City, Maryland. **Kim Boenig '19** was a bridesmaid. The couple currently resides in Lexington Park, Maryland.



Liriodendron Mansion in Bel Air, Maryland. **Toby Franzen '13** and **Brad Doan '13** were groomsmen. Alumni in attendance included **Steffi Murti '14**, **Katie Dreyer Marquette '14**, **Chris Marquette '14**, **Michael Woollen '14**, **Mallory Kwiatkowski '08**, **Ben Israel '14** and **Briana Manente '12**. The couple honeymooned in Sedona, Arizona, and currently resides in Middle River,

Maryland. Kaylie is the editor of PropTalk Magazine in Annapolis, Maryland, and Nick teaches theater and technical theater at Sudbrook Magnet Middle School in Pikesville, Maryland.

Hannah Sturm '14 and **Jeffrey Holle [9]** were married on June 12, 2021 in Middle River, Maryland. **Taylor Sturm '12** was in attendance. Hannah is

a communications coordinator for the Maryland State Inter-agency Commission on School Construction and Jeff works for Chesapeake Environmental Management. They reside in Baltimore County, Maryland.

Reese Cassard '15 and **Kate Somerville '16 [10]** were married on June 25, 2021 at Saints Philip & James, with a reception at the Baltimore Country

Club. Members of the wedding party included groomsmen **Tim Perugini '15**, **Will Lerch '15**, **Collin Brown '15** and **Eric Simon '15** and bridesmaids **Ashley Lawrence '16** and **Lizzie D'Agostaro '16 MAT '17**. In addition to the wedding party, nearly 50 alumni were in attendance. The couple currently resides in Boulder, Colorado.



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BIRTHS & ADOPTIONS

David Ryden '00 and wife Caylin Marie [1] welcomed a son, Emmett Jon, on May 3, 2021. Emmett Jon was named after **Jonathan Saxon '00** and joins older siblings Tenley (10), Harper (8) and Wesley (3). The family resides in Bel Air, Maryland.

Vivian Hawkins '02 and **John Marzulli '01** [2] welcomed a son, Nicholas Anthony, on April 19, 2019. Nicholas joins older siblings Genevieve and Penelope. The family resides in Seattle, Washington.

Katie Clark '04 [3] welcomed a son, Owen Thomas, on September 4, 2021. Owen joins older sister, Allie Jane (3). The family resides in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Heather Wasson Lomax '04 and husband Clifton [4] welcomed a son, Connor, on August 7, 2021. The family resides in Odenton, Maryland.

Lisa McQuighan Jordan '05 and husband Sean [5] welcomed a daughter, Allison Quinn, on October 29, 2020. The family resides in Knoxville, Tennessee, where Lisa works as a senior research manager at Nielsen and Sean practices cardiothoracic surgery at the

University of Tennessee Medical Center. Lisa previously served on the Alumni Council as the Philadelphia Chapter President.

Giselle Rahn '07 and husband Matthew [6] welcomed a daughter, Leona Marie, on April 4, 2020. Leona was born in Palo Alto, California, but the family recently moved to Denver, Colorado. Leona joins older sibling, Nelson (3).



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DOODLEBUG CAPTURES

Kendra Hildreth Havens-McColgan '07 MAT '08 and **John Havens-McColgan '07 [7]** welcomed a daughter, Mara Jean, on May 26, 2021. Mara joins older sister, Lila Esther (6). The family resides in Cheshire, Connecticut.

Rachel Markey '07 [8] welcomed a son, George Emerson, on November 13, 2020. The family resides in Washington, D.C.

Julia Copley '08 and **Alex Smolin '08 [9]** welcomed their first child, Stella Nova, on August 6, 2021. **Yolanda DiFabio '81** is the maternal grandmother. The family resides in Seattle, Washington.

Robert (Bobby) Stouffer '14 and **Virginia Williams Stouffer '13 [10]** welcomed a daughter, Isabell Elizabeth, on April 1, 2021. The family resides in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

Allison Wengler Kenyon '15 and husband **Wesley [11]** welcomed a daughter, Lillian Estelle, on August 18, 2021. Lillian joins older sister, Nora. The family resides in Bel Air, Maryland.

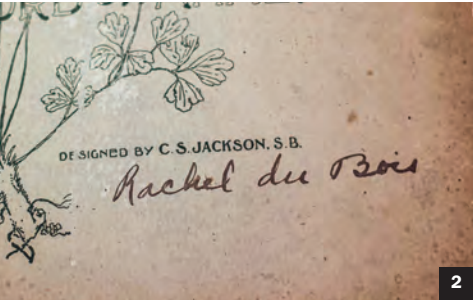
Kati Peditto '15 and husband **Eric May [12]** welcomed their first child, Finley Anthony, on November 17, 2021 in Denver, Colorado.

Krista Steele Brownell '19 and partner **Jerry [13]** welcomed a son, Henry Allen, on February 22, 2021. The family resides in Waldorf, Maryland.

PRESSED INTO HISTORY

BY LINDSAY WOOLEYHAND '19

In the fall of 2018, I was in the early stages of my St. Mary's Project (SMP). My SMP was laying the foundation for Volume 8 of the SlackWater journal, which focused on how St. Mary's County changed throughout history. At the time, I was concentrating on the changes of the county's ecological environment. I was researching what plants or animals the colonists, or anyone really, accidentally or deliberately introduced to the area. My SMP adviser, Dr. Jerry Gabriel, suggested I visit the College archives to see the 100-year-old herbarium it held.



When I visited the archives and learned exactly what an herbarium was, I felt I'd come across a Holy Archival Grail, of sorts. It was a magnificent artifact and fairly well preserved for being a century old. "Herbarium and Record of Analysis" was printed on the cover page and a signature was handwritten near the bottom. It was created by a St. Mary's Seminary student, Rachel du Bois, in 1920. It is reasonable to assume that the species collected were within walking distance of the seminary.

An herbarium is a collection of preserved plants — flowers, roots, weeds, petals — and relevant facts used for scientific study. The flora in herbaria are systematically

arranged and the information written about them includes their proper scientific names, the name of the collector, where they were collected, how they grew, and general observations.

Being able to hold a part of the College's (and Maryland's) history in my hands was a feeling like no other. I spent a lot of time studying the herbarium and developed a connection to it. I was, and still am, awed that it is a piece of history that I was able to look at, hold and study.

I wanted to find out more about the collection of plants inside the herbarium, so I reached out to multiple people interested in biology, professors and outside resources, like the "Maryland Native Plant Society Discussion Group" Facebook page. I was hoping someone would be able to identify the species and give me more information about them, which would then help me to contextualize the artifact in terms of my SMP. Through these contacts I learned that most species were native to St. Mary's County and still found there. Additionally, Dr. Gabriel contacted a botanist at the University of Connecticut who verified the plants, talked about their classifications, and marveled at the preservation of the artifact.



Though the herbarium played only a small part in my SMP and the creation of Volume 8 of the SlackWater journal, the artifact proved to be a fascinating and interesting discovery - visually, environmentally, and historically. The College archives is a trove of some incredible pieces of history and the herbarium is just one of the many treasures it holds.

[1] The "Herbarium and Record of Analysis" created by St. Mary's Seminary student Rachel du Bois in 1920. [2] Rachel du Bois' signature on the cover. [3] A "Record of Plant Analysis" of a Field Hedge Mustard and the preserved plant.



Calendar of Events

Valumtine's Virtual 5K

February 2-7

Virtual Event: registration required

MLCED* Lunch and Learn: Reflections & Analysis of January 6, 2021

February 8 @ noon

Virtual Event: registration required

VOICES Reading Series with Samantha Liming

February 10 @ 8:15 p.m.

Daugherty-Palmer Commons

The Reeves Lecture with Jeffrey Hammond

February 16 @ 8 p.m.

Daugherty-Palmer Commons

Psychology Lecture Series with Jessica Fish

February 18 @ 2:45 p.m.

Virtual Event: registration required

Psychology Lecture Series with Rama Cousik

February 25 @ 2:45 p.m.

Virtual Event: registration required

Nurturing the Compassionate Community: An Evening to Honor the Legacy of Lucille Clifton

February 28 @ 7 p.m.

Auerbach Auditorium of St. Mary's Hall

MLCED*: The Dangerous Speech Project with Cathy Buerger

March 1 @ noon

Blackstone Room, Anne Arundel Hall

Center for the Study of Democracy Presents Md. Sec. of State John Wobensmith

March 24 @ 7 p.m.

Auerbach Auditorium of St. Mary's Hall

The Mark Twain Lecture Series

April 1 @ 7:30 p.m.

*Michael P. O'Brien Athletics &
Recreation Center Arena*

Spring Break-a-Sweat

April 9

Awards Convocation

April 15 @ 3 p.m.

*Michael P. O'Brien Athletics &
Recreation Center Arena*

VOICES Reading Series with Allison Grace Myers & Jason Myers

April 21 @ 8:15 p.m.

Daugherty-Palmer Commons

Admission Open House

April 23 @ 10 a.m.

Commencement

May 14 @ 10 a.m.

Alumni Weekend

June 9-12

Mulberry Music Festival: Jazz

June 17 @ 6 p.m.

Townhouse Green

River Concert Series

Fridays, June - July @ 7 p.m.

Governor's Cup Yacht Race

July 29-30

Hawktoberfest

October 14-15

**MLCED: Media Literacy, Civic Engagement and Democracy Project,
hosted by the Center for the Study of Democracy*

**For registration and information on these and other upcoming events, visit www.smcm.edu
and click on EVENTS. Note that events are subject to change.**

Campus visitors must be up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccinations and be able to present proof of vaccination upon request by College officials. If campus visitors are not vaccinated or cannot show proof of vaccination, they must present proof of a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours of arrival to campus. Masks must be worn indoors at all times. For more information on the College's COVID-19 policies and procedures, visit www.smcm.edu/spring-2022.




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