

**ST MARY'S**  
COLLEGE of MARYLAND

*The National Public Honors College*



FALL 2022

**CONNECTING  
THROUGH HISTORY**

*An interview with Ramtin Arablouei '05*

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ST. MARY'S COLLEGE  
*of Maryland*

*The*  
**MULBERRY  
TREE**

FALL 2022, VOL. XLIII, NO. 2

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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.

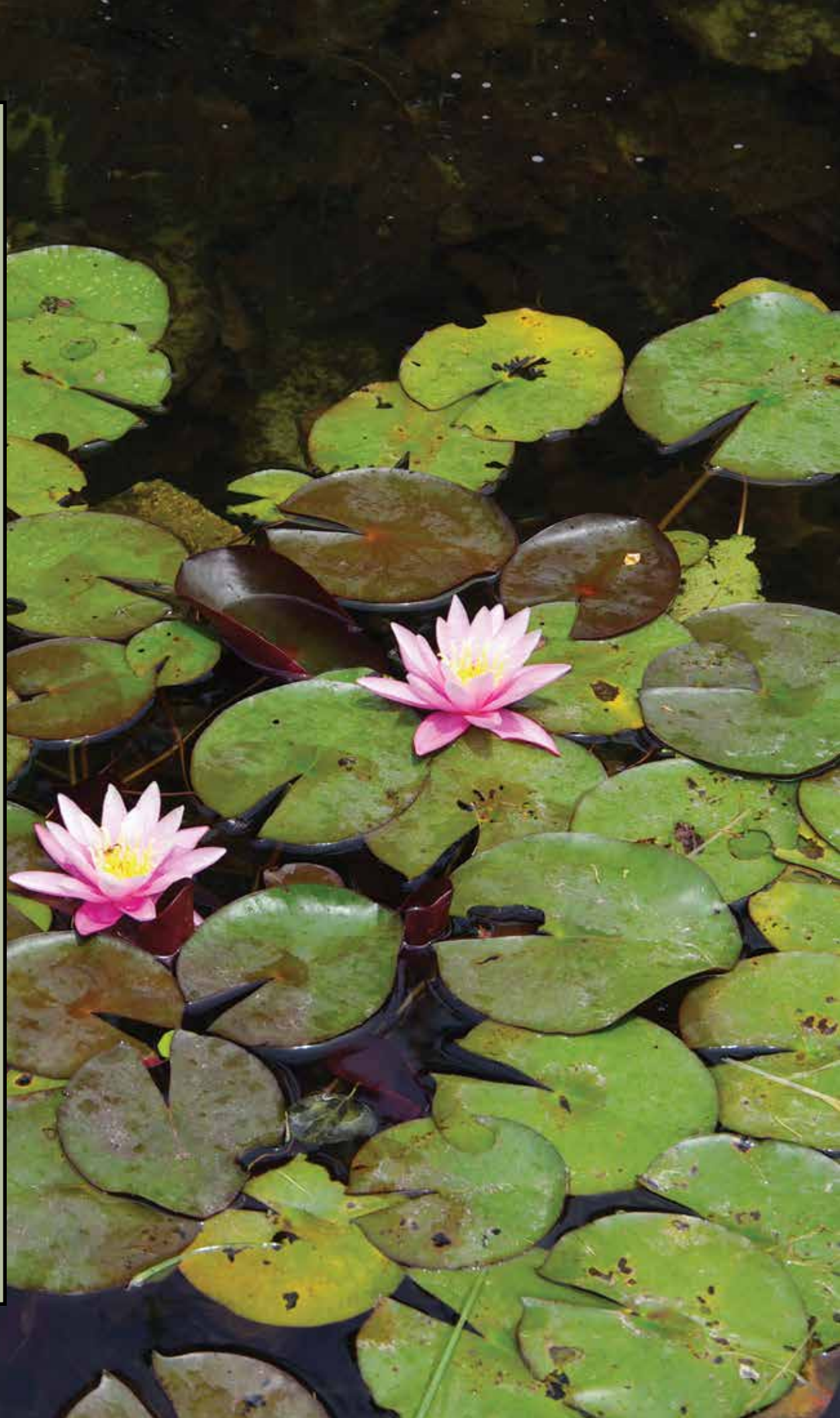
The illustration of the mulberry tree on the cover was drawn in 1972 by Earl Hofmann, artist-in-residence when St. Mary's College President Renwick Jackson launched the magazine.

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COVER: *Ramtin Arablouei '05*  
COVER PHOTO: *Mike Morgan (NPR)*



**T**HIS IS THE START OF A NEW ACADEMIC YEAR AND WHAT A YEAR IT WILL BE. Our nation faces challenges and discord not seen since the late 1960s. Our very foundations of democracy are under attack.

For our part, our Center for the Study of Democracy welcomes attorney Neal Katyal as the College's Constitution Day speaker on September 16. Then, on October 7, I am hosting a constitutional panel comprised of national scholars and journalists to engage the campus and community in this present-day challenge in our country. The panel includes Jelani Cobb and Bill Kristol. We have important work to do, all of us, and I look forward to hearing your voices in these collective efforts.

This semester also we have much to celebrate at the College. Students and faculty alike welcome the launch of a new major in business administration and management and one in performing arts. These follow the launch of marine science and neuroscience majors one year ago. Our Board's decision in May to freeze tuition rates for the foreseeable future, along with these new academic programs, are strategic actions toward making St. Mary's College of Maryland the college of choice.

The campus and community will be wowed by our brand new, state-of-the-art Performing Arts Center and Learning Commons. These new facilities will be celebrated in Grand Opening style on September 23-24. Entrepreneur, legendary guitar maker and former St. Mary's College student Paul Reed Smith engages with our new students in a TED Talks-inspired session on Friday. After our official ribbon-cutting ceremony on Saturday, experience the new Performing Arts Center auditorium in a performance of "Carmina Burana" directed by our own Professor of Music Larry Vote. That evening, see the auditorium transformed in concert to bring the house down with 70's R&B/soul chart-toppers Average White Band. Details on all free events of our Grand Opening can be found on [www.smcm.edu](http://www.smcm.edu).

After a three-year hiatus due to COVID-19, we anticipate a huge turnout of alumni and families for Hawktoberfest & Family Weekend, October 14-15. This is a fine time to visit campus, take a tour of our new facilities, enjoy a river cruise and spend time with friends and family.

Please join me for the important work and the welcome celebrations in store this fall.



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

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#### Editor's Note

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**M**AREN MORRIS HAS A HIT ON THE country music list with "Circles Around this Town," about her struggles to make it in the Nashville music scene. There's a line in the song that's striking, where she is trying to find "something worth singing about."

Morris' lyric alludes to an ever-present challenge: What is it that's important? How do I make a difference?

**Ramtin Arablouei '05** contends that struggle is a worthwhile thing (see p. 14). He says, "Struggle is there to make things better; there's always something to work for." He credits his years at St. Mary's College and in particular, his professors, for helping him to focus his creative energy toward a tangible goal.

John Ball, a friend and neighbor to legions of SMCM students (see p. 12), had a way with building community. In his 28 years as priest of Trinity Church, Ball guided students to seek out and appreciate the collective good and to work for it where it languished.

The forces of fight and of join are useful adversaries. In the end, when the balance seems tipped toward struggle, equilibrium can be found in a guiding hand or a thoughtful observation. John Ball and hundreds of faculty have offered, over so many years, the wisdom and encouragement to students to value both the pain and the peace.

Each day may we be grateful to those who make a difference and may we all keep up the good fight to find something worth singing about.

LEE CAPRISTO, *editor*

## CAMPUS & COMMUNITY NEWS



**S**t. Mary's College of Maryland graduated 375 students with Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, and Master of Arts in Teaching degrees on Saturday, May 14. Five students earned the honor of title of valedictorian: **Harrison Bauman, Caitlin Hall, Sydney Lipsman, Charlotte Mac Kay, and Jacinda Thomas.**

The Commencement address was given by Terron L. Hillsman, director of the ecological sciences division for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS). **President Tuajuanda C. Jordan**, accompanied by **Board of Trustees Chair Susan Dyer**, presented honorary degrees to Hillsman and St. Mary's County Health Officer Meenakshi G. Brewster.

### Award Winners

This summer, the Commemorative to Enslaved Peoples of Southern Maryland was named to the Top 100 public art projects by CODA-worx, a global online community that celebrates design projects that integrate commissioned art into an interior, architectural, or public space. The Commemorative also was named an honor award winner by the Society for Experiential Graphic Design (SEGD) in its annual competition to recognize and promote excellence in contemporary experiential graphic design.

For its work on the single-day special event "The Sacred Journey: Re-Making Our World Anew," the College's **Office of Institutional Advancement** won a 2022 Circle of Excellence gold award from the international Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).



BOARD & FOUNDATION BOARD NEWS

## Tuition Freeze Approved

At its May 13 meeting, the Board of Trustees approved a 10-year budget strategy model developed to better align the College's in-state tuition with that of the University of Maryland, College Park. Currently, the in-state tuition gap between the two institutions is about 23%. The Long-Range Tuition Strategy will include freezing tuition as long as revenue and expense assumptions remain viable to the delivery of a top-tier honors college education for all. The model also factors in additional assumptions based on enrollment, a continued state funding formula, and additional revenues from events and conferences.

PRESIDENT'S NEWS

President Jordan hosted the third annual Mulberry Music Festival on June 17. This year's theme was jazz and included performances by headliner Sharón Clark as well as Joseph Brotherton, the Kelly Bell Band and the Carly Harvey Experience.

President Jordan appointed **Dereck Rovaris** as the inaugural vice president for equity and strategic initiatives. Rovaris joined the College in April and reports directly to the president. In this newly developed position, he serves as a strategic adviser on matters related to inclusion, diversity, equity and access across the campus. He will drive sustained impact, amplify successful structures, implement policies and programs, and build new campus initiatives. Rovaris has

*President Jordan walked with students, faculty and staff at the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life campus event on April 22.*

over 30 years of higher education experience. He most recently supported Louisiana State University as vice provost for diversity, equity and inclusion. Prior to that role, he served at the University of Louisiana Health and Science Center and at Xavier University of

Louisiana. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Kansas; his master's degree from Xavier University of Louisiana; and his PhD from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

**President Tuajuanda C. Jordan** has carried the College's core values with her as a member of the executive committee for the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC), to which she was named president-elect earlier this summer. "I am honored for the opportunity to serve as president-elect of COPLAC," said President Jordan. "As the National Public Honors College, St. Mary's College epitomizes what COPLAC represents, and I will champion our values as I, along with the rest of the executive board, guide our member institutions." Established in 1987, COPLAC is an organization dedicated to high-quality, public liberal arts education. President Jordan has served in several



**Dereck Rovaris**, vice president for equity and strategic initiatives.

leadership roles in COPLAC since she joined in 2014, including her current position on the executive committee. She has also served on the membership committee and is on the board of directors. Her two-year term as president of COPLAC will begin July 1, 2023.



## Welcome and Best Wishes

The College welcomes the following new tenure-track faculty: **Soumyotam Chatterjee** (computer science), **Nayantara Kurpad** (psychology), **Brian Smithson** (anthropology) and **Ariel Webster** (computer science). Thank you and best wishes to retiring faculty **Susan Grogan**, emerita (political science); **David Kung** (mathematics); **Deborah Lawrence** (music); **Richard Platt** (psychology); and **Don Stabile** (economics and Professor of the College).

## Faculty Promotions

The following three faculty were promoted to associate professor, effective August 1: **Tristan Cai** (art); **Ayse Ikizler '07** (psychology); **Sarah Malena** (history). The following two faculty were promoted to full professor, effective August 1: **Karen Leona Anderson** (English) and **Christine Wooley** (English).

## Faculty Administrative Appointments

During the 2022-23 academic year, Professor of French **Katie Gantz** will serve as interim provost and dean of faculty and Professor of Biology **Jeff Byrd** will serve as interim associate provost. During that same period, Professor of Educational Studies **Katy Arnett** will serve as associate vice president for academic affairs and three faculty will serve as associate deans: Professor of Chemistry **Randy Larsen**, Associate Professor of Chemistry **Kelly Neiles**, and Professor of Political Science **Sahar Shafqat**.

## Aldom-Plansoen Honors College Fellows Named 2022-2024

The Aldom-Plansoen Honors College Fellowships are granted to associate professors for a two-year term with funds to sustain and enrich their scholarly contributions. The fellowships are supported by the Aldom-Plansoen Endowment established in 1999 by Jarrod Aldom '97 and John Plansoen. For 2022-2024, the awardees are **Daniel Chase**, associate professor of chemistry; and **Barrett Emerick**, associate professor of philosophy.

## Steven Muller Distinguished Professorship for Bowers

The Steven Muller Distinguished Professorship of the Sciences was created in 2000 by the late Steven Muller, donor and former Chair of the College's Board of Trustees. The professorship, granted for a three-year term, honors a faculty member whose accomplishments are recognized as distinguished by peers in the field, and whose scholarly work informs opportunities for SMCM students. For 2022-2025, the awardee is **Geoffrey Bowers**, associate professor of chemistry.



**Christine Adams**, professor of history, was interviewed by Richard Levick for the podcast, "In House Warrior" to answer the question, "Is the U.S. Supreme Court the New Bastille?" In the interview, Adams compares the nearly 100 years of unsettled French governments more than a century ago to the current divisiveness in America and the transformation of American democratic institutions into authoritarian ones. The podcast aired on July 25.

Assistant Professor of Economics **Amanda Deerfield** has published a research article in the Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice journal called "Entrepreneurship and Regulatory Voids: The Case of Ridesharing." Drawing on public choice theory, Deerfield and co-author Niklas Elert, of the Research Institute of Industrial Economics in Sweden, hypothesized that regulatory freedom facilitates the introduction of legislation to fill regulatory voids when entrepreneurship, such as ridesharing, clashes with existing regulations.

Assistant Professor of Psychology **Anandi Ehman** and colleagues recently published an article titled, "Keyboard coercion: Online and face-to-face sexual aggression in a college sample" in the Journal of American College Health.

Assistant Professor of Psychology **Gili Freedman** and colleagues recently published an article entitled, "Emotional experiences of ghosting" in The Journal of Social Psychology. She was interviewed recently about the research she and her collaborators have done on ghosting in The New York Times Magazine. Visit the NYT online to read the article, "How to Recover from Being Ghosted." Freedman and colleagues

also recently published "The role of gender and safety concerns in romantic rejection decisions" in the Journal of Experimental Social Psychology.

Interim Provost **Katie Gantz** served as a senior administrator co-facilitator at the 2022 COPLAC Beard Leadership Circle at Sonoma State University in California. The focus of the three-day BLC summer institute was support for early- to mid-career department chairs/program directors from COPLAC member institutions. Gantz led a workshop for new department chairs and program coordinators and a session on leading with emotional intelligence.

**Cassie Gurbisz**, assistant professor of environmental studies, received funding from Maryland Sea Grant for a two-year project to study a type of algae known as cyanobacteria in the Chesapeake Bay. Gurbisz, in collaboration with scientists from the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science Horn Point Laboratory and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, will conduct field surveys, laboratory measurements, and simulation modeling experiments to determine why the cyanobacteria are expanding and how they are affecting bay grasses and nutrient cycling in the Susquehanna Flats region of the upper Bay. St. Mary's College students **Sam Muir '22** and **Zane Krissoff '23** assisted with the research this summer.

A large-scale exhibition of Professor of Art **Sue Johnson's** "Hall of Portraits from The History of Machines" was on view at 3S Artspace in Portsmouth, New Hampshire in June and July. The works were created during Johnson's residency in New York state funded through The Sam and Adele Golden Foundation with additional fellowship support from St. Mary's College of Maryland.





Professor of Anthropology **Julia King** with students in the College's anthropology lab.

Professor of Anthropology **Julia King** and Adjunct Instructor of Anthropology **Scott Strickland '08** were featured along with Chief Anne Richardson of the Rappahannock Tribe in the June 2022 edition of *American Archaeology Magazine*. "Rewriting the History of the Rappahannocks," written by Paula Neely, focuses on their work tracing the history and development of the Rappahannocks in early American history. King and Strickland first began studying the Rappahannock Tribe's history in 2016 at the request of the National Park Service's Chesapeake Bay Office, the Chesapeake Conservancy, and the Rappahannock Tribe. The work was undertaken to provide interpretive support for the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail.

**Pamela Mertz**, professor of biochemistry, helped lead a series of virtual multi-day workshops in May and June for BioMolViz, an NSF-funded project that focuses on developing resources to improve the pedagogy of biomolecular visualization. Mertz serves on the steering committee for BioMolViz and was recognized in 2021 as a BioMolViz Fellow. A central goal of the project is to create a repository of validated assessments that educators can use to evaluate students' visual literacy.

Associate Professor of Psychology **Scott Mirabile** was a co-presenter at a workshop of the Academics for Black Survival and Wellness (A4BL) annual training series in June. His presentation stemmed from a guide he has compiled for writing anti-racist tenure and promotion letters. The guide is currently under review for publication through eLife Sciences Publications Ltd.



**Kent Randell**, college archivist, received commendation from the Commissioners of St. Mary's County on May 24, 2022 with an Historic Preservation Service Award, for his research work on a manuscript about the Susquehanna estate and the families connected with it. Randell completed a six-year term on the St. Mary's County Historic Preservation Commission in 2021. The Susquehanna estate's history is documented in the St. Mary's College of Maryland Archives.

Assistant Professor of Biochemistry **Shanen Sherrer** participated in the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC) Summer Institute in June at the University of North Carolina, Asheville. This year's summer institute focused on women faculty in STEM and Sherrer presented a research poster co-authored by **Jacob B. Wellek '22** titled "Detection and Effects of Heavy Metal Cadmium on Metallothionein Proteins in Oysters (*Crassostrea virginica*)." This research was based on Wellek's senior capstone project in biochemistry.



Assistant Professor of Neurobiology **Daniel Tobiansky** was quoted in *Scientific American* in its July article, "Head-Banging Woodpeckers Could Give Themselves a Concussion Every Day: Here's How They Avoid It." Tobiansky is currently

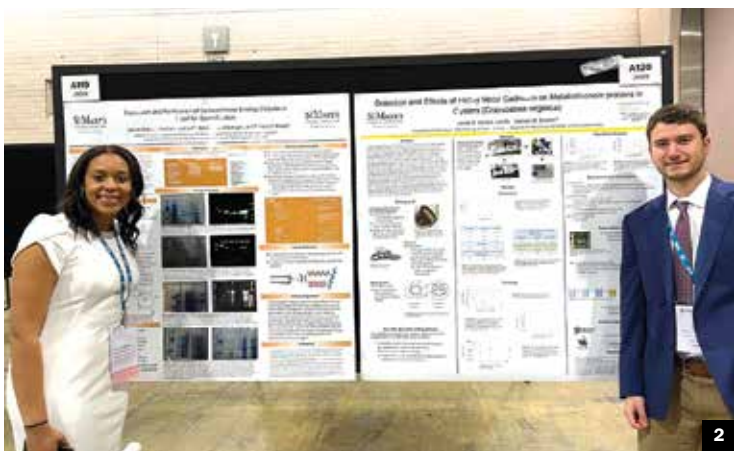
studying how woodpeckers avoid injury from repeated subconcussive collisions.

Assistant Professor of Biology **Lorena Torres-Martínez** and colleagues recently had their research work accepted for publication in the journal *Molecular Ecology*. The research team discovered that microbial mediation of plant stress can depend on the provenance of the soil microbes, on the genotype and evolutionary history. Together these findings indicate that evolutionary dynamics can shape the fate of coastal marsh ecosystems by modifying how microbes confer plant tolerance to pressures linked to global change.

**Antonio Ugues Jr.**, associate professor of political science and director of the Center for the Study of Democracy, was quoted in an article in *The Deseret News*, the longest-running news organization in Utah. In the article, Ugues says that "authoritarianism is not just on the rise, but really flexing its muscles." Read the online article (published July 25) at [www.deseret.com](http://www.deseret.com).

Five students from St. Mary's College comprised the winning team of the Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement (WISER) 2022 iOme Challenge national student essay competition. The student team of **Mary Claire Basso-Luca '23**, **Jazlyn Benitez '23**, **Peter Fortescue '22**, **Rachael Freeman '24** and **Kiya Rodriguez '22 [1]** was selected for "A Proposal to the 117th Congress for the Betterment of Retirement Savings." The team was advised by **Joshua Kaisan**, visiting assistant professor of economics and **Jennifer Tickle**, associate professor of psychology. The challenge question was to propose, as Gen Z'ers about to enter the workforce, a new perspective to the Independent Commission on Retirement Security





and to develop a plan with policies to improve the nation’s retirement system for all generations.

**Lauryn Ridley '22** (biochemistry/biology) and **Jakob Wellek '22** (biochemistry) [2] presented posters of their research at the annual spring conference of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in Philadelphia, Pa.

Seven seniors presented their research at the annual spring conference of the American Chemistry Society in San Diego, California. Back row: **Ny Luong '22** (biochemistry), **Aiden Lane '22** (chemistry), **Emma McNesby '22**, **Tabitha Fisanich '22**, **Juliana**

**Hancock '22**. Front row: **Cassie Block '22** (chemistry), **Katherine Riesner '22** (chemistry) [3].

St. Mary’s College students presented their work at the MD-DC-VA sectional conference of the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) held in Germantown, Maryland in April. **Gillian Carr '22** won the award for the best student presentation. The “Radical Dash” team of Carr, **Alyson Conover '22**, **Joseph Daly '24** and **Lucius Latham '22** took first place. The “Math Jeopardy” team of Carr, Conover and **Sawyer West '22** took second place. **Seth Cowall**, visiting assistant professor of mathematics, gave a talk on modeling plankton

booms and Associate Professor of Mathematics **Alex Meadows** gave an invited talk on his work with colleagues who included **Beth Thomas '21** [4].

Twenty-seven seniors and two juniors were inducted into the College’s Zeta Chapter of the Phi Beta Kappa academic honor society in April. Professor of English **Jennifer Cognard-Black** was inducted as an honorary member. **Catherine Carter '89** was inducted as an alumna member. The ceremony took place at the reconstructed State House of 1676 in Historic St. Mary’s City. Class of 2022 inductees: **Aubrey Bacon**, **Gracie Balzar**, **Sophie Carlson**, **Gillian Carr**,

**Aidan Christie**, **Astriana Evans**, **Tabitha Fisanich**, **Lauren Giron**, **Samuel Johnson**, **Megan Lane**, **Erin Lanham**, **Rachel Lansbury**, **Patrick Lee**, **Emma McNesby**, **Mary Katherine Meyers**, **Isabella Moutoux**, **Allyson Myers**, **Colette Nortman**, **Rebecca Raub**, **Victoria Richhart**, **Calvin Ryan**, **Caleb Shankle**, **Emilee Shannon**, **Andrew Sonnenberg**, **Lillian Stein**, **Dina Tuggle**, **Genna Viggiano**.  
Class of 2023 inductees: **April Fraser**, **Eleanor Pratt**.





TOP: Professor of Music **Jeff Silberschlag** with orchestra students in front of the Performing Arts Center in March. RIGHT: Professor of Music **Larry Vote** will conduct “Carmina Burana” to inaugurate the new auditorium on Sept. 24. ABOVE: The building complex was designed by The Gund Partnership (Cambridge, Mass.) and GWWO Architects (Baltimore, Md.) with Michael Vergason Landscape Architect (Alexandria, Va.). The construction manager is Holder Construction Company.



# Learning, Transformed

BY LEE CAPRISTO, EDITOR WITH MAURY SCHLESINGER, SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER

## The LIGHTS ARE ON in two transformational new College facilities: The Learning Commons and the Performing Arts Center.

The Learning Commons is a 16,291 gross-square-foot (GSF) building that houses the College's educational studies program on the second floor and a 24-hour study commons for campus students and café on the first floor. The Learning Commons building has four classrooms, a seminar room and a curriculum lab for use by educational studies students. In addition to several open areas for collaborative study, the Learning Commons has four small group study rooms, a medium-sized meeting room and a large conference room. The "Brew'd Awakening" café serves Starbucks coffee and provides ample seating for students, faculty and visitors to the College.

The Performing Arts Center is a 50,233 GSF building containing a 700-seat auditorium, a 125-seat recital hall and multiple studios, classrooms and rehearsal spaces for the College's music department. The auditorium is designed to provide concert-hall quality acoustics for musical performances, as well as the flexibility to accommodate a lecture, panel discussion, multimedia presentation or other ceremony or performance. The recital hall is also flexible, with telescopic tiered seating which can be retracted to provide a large room for dinners, receptions and other events. Multiple sound-isolated spaces provide locations for teaching or rehearsal for small groups or individuals, and specialized studios are provided for percussion, piano instruction and electronic music.



TOP: Learning Commons study area. MIDDLE: Brew'd Awakening coffee lounge. BOTTOM: Performing Arts Center auditorium

The Performing Arts Center building is designed to meet LEED Silver certification standards. It includes solar panels and electric vehicle charging stations. The grounds and landscaping outside the Learning Commons and the Performing Arts Center have been designed to exceed Maryland's strict stormwater management best practices. The landscaping features multiple rain gardens, a new Crescent Green lawn, a pine grove and a new academic courtyard with a bubbling fountain – these all serve together to create a new gathering place for students on the southeast side of campus.

The \$66 million dollar project was funded by the state of Maryland with additional private funds provided to the College from generous donors in a campaign that also saw the erection of the Jamie L. Roberts Stadium that opened in 2019.

## What's exciting about the new facilities?

Having moved into the Learning Commons in July with the newest Master of Arts in Teaching cohort, the educational studies faculty love the natural light flowing in the large windows of their new home. Students and faculty alike value the increased space. "We feel like we can stretch out in ways we've needed for ages," says **Katy Arnett**, professor and chair of educational studies and associate vice president of academic affairs. Likewise, colleagues from the science program in Goodpaster Hall, with whom educational studies previously shared space, look forward to the prospect of improved STEM lab facilities in the vacated space.

Integrated technology in the classrooms scores high with the educational studies faculty, from

dual displays in classrooms to integrated class capture. A valued asset retained from their former quarters is the ability to change room layouts easily to support different learning groups and needs.

Professor of Music and 41-year faculty member **Larry Vote** can't wait to make sound in the new Performing Arts Center. "I look forward to students having the opportunity to rehearse and perform in spaces that are designed with state-of-the-art performance values that can be felt and experienced by the performer and the audience."

**Jeanette Warren '20** had that opportunity. "During a private tour with the Alumni Council in fall of 2021, this music alumna couldn't resist letting a few high operatic notes fly!" she admits. "The resonance of the room resembles some of my most memorable moments singing with PING a cappella in massive, sacred spaces, like the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., or the Italian cathedrals at the Alba Music Festival. The music lingers in the room for what seems like forever - it's a truly moving experience."

"We know from the size of our outdoor crowds during the summer River Concert Series that the community is interested in the arts," says **Jeff Silberschlag**, professor of music and international conductor and trumpet soloist. "We are excited to have an indoor performance space that will enable us to be more expansive and visible."

Truly, the Performing Arts Center will be a regional asset. Not only will the College increase its arts programming to the public, but with the help of the center's manager, the College will work with the public on bookings when the venue is available.

## What's unusual about the new performing arts major and how will it be impactful for students?

With the new Performing Arts Center comes the new major in performing arts. The new major, with its three concentration areas of music, theater/dance/performance studies, and integrated performing arts, is intentional in its learning outcomes to prepare future performers with the professional skills they need to create in the post-pandemic, technology and social media-driven



ABOVE: *Rendering of the Performing Arts Center's recital hall.* RIGHT: *The Learning Commons as it looks today.*

marketplace. Faculty in music and theater collaborated on the integrated curriculum, combining the best features of existing programs in music and theater with courses in dance, sound and light design, stagecraft, scriptwriting, musical composition and arts administration to connect creative expression with professional skills needed to make a career in the performing arts.

When planning to create the performing arts major, faculty from music and from theater identified overlaps in their coursework that could be blended into a single, integrated course. For example, the senior capstone course for the performing arts major will focus on what professional skills are utilized by those who are successful in that field, drawing from examples in theater, music, dance and arts administration.

"The new major places an emphasis on students creating their own work," says **Amy Steiger**, associate professor of theater. "Our plan for theater is to balance work by established artists with student-created pieces, giving them a wide range of tools for thinking about and creating performing arts." She shares with her colleagues, she says, "a commitment to correcting historical inequities in the performing arts" along with the goal that

"students emerging from the program will be prepared not only to work within the field of their choice, but also to imagine ways to change the field for the better."

Silberschlag recognizes the need for the performing arts major at St. Mary's College. "We need to help students be prepared in skills that make a career," he explains. "For example, performing arts graduates should know how to write a grant. They should have gained experience during college in set design, video production, light design, vocal training for actors and sound design training for dancers. The cross-pollinating is not new but is newly intentional in the performing arts curriculum."

"If you look where our graduating students have gone on to work, in most cases they have had to engage in various types of media as part of their arts-related work," Silberschlag continues. "So while we have had great results in helping SMCM students get into graduate programs in music and arts-related work, we've not built media competency into their undergraduate coursework until now. Students have had internship experiences through the River Concert Series and plenty of performance experience, but not as much media and shop skills experience."





CHUCK STEENBURGH

He's right about having great results with alumni making successful careers in the arts. Among them:

**Sara Jones '98** is professor of jazz and commercial voice at Towson University in Towson, Maryland

**Dawn KasproW Wolski '98** is a soprano in Spokane, Washington and will be a featured soloist in "Carmina Burana" at SMCM on Sept. 24

**Jennifer Miller Hammel '01** is a classical music broadcaster in Los Angeles, California for KUSC radio

**Kate Northfield Lanich '06** is general manager of the Aspen Music Festival and School in Aspen, Colorado

**Matt Sargent '06** is a composer and on the faculty of Bard College in New York

**Chris Kallmyer '07** is a composer in Los Angeles, California

**Kelsey Ekker '11** is a program administrator in dramatic writing at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts in New York City

**Zach Silberschlag '11** is first trumpet with Hawaiian Symphony Orchestra

**Nick Hughes '12** is a freelance photographer and videographer specializing in music productions. This fall, he is teaching a class at SMCM on composing with computers (sound engraving).

**Liz Goldberg '13** is director of individual giving at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.

**Maura Glascock '15** is front of house manager at George Mason University's Center for the Arts in Fairfax, Virginia

**Amanda Durst '16** is assistant director at MusicWorks in Asheville, North Carolina

Vote says that the performing arts major maintains the ability for students to focus in their areas of music or theater but additionally asks them to consider issues that confront those in the performing arts whether they are performers, directors, administrators or stagecraft people. "For instance," he offers, "a musician will continue to take theory and history courses as well as studio and ensemble study, but that student will also be able to delve into a dance student's realm to understand the performance issues of both disciplines. This immersion into the issues of the performing arts will prepare students to enter the field as it evolves in the coming decades." ❖





# FATHER FRIEND NEIGHBOR COMMUNITY BUILDER

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PRESIDENT TUAJUANDA JORDAN CELEBRATED THE WORK AND LEGACY OF TRINITY

EPISCOPAL CHURCH'S REVEREND JOHN BALL WITH THE FOLLOWING REMARKS, GIVEN AT HIS  
RETIREMENT GATHERING AT HISTORIC ST. MARY'S CITY ON MAY 1, 2022.

"I'M PLEASED TO BE HERE TO CELEBRATE and honor our neighbor and friend, the Reverend John Ball.

John:

Joe Storey, retired St. Mary's College librarian and an active verger for Trinity who was a eucharistic minister years before your arrival, credits your easy manner with St. Mary's College students to your own college days, when you enjoyed the fellowship provided at a nearby parish. You have been intentional, year after year, with thousands of students, in being inviting and in building community.

You've said that we, the three "C"s — College, Church, Commission — are all led by interims: here and in charge for a time and then gone, handing over the reins to the next caretaker. As such, it is very important, you say, to maintain good relations between the three "C"s over the long haul. For 28 years, you have been a good Church neighbor to the several College and Commission leaders. That will be your lasting legacy, as an active and supportive community builder.

Countless students have walked, invited by you, through the Trinity churchyard, in search of the Hidden grave. You meet them with a smile and challenge them to find the dog and the mouse — also in the churchyard. You welcome them to walk the labyrinth, to enjoy Church Point



TOP: *John Ball with Joe Storey offering blessing during Sacred Journey event.* BOTTOM: *President Jordan with John Ball at his retirement gathering.* LEFT: *John Ball at Trinity Episcopal Church.*

with a bonfire and cans (not bottles) of refreshment, to sing in the choir, to play the church organ, to join Sunday evening prayer circle when Sunday morning services come too early.

Many students have benefited financially as well, from your efforts. You established an organ scholarship to pay for weekly services as well as organ lessons and transportation to/from Washington, D.C.'s National Cathedral. Trinity's choir, led

for years by the College's own Larry and Jeanne Vote, has been supported by paid section leaders who often are students from the College's music department.

I've heard from a few sources that you're a talented painter and that in retirement, you plan to do more painting. Yet, in the here and now, the beauty of the grounds of Trinity Church give witness to your artistic eye and aesthetic for beauty and harmony in nature. We, your neighbors in Calvert Hall, have appreciated an afternoon walk through the church yard in spring, enjoyed an al fresco lunch at the picnic table, solved problems while overlooking the river from the top of the hill, and sought quiet contemplation inside the church proper.

We have shared with the church the care of the former house of the rector over these past dozen or so years; we have negotiated easements, utility lines, parking lots. In all these transactions, you have been a good neighbor.

Thank you for being part of our Sacred Journey event this past November, celebrating and offering a blessing for the lives of those who toiled before us, whose lives and histories are just now being recognized.

Go in peace, good neighbor. Your next canvas awaits." ❖

**CONNECTICUT**

AN INTERVIEW

**THROUGH**

WITH RAMTIN ARABLOUEI

**HISTORY**

BY LEE CAPRISTO, EDITOR

MIKE MORGAN



# NG

# Ramtin Arablouei '05 is having a moment. The co-host and co-producer of NPR's "Throughline," a weekly podcast advertised as offering "history-reframing, perspective-shifting, time-warping stories you can't get enough of," earned a Peabody Award in June and was a Pulitzer Prize finalist in 2021.

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.

The Peabody Award recognized the podcast's three-part series, "Afghanistan: Center of the World"; the Pulitzer Prize finalist nod was for the episode "Soleimani's Iran." Arablouei says of the notoriety, "We were so grateful to be recognized. We want to widen people's views about news ... that's what the show is all about."

Arablouei and co-host, co-producer Rund Abdelfatah started "Throughline" as a two-person team in 2016. He credits their complementary skills and immeasurable pluck for their initial success. "I was really lucky to find a co-host who was as hungry as me," he says. "We were willing to put in the work to do it."

"We both started as producers at NPR, so we already had built the skillset around writing interview questions for the host to ask, writing scripts, telling a story, and then also sitting down with the audio and cutting it and manipulating it like a film editor would," Arablouei explains. "Scoring and sound design are elements we had already worked on. I'm a musician, so I brought

that skillset to it. But Rund is also a very talented engineer and sound designer. So we had so much skill that it was possible for us to do what usually five or six people would do with two."

Now at over 200 episodes, the pair has grown to a seven-person team that assists with production. So how does a single episode come together?

"Most people don't have a sense of how much work goes into each episode," Arablouei admits. "The average episode takes about seven to eight weeks from when it gets green lit to when it airs. And most of that process is in pre-production: researching, identifying guests, booking the guests, interviewing the guests. That usually takes about four to five weeks."

"The last three to four weeks is spent in actual production, taking all of the things you've gathered -- the archival tape, the interview tape, any auxiliary tape, along with sound design -- and sitting down and crafting the story, writing the script, establishing all of the other kind of storytelling things you need to make the show."



Not surprisingly, Arablouei describes the effort this way: “It’s really intense. It’s a lot of work. It’s definitely taken years off my life.” But he counters the toll by reflecting, “I had this goal always of doing something that would make a difference in the world, but also something that was special. I’ve worked lots of jobs, I’ve grinded a long time to get where I am. I’m very lucky to be able to create for a living. I’m super thankful.”

“The booking of guests, setting up interviews, writing first drafts of interview questions -- the entry level work of a producer -- we don’t do much of that now that our staff is bigger,” says Arablouei. “In terms of the writing, the creative side of it, the music and sound design, I’m still doing a lot of that and Rund is as well. But we’re trying to take a step back from the constant grind of production so that we can think a little bit bigger because there are other opportunities that have come our way, and we know that the interest will only last so long so we want to take advantage of the opportunities while we can.” Books and a televised show are possible options.

The graphic mark for the podcast is a series of uneven, incomplete circles of string, offering the idea is that this is a sense of time. Humans have ways to make connections/meanings/themes over time. “We’re constantly living under the shadow of factors that are outside of our control, whether it’s the environment or other human-made factors,” Arablouei offers. “Ultimately, we’re all born into this world, living under circumstances we didn’t create and we’re having to deal with them every single day. And I think that gives me empathy, not just for people who are living now, but people who’ve lived in the past. It makes me want to be less judgmental of people who lived in the past. I hope people walk away from the show feeling a little bit more connected

---

*Ramtin with his longtime co-host and co-producer of “Throughline” Rund Abdelfatah*



MIKE MORGAN

**“The professors were young (in their 30s) and they hung out with us. They had a certain kind of energy; they’d show genuine interest in the things that we were doing.”**





“My love for history came from **Garrey Dennie**. His course on Latin American Revolutions was incredible. He’d come in and give lectures with no notes. He was amazing!”

“Meeting Lucille Clifton changed my life,” Arablouei declares of the National Book Award winning poet-in-residence whose classes he joined initially as a way to use up electives. “She literally rewired my brain. What I learned from her is art: how to take the experiences of your life and turn them into some kind of creative outlet for yourself. I learned that from her.”

Arablouei’s classmate and longtime friend **Padma Soundararajan ’05** says that of all the “Throughline” episodes, the one that is “SO Ramtin!” in her view is #173, “There are no Utopias” (aired 2/24/22). She quotes his line, “The secret to capitalism’s survival is racism – an idea that might make many people in the U.S., regardless of their political affiliation – uncomfortable” as one that reminds her of what her friend did in classes at SMCM, which was to ask the unspoken question that no one else felt comfortable asking. Arablouei agrees with that assessment. “I’ve always been a bit of a contrarian,” he says. “My mind always goes to what’s NOT being asked.” An Iranian-born Muslim whose family emigrated to the U.S.

when he was a young child, Arablouei says that his family always talked politics at home and encouraged debate. “When I was in the fourth or fifth grade,” he remembers, “I read a book about Malcom X and it made me so mad I refused to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.” His teacher called Arablouei’s dad and the young Arablouei was informed that dissent at home was OK but not at school.

In 2008, it was Arablouei who responded when a tragic accident took the lives of Soundararajan’s parents and two sisters and gravely injured her two brothers while vacationing in India. He was the one who dropped everything and accompanied Soundararajan to India to deal with the aftermath and help bring her brothers back to the U.S. “I didn’t want to go,” Arablouei recalls. “I had to step up and go because there was no one else that would do it. I was young and feeling like I wanted to help my friend and be there for my friend.”

“And what an example she set over the years for many of us of what it means to be resilient, what it means to find joy,” he continues. “My band (Drop Electric) made an album around that time. It was our first album together. And it was really about her. I was channeling that experience and what she was going through.

We titled the album ‘Finding Color in the Ashes’ because that’s what she did. She found something really beautiful out of this tragedy and she lives an amazing, beautiful life.”

That singular experience made them like family and that bond continues today between their respective families, all living in and around Gaithersburg, Maryland. A favorite place to gather is at Dosa & Chaat, the restaurant where Soundararajan’s husband is owner and head chef.

“One of the things about American history that we try to poke holes in on ‘Throughline’ is the existence of the good old days,” Arablouei puts forth. “We contend that there was no era where everything was perfect and everyone was getting along and things were looking great.” He adds, “These are things that we have to constantly work towards; there is no utopia, there’s only struggle. And struggle is there to make things better. I know that may leave some people feeling hopeless, but it makes me feel hopeful because it feels like there’s always something to work for. And work is good for you. It’s good for your soul, that there’s always potential for something better ahead.”

Indeed. ❖

**That close relationship is one thing that made St. Mary’s College so special.”**

# ALUMNI CONNECTION

## CLASS NOTES

### 1970s

**Garner Morgan '76** received the 2022 Distinguished Public Service Alumni Award from the University of Maryland School of Dentistry on June 3. The award recognized his dedication to providing excellent dental care to those most in need. Over the years, Dr. Morgan helped organize more than 40 Mission of Mercy events throughout Maryland, providing necessary oral health care to thousands of uninsured and underserved Marylanders. He founded the Southern Maryland Mission of Mercy. Dr. Morgan opened his dental practice in Mechanicsville, Maryland, in 1980 after graduating from the College of Dental Surgery at the University of Maryland Baltimore campus. The practice is now owned by his son, Dr. Luke Morgan. Garner and his wife Mary live in Avenue, Maryland.

### 1980s

**Christopher Carter '82** was appointed by Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson to fill the vacant district judge position of the 10th District Court of Arkansas, which covers twelve courts in Baxter and Marion counties in north central Arkansas.

**Jeannie Howe '82** was recognized as a Top 20 Real-LIST Connector in Baltimore, Maryland, by the publication Technical.ly, which compiles an annual list of “changemakers” who support technology,



entrepreneurship and business communities. Jeannie is the executive director of the Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance, where she connects over 300 artists and organizations to resources across the city of Baltimore.

### 1990s

**Alicia Loar Vanisko '90** received her doctorate of ministry in May of 2021. Her thesis explored the intersection of art and theology using poetry as a contemporary form of Christian midrash to uncover silenced voices in scripture. Rev. Dr. Alicia Vanisko currently resides in Ellicott City, Maryland.



**Leigh Kessler '95 [1]** and a group of fellow alumni held 69 straight Zoom happy hours starting in March of 2020. The group reconvened for a virtual New Year's Eve celebration in 2021, which included (clockwise from upper left in photo) **Tabitha Fisanich '22, Forrest Fisanich '91, Melissa Harren Fisanich '90, John Kopec '95, Sarah Cole Steinberg '92, Jon Steinberg '94, Leigh Kessler '95, Mary Chamberlain, Alex Coltery '94, Jillian Levine-Sisson and Scott McCormick '95.**

**Nichole Blancato Opkins '99** was recently appointed to the bench as an administrative law judge for the District of Columbia's Office of Administrative Hearings. Before taking the bench, Judge Opkins spent the last seven years as senior counsel to Ward 6 D.C. Council Member Charles Allen. Her primary responsibility was to advise the council member on legislative and judicial policy. She regularly represented the office by working with residents, business owners, first responders, advocacy groups and colleagues throughout the district government. In her new role, Judge Opkins de-

cides appeals from government decisions involving unemployment compensation, public benefits, public space and health and safety code violations.

### 1990s

**Rod Cofield '03** is the new executive director of Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum (JPPM) in Saint Leonard, Maryland. Situated along the Patuxent River on more than 500 acres, JPPM has miles of hiking trails, a visitor center, educational programs and events. Rod served for the past nine years as executive director of Historic London Town and Gardens in Edgewater, Maryland. He has been a

visiting instructor at SMCM in museum studies. He holds a master's degree in liberal arts from St. John's College.

**John Heltman '05 [2]** was named Washington bureau chief for American Banker in February of 2022 after recently serving as executive editor of American Banker Magazine. He also hosts “Bankshot,” a narrative financial podcast, which was recognized by the Society for Advancing Business Editing and Writing in 2020. He lives in Baltimore with his wife and children.

**Troy Townsend '07** was named a 2022 Maryland Outstanding Young Scientist by the Maryland Academy of Sciences

One summer afternoon in 2018, Grace and Ella Wobensmith, daughters of SMCM Board Treasurer **John C. Wobensmith '93**, found a badly injured turtle at a beach near their Sag Harbor, New York home. The diamondback terrapin had two serious cuts on its shell and, they would learn later, a punctured lung. John located a turtle-rescue facility in nearby Jamesport, Turtle Rescue of the Hamptons, Inc., and he and the girls delivered “Lilly” that same day. Treatment for the estimated 25-year-old terrapin included pain medication, oxygen, antibiotics and a shell bracket to enable her shell to heal. After four years' recovery, in July 2022, John got a call from the facility saying that Lilly was ready to be released. Her rescuers, Grace and Ella, now 9 and 12 years old, chose the release location and were the ones to return Lilly to the wild.





and the Maryland Science Center. He was honored at a ceremony on May 11 at the Maryland Science Center in Baltimore's Inner Harbor. The Outstanding Young Scientist and Outstanding Young Engineer awards are bestowed on scientists who are 35 years old or younger working in academia and 40 years old or younger working in other sectors. Award recipients are chosen by members of the Maryland Academy of Sciences' Scientific Advisory Council. Troy is an associate professor of chemistry at St. Mary's College of Maryland and is founder of the College's material science program.

## 2010s

**Sean Gugerty '11 [3]** was named a partner at the Goodell DeVries law firm in January of 2022 as a member of the medical malpractice and appellate law practice group. His practice focuses on defending health care providers and institutions in medical malpractice claims before the Health Care Alternative Dispute Office of Maryland, circuit courts of Maryland, appellate courts of Maryland, the Superior Court of Washington, D.C., and federal courts.

**Laura Mateczun '11** published "Cybersecurity and Local Government" (Wiley Publishing) in April of 2022 along with co-authors from the University of Maryland: Baltimore County.



**Michael Menninger '11**, of Newport Beach, California, was recently named to the U.S. sailing team preparing for the 37th edition of the America's Cup to be held in 2024 in Barcelona, Spain. While attending St. Mary's College, Menninger was named a three-time All American, two-time National Champion and was twice a finalist for College Sailor of the Year. Menninger continued

to excel in his sport after St. Mary's College as he is a Match Racing World Champion, Team Racing World Champion and Etchells World Champion. Menninger is a former helmsman of the Red Bull Youth America's Cup and has sailed with 11th Hour Racing Team aboard the Imoca 60 for a transatlantic crossing. He is also a two-time Governor's Cup winner (US Youth Match Racing Championship).

**Lauren Bennett '12** was recognized as one of fifty influential women in South Florida sports in the Miami Herald article, "A look at 50 years of Title IX through 50 influential women in South Florida sports," published June 24, 2022. Lauren was named the first-ever coach of the Keiser University

women's lacrosse program in 2016 and has since led the team to four NAIA national tournaments, three mid-south regular season championships and two mid-south tournament championships. In 2021, she made history by leading Keiser to the region's first-ever national title for a women's lacrosse team. In 2018 and 2021, she was named an NAIA and IWFLCA Coach of the Year. Lauren received her master's degree in college athletic administration from Coker College in 2014.

**Lauren Taylor '14** is the assistant director of early engagement at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Lauren previously worked for St. Mary's College as the associate director of alumni relations.



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**Michelle Klima '14** recently graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a PhD in neuroscience, where she studied how brain circuits controlling feeding behavior can be leveraged to reduce pain and inflammation without the use of opioids. She is currently working as a consultant in the Philadelphia office of the Boston Consulting Group.

**Katherine "Kate" Brennan '15** graduated from Pratt Institute's School of Information in May of 2022 with a master of science in museums and digital culture. Her focus was on archives and digital collection management. Kate is currently working as the membership and data coordinator for the American Booksellers Association. She resides in New York

and is training for the 2023 New York marathon, having already completed the Brooklyn Half.

**Alice Mutter '15** was recently promoted to senior attorney for family law at Maryland Legal Aid. She practices out of the Rockville office, where she represents low-income Marylanders in family, housing and consumer law cases. Alice obtained her law degree in 2018 from American University Washington College of Law and went on to serve as a law clerk for the judges of the Montgomery County District Court before joining Maryland Legal Aid as a staff attorney.

**Erin Chase Daneker '16** was recently promoted to serve as Governor Larry Hogan's liaison to the Board of Public Works.

The board consists of the governor, comptroller and treasurer and is responsible for reviewing and approving capital projects and procurement contracts, as well as the acquisition, use and transfer of state assets.

**Valerie Gregorio '19** was selected as a state finalist in the Miss Maryland USA 2022 pageant. She competed for the crown at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center in Rockville, Maryland in May of 2022.

**2020s**

**Caitlin Hall '22** and **Samuel Johnson '22** were invited speakers in May to Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum in St. Leonard, Maryland. Each



spoke about their senior capstone research. Caitlin's research focused on the Piscataway during 1600-1700 C.E. An anthropology and history double major with a minor in museum studies, she plans to pursue a dual master's degree in applied anthropology and historic preservation. Samuel's research included a full translation and in-depth analysis of

Elizabethan shipwright Matthew Baker's manuscript on ancient English shipbuilding. A history major and Phi Beta Kappa scholar, he will spend a gap year working on historic wooden sailing ships before pursuing graduate studies in the United Kingdom.

**Megan Varlotta '22 [4]** commenced employment as the human resources coordinator for the Marriott in Baltimore right after graduation. During her time at St. Mary's College, Megan served as a member and president of the SAGE student leadership organization piloted by the Office of Alumni Relations. She also completed a human resources internship with Alumni Council secretary **Sara Kidd Shanklin '11**.



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1

KIM DEBOY '99



2

LISA ZIESING WITH ABBY JIU PHOTOGRAPHY



3

## MARRIAGES & UNIONS

**Kathleen Kennedy '08** and **Thomas Brewer '05** [1] were married on May 14, 2022 in Crownsville, Maryland. **Sarah Weisse Featherstone '09**, **Jill Bradley Palmore '09** and **Rebecca Duvall Gleason '09** were bridesmaids. **Nick Pennington '05** was the best man, and **David Sushinsky '02**, **Larry Langley '10** and **Jay Turen '11** were groomsmen. Over 40 alumni were in attendance, including the groom's parents, **Marian Bolton Brewer '79** and **Tom Brewer '81**. Kathleen and Thomas were introduced to each other by fellow alumni while celebrating **Harold Lee '95** at the Green Door in 2019.

**Thomas Barnes '10** and **Megan Thompson** [2] were married on April 2, 2022 at the Larz Anderson House in Washington, D.C. **Teddy Bisrat '11**, **Andrew Foster '11** and **Chris Bouslog '12** were groomsmen.



4

MORGAN FATJO

**Bryan Snell '08**, **Benard Agyingfi '10** and **Chris Rodkey '10** MAT '11 were in attendance. The couple honeymooned in South Africa and currently reside in Alexandria, Virginia.

**Verioska Jaatsy Torres Tominack '11** [3] and **Mark Davis Tominack** were married on July 1, 2022 during a small civil ceremony in Historic Annapolis, Maryland. They celebrated with their parents as witnesses

and enjoyed a luncheon at Reynolds Tavern and 1747 Pub after the ceremony. They are expecting a daughter in August.

**Amanda Zelaya Walsh '12** and **Bryan Walsh** [4] were married on March 14, 2020, with a ceremony occurring on October 9, 2021 at the Tabard Inn in Washington, D.C. **Anna Weaver '12** was the maid of honor. The couple honeymooned in Santorini and



5

MICHAEL HALLER PHOTOGRAPHY

Athens, Greece, and currently reside in Shenyang, China.

**Briana Manente '12** and **Tobias Franzén '13** [5] were married on December 19, 2021 in Frederick, Maryland. **Nicholas Huber '13**, **Kaylie Jasinski Huber '14**, **Christopher Murk '12** and **Michael Jerome Hullett '13** were in attendance. Bri and Toby met playing spouses in the 2009 production of "Arms and The Man," directed by

Professor Emeritus of Theater **Michael Ellis-Tolaydo** at St. Mary's College of Maryland. The couple recently purchased their first home in Hyattsville, Maryland, where they reside with their cats, Samwise and Pamplemousse, and dogs, Bayley and Boba.



**Lyndsay Fournier Duffey '12** and Patrick Duffey [6] were married on April 2, 2022 in Little Rock, Arkansas. **Kimmy Tate Consiglio '12** was the matron of honor, and **Jessy Schroeder '12** was a bridesmaid. **Megan Lantz Krzys '11**, **Megan Anderson '11**, **Erika Schmitt Hammerlund '12**, **Adrienne Gordon '12**, **Anna Weaver '12** and **Andy Krzys '13** were in attendance. The couple reside in Little Rock, Arkansas.

**Natalie Ulrick Schinse '14 MAT '15** and Jared Schinse [7] were married on November 13, 2021 in Pasadena, Maryland. **Kaitlyn Lindsay Bell '14 MAT '15** was the maid of honor. **Madeleine Fryzek '14**, **Amanda Squires Delgado '14 MAT '15** and **Mia Bullock '14 MAT '15** were bridesmaids. The couple reside in Nampa, Idaho.

**Johanna Laue Coe '14** and **Sam Coe '14 [8]** were married on May 15, 2021 in Towson, Maryland. **Bobby Stouffer '14** was the best man. **Scott Marsh '13 MAT '14** and **Scott McInerney '14** were groomsmen, and **Hannah Coe '13** was a bridesmaid. The couple honeymooned in Asheville, North Carolina. They currently reside in Towson, Maryland, where Sam works in operations for Brown Advisory and Johanna works as a travel nurse in Baltimore.



**Nicole Hylton '17** and **Ryan Vreeland '18 [9]** were married on June 4, 2022 at the Carriage House in Columbia, Maryland. **Chris Hylton '19** was a groomsman. **Julia Andreas '17** and **Heather Wood Williams '17** were bridesmaids. Many other alumni were also in attendance. Nicole and Ryan met on the SMCM Greece Study Tour in 2016. They currently reside in Flagstaff, Arizona, where Nicole is pursuing a master's degree in creative writing from Northern Arizona University and Ryan works as a software developer for PNC Bank.



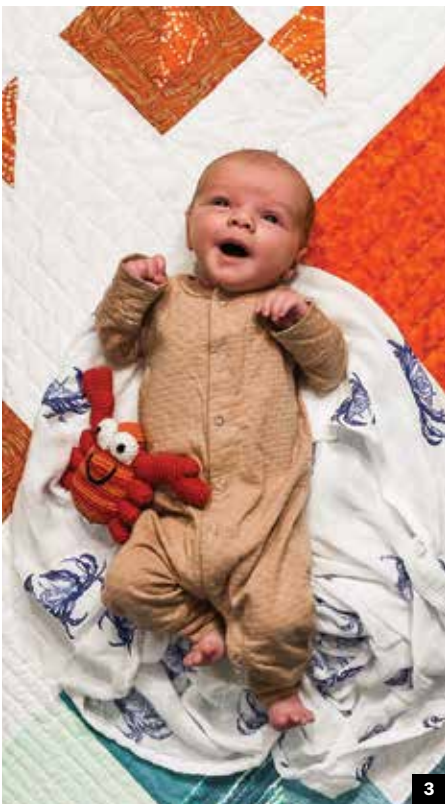




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## BIRTHS & ADOPTIONS

**Kaitlyn Grigsby-Hall '11** and **Shane Hall '09 [3]** welcomed a son, Jonah Izaak, on December 29, 2021. The family resides in Salisbury, Maryland.

**Elizabeth Keesler Landrum '14** and husband Ben **[4]** welcomed a daughter, Mahaley Rosalee, on August 26, 2021. The family resides in Albemarle, North Carolina.

**Tamara Dean Garner '04 [1]** welcomed a grandson, Dante Leon, on January 1, 2022. Dante was born on his grandfather's birthday, and both gentlemen share being the first births of the year at St. Mary's Hospital in Leonardtown, Maryland. Samantha Garner and Tony Childers are the proud parents.

**Doria MacKenzie Frazier '05** and husband Trent **[2]** welcomed a daughter, Finley Parker, on October 26, 2021. The family resides in Alexandria, Virginia.

IN MEMORIAM

**Dorothy “Dottie” Niedfeldt Murphree ’47JC** died on April 14, 2022 at the age of 96. She obtained her associate’s degree in 1947 from the St. Mary’s Seminary Junior College and remained active in the Alumni Association after graduation. She served six years on the St. Mary’s Seminary Alumni Council in addition to volunteer work with the Girl Scouts of America, Sibley Memorial Hospital and Good Shepherd United Methodist Church.

**Lawrence “Larry” Raymond Crum, Jr. ’71** died on April 27, 2022 at the age of 75. He studied history at St. Mary’s College and retired from government

employment at Pax River Naval Air Station in 2012. Larry is survived by his wife, **Virginia “Jenny” Buckler Crum ’66JC**, along with many other loving family members.

**James “Jim” Francis Wible Jr. ’75** died on January 24, 2022 at the age of 72. He studied English literature at St. Mary’s College, serving as editor of the College newspaper and graduating with honors in 1975. Afterwards, he became a talented graphic designer for newspapers, government contractors, the United States military, NASA and the U.S. President’s Office. Jim is survived by many loving family members and is dearly missed by his fellow 70s alumni.

**Ward Shortridge ’86** died in December of 2019 at the age of 59 after a long battle with muscular dystrophy. Ward earned a master’s degree in social work several years after graduation and cultivated an interest in photography. Throughout the late 90s and early 2000s, Ward captured street portraits in the Dupont Circle area of Washington, D.C., and in 2009 moved to Oregon where he continued to pursue social work and photography. Ward was recently honored at the Blue Sky Gallery in Portland, Oregon, with the retrospective exhibition, “Beauty That Thrives Under the Ravages of Time.” Blake Andrews of Oregon Artswatch writes of the exhibition, “Ward Shortridge had a knack for capturing people authentically and

generously. His photographs on view at Blue Sky Gallery showcase his ability to see right into people’s hearts.”

**Gregory “Greg” Scott Brow ’91** died on November 28, 2021 at the age of 52. He was the valedictorian of the St. Mary’s College Class of 1991 and went on to become a top ten graduate of his law school class at University of North Carolina: Chapel Hill. Greg spent his entire career as a commercial litigator in the Dentons Atlanta office (formally McKenna Long & Aldridge), where he handled trials, arbitrations and appeals in Georgia and throughout the U.S. He joined McKenna Long & Aldridge in 1996 as an associate and became a partner in 2004.

**Anne Grulich ’03** of Durango, Colorado, died on March 6, 2022 at the age of 68. Anne was a member of the staff of the College for many years, earning her undergraduate degree as a nontraditional student. She went on to earn a master’s degree in American studies with material culture and museum studies certificates from the University of Maryland. She later worked in museums in Maryland, Maine, New Mexico and Colorado.

**Robert Altimus Rust ’06** died in a car accident on February 21, 2022 at the age of 37. After studying biology at St. Mary’s College, Robert moved to Jackson, Wyoming, to work as a fly-fishing guide at Brooks Lake Lodge. A lover of all

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The St. Mary’s College of Maryland Foundation Annual Report can be found online. You may read it and download it at [www.smcm.edu/mulberrytree](http://www.smcm.edu/mulberrytree) or contact the Office of Institutional Advancement for assistance at **240-895-4282**.

The  
**NATIONAL  
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 College

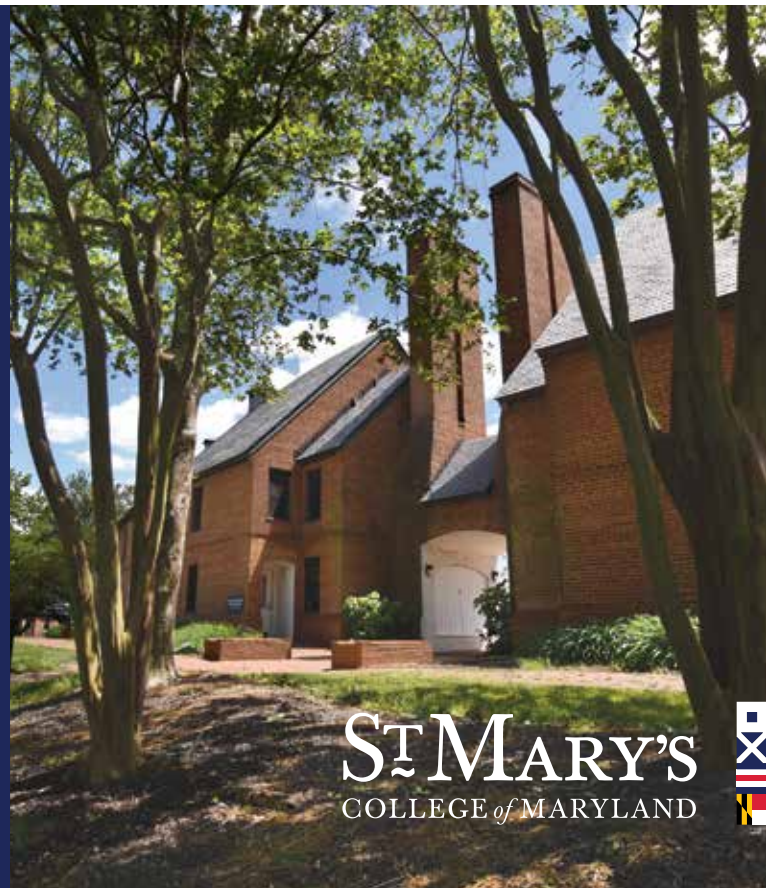






PHOTO CREDIT

things outdoors, he spent many years managing Pepi Stiegler's ski shop in Teton Village while exploring the mountain ranges of the midwest. In 2018, Robert received a master's degree from the University of Wyoming, where he received accolades for his studies in paleoecology. Afterwards, he worked at a land trust in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and at a wildfire mitigation nonprofit in Montrose, Colorado.

**Sara Ann Browne** of Lexington Park, Maryland, died on December 18, 2021 at the age of 26. To pursue her passion of helping others, Sara received two associate degrees in arts and science and social science right after high school. She attended St. Mary's College from 2020-2021 and was a lifelong resident of St. Mary's County.

**Professor of Music David Froom** died on June 19, 2022 after a months-long battle with cancer. David earned his doctorate from Columbia University, after which he spent a year at Cambridge University on a Fulbright Grant. He joined the faculty at St. Mary's College in 1989 and for 33 years was an invaluable member of the College's music department, helping to bring it to national prominence. David's wife, Eliza Garth, said he was surrounded by his loving family.

**Jeffery "Jeff" T. Ranta**, senior network security administrator for the College's Office of Information Technology, died on June 9, 2022 at the age of 44. A graduate of St. Mary's Ryken High School, Jeff worked in information technology at the College for 22 years. He oversaw a multitude of projects such as WiFi upgrades, campus network improvements, and the implementation of the new

Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) campus wide phone enhancements. His impact on improving the campus IT network is his legacy. His family says he enjoyed everything related to computers, both at work and at home and he loved to share that knowledge with those around him, especially his nephews.

# STAYING A STEP AHEAD TO PRESERVE THE PAST

BY KENT RANDELL, COLLEGE ARCHIVIST

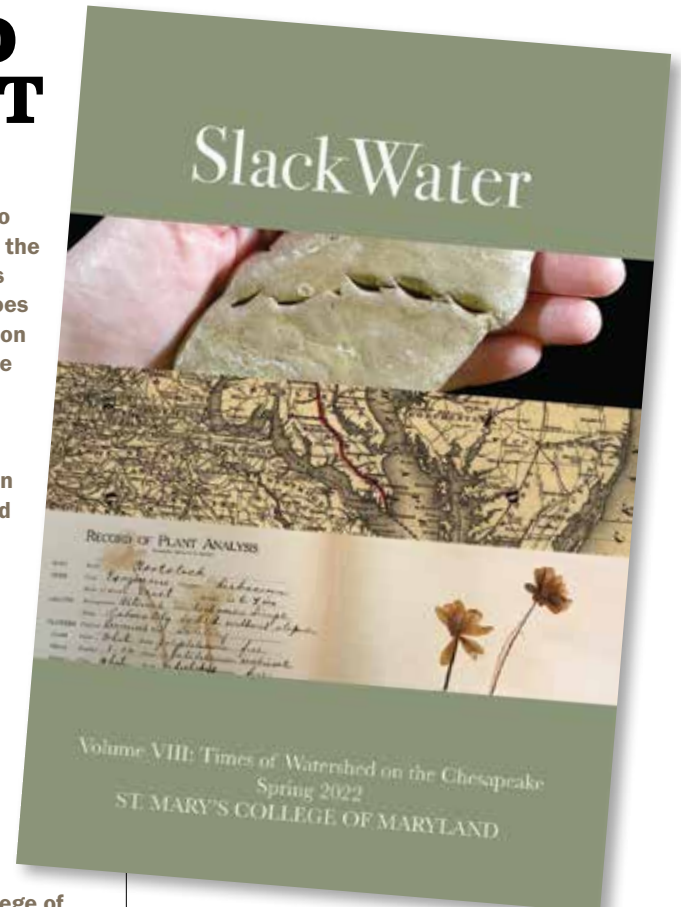
Capturing oral histories creates an extraordinary opportunity to record history as it happens.

The SlackWater oral history collection of the College Archive has been growing steadily since the return of SMCM's "Cultural Journalism" course in 2017. Since that time, 136 new interviews have been added to the collection, bringing the total to nearly 900. This summer Jay Moug '25, a Sullivan Scholar in the museum studies program, conducted interviews with members of the St. Mary's County and SMCM communities concerning radical events that have impacted our nation during the past two years, from the pandemic to political unrest.

By navigating to the College Archive's website (<https://library.smcm.edu/archives/>) and clicking Online Collections, SlackWater Oral History Archive, almost 500 transcripts are available for public viewing. Some recent additions include interviews collected by students of "Introduction to Archives," including one with Great Mills High School History Teacher Kyle Blackiston '14 MAT '15 and another with Gertrude Hunter, who describes growing up in Baltimore during segregation. Finally, interviews from Sam Baldwin's John Hanson Briscoe oral history project have been added, including U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-Md), former Maryland Governor Harry Hughes, and former longtime Maryland Senate President Thomas V. "Mike" Miller.

Oral histories carry with them audio preservation concerns, both within the analog world of magnetic tapes, as well as the electronic realm of zeroes and ones. To combat the degradation of analog cassette tapes, we create digital backups. Almost 750 of the oral histories, about 85% of them, have digital audio assets. Another challenge is the digital preservation concern due to the degradation and "laser rot" of CD-Rs and DVD-Rs. With the help of a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council, all of the digital oral history data on loose media in the College Archive has been backed up on mirrored terabyte hard drives.

Having all of the digital files in one discreet place helps in aiding partner organizations. The local United Committee for Afro-American Contributions (UCAC) partnered with SMCM and the College of Southern Maryland to preserve its oral history collection, and recently a backed-up and described copy of all digital assets was assembled and given to the UCAC. Under the archival principal of LOCKSS (Lots of Copies Keeps Stuff Safe), the entirety of the College's oral history collection will be preserved at the State Archives in Annapolis. Patrons of the State Archives will be able to view and listen to public parts of the College's oral history collection.



*The spring 2022 issue of SlackWater. The journal is the published format of oral histories collected by SMCM students as part of their "Cultural Journalism" course. SlackWater is directed by Jerry Gabriel, assistant professor of English.*



# Calendar of Events

**Boyden Gallery Exhibition  
Emotion in Action: The Sports  
Photography of Bill Wood**

August 29 – November 19

**Opening Reception**

September 7 @ 7:30 p.m.

*Boyden Gallery, Montgomery Hall*

**Psychology Lecture Series with  
David Chester**

September 8 @ 11:20 a.m.

*Goodpaster Hall, Room 195*

**Center for the Study of  
Democracy Hosts Constitution  
Day Lecture with Neal Katyal**

September 16 @ 7 p.m.

*Auerbach Auditorium of St. Mary's Hall*

**Admission Open House**

September 17 @ 10 a.m.

**Grand Opening Celebration for  
the Performing Arts Center (PAC)  
& Learning Commons**

Saturday, September 24

11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

*PAC Lawn*

1– 2 p.m. Musical Performance  
of “Carmina Burana”

*PAC Auditorium*

7:30 – 9 p.m. Average White

Band Concert

*PAC Auditorium*

**Center for the Study of  
Democracy Hosts Taisez-Vous:  
Artist/Activist Mark Harris**

September 26 @ 1 p.m.

*Kent Hall, Room 120*

**Media Literacy, Civic  
Engagement & Democracy  
Project: Brandi Collins-Dexter  
“Misinformation and BIPOC  
Communities in America”**

September 27 @ 5 p.m.

*Glendening Annex*

**Center for the Study of  
Democracy Hosts the Gwen Ifill  
Lecture with Maria Hinojosa**

October 4 @ 7 p.m.

*Auerbach Auditorium of St. Mary's Hall*

**Presidential Lecture Series:  
Constitutional Panel to include  
Jelani Cobb and Bill Kristol**

October 7 @ 7 p.m.

*Performing Arts Center Auditorium*

**Hawktoberfest & Family  
Weekend**

October 14-15

**Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar:  
Wendy Wall**

October 20 @ 7:30 p.m.

*Daugherty-Palmer Commons*

**Admission Open House**

October 22 @ 10 a.m.

**Admission Open House**

November 12 @ 10 a.m.

**Giving Tuesday**

November 29

**Martin Luther King Jr.  
Celebration**

January 16

**Awards Convocation**

April 14

**Commencement**

May 13

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.



*Average White Band*

## **Let's Celebrate!**

Helping us to celebrate the grand opening of our Performing Arts Center, multi-platinum and Grammy-nominated R&B/soul superstars Average White Band will perform live in concert from 7:30 - 9 p.m. on Saturday, September 24. These 70's chart-toppers are still going strong, with new releases complimenting their classic smash hits like "Pick Up the Pieces," "Schoolboy Crush," and "Cut the Cake."

Join us for the free opening ceremony production of "Carmina Burana" directed by Professor of Music Larry Vote at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 24. See inside back cover for details.