

*Greetings from*  
**BELGIUM**



*Greetings from*  
**ITALY**



*Greetings from*  
**LONDON**  
*United Kingdom*



*Greetings from*  
**TASMANIA**



**ST MARY'S**  
COLLEGE of MARYLAND

*The National Public Honors College*

*The*  
**MULBERRY**  
**TREE**

**ALUMNI FAR & NEAR**





ST. MARY'S COLLEGE  
*of Maryland*

# *The* **MULBERRY TREE**

WINTER 2023, VOL. XLIV, NO. 1

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

*Editor*

Lee Capristo

*Alumni News Editor*

Jeanette Warren '20

*Design*

Jensen Design

*Editorial Board*

Karen Anderson,

Molly McKee-Seabrook '10,

Karen Raley '94,

Olivia Sothoron '21

Chuck Steenburgh

*Publisher*

Office of Institutional Advancement

St. Mary's College of Maryland

47645 College Drive

St. Mary's City, Maryland 20686

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

The magazine is named for the famous mulberry tree under which the Calvert colonists signed a treaty of friendship with the Yaocomico people and on the trunk of which public notices were posted in the mid-1600s. The tree endured long into the 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.

Copyright 2023

The opinions expressed in *The Mulberry Tree* are those of the individual authors and not necessarily those of the College. The editor reserves the right to select and edit all material.

Manuscripts and letters to the editor are encouraged and may be addressed to Editor, *The Mulberry Tree*, St. Mary's College of Maryland, 47645 College Drive, St. Mary's City, MD 20686.

Photographs and illustrations may not be reproduced without the express written consent of St. Mary's College of Maryland.



BX\_F5EFE76DEECA

St. Mary's College has offset 10,000 pounds of paper used to produce this issue by planting 120 trees in the U.S.





# CONTENTS

WINTER 2023

## ST. MARY'S COLLEGE OF MARYLAND

July 2022 — June 2023

### ALUMNI COUNCIL

#### Executive Board

Alice Arcieri Bonner '03,  
*president*  
Kate Fritz '04, *exec. vice president*  
Sean Floyd '06, *vice pres. of operations*  
Sara Kidd Shanklin '11,  
*secretary*  
Kevin Roth '93,  
*parliamentarian*  
John Ahearn '76, *treasurer*  
Erin O'Connell '91, *vice pres. of chapter activities*  
Michele Shipley '92, *vice pres. of affinity networks*

#### Elected Voting Members

Aman Afash '16  
Matt Baden '11  
Kenneth Benjes '11  
Thomas Brewer '05  
Paul Broccolina '00  
Kelsey Bush '94  
Geoff Cuneo '10  
Valerie Gregorio '19  
Angie Harvey '83  
Barbara Kimmelshue-  
Kearns '63  
Hans Lemke '93  
Michael Mellinger '18  
Kate Monahan '12  
Lauren Payne '09  
Lindsey Siferd '13  
Edward Sirianno '82

#### Student Member

Imani Kayeye '23

#### Regional Chapter

##### Presidents

Annapolis: Vacant

Baltimore Metro:

Vacant

Boston Regional:

Eunice Akins-Aful '95

California Bay Area:

Vacant

Chicago Regional:

Vacant

Denver Regional: Vacant

New York City Regional:

John Haltiwanger '10

Philadelphia Regional:

Ian Murphy '08

Southern Maryland:

Cathy Hernandez Ray '77

Washington, D.C. Metro:

Vacant

Western Maryland: Vacant

#### Affinity Network Chairs

Black Alumni:

Janssen Evelyn '01

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

#### Chair

Susan Lawrence Dyer

#### Vice Chair

Paula Collins

#### Treasurer

John Chambers  
Wobensmith '93

#### Secretary

Nicolas Abrams '99

#### Trustees

Carlos Alcazar  
Anirban Basu  
John Bell '95  
Alice Arcieri Bonner '03  
*Alumni Association*  
Peter Bruns  
Donny Bryan '73  
Peg Duchesne '77  
Judith Fillius '79  
Elizabeth Graves '95  
Gail Harmon  
Melanie Hilley '92  
Sven Erik Holmes  
Steny H. Hoyer  
Glen Ives  
Lawrence Leak '76  
Doug Mayer '04  
Jesse Price '92  
Brayan Ruiz-Lopez '24  
*Student Trustee*  
Aaron Tomarchio '96  
Danielle Troyan '92  
Raymond Wernecke

### PRESIDENT

Tuajuanda C. Jordan, PhD



[ PAGE 8 ]



[ PAGE 14 ]



[ PAGE 20 ]

OPPOSITE:  
Photo from the College's collection

## FEATURES

PAGE 8

### Around the World Alumni

They live and work far, far away and never make it to Alumni Weekend, but these alums accomplish good across the globe.

PAGE 14

### Faculty Who Are Alums

These former undergraduates now hold post-graduate degrees and teach where they once learned. Read what makes that special for each of them.

PAGE 20

### Local and Loving It

These alumni live and work very, very near to campus and invest their time and talent right in St. Mary's County.

## DEPARTMENTS

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

**W**E EMBARKED ON A NEW STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS IN AUGUST, THE third of my presidency. The first strategic plan (2016-2019) was foundational, concerned with infrastructure stabilization. The second plan (2020-2022) was transitional and done by task forces focused on specific academic and co-curricular needs. The third strategic plan is transformational and we are ready for what it will ask of us to create, empower, build, and become (details on p. 4 and at [www.smcm.edu/president](http://www.smcm.edu/president)). A steering committee and four working groups have engaged students, staff, faculty, and community members in setting goals across the four pillars set by the Board of Trustees (see p. 4) and executive leadership. The final plan goes to the Board for approval in May.

This is necessary work for the College and part of the ongoing process of self-assessment linked to higher education accreditation. Done every eight years, our reaffirmation of accreditation review is in 2025.

We have much to do but much to be pleased with as we labor. In September 2022, we received the largest gift in the College's history, celebrated by the naming of the new Nancy R. and Norton T. Dodge Performing Arts Center (see p. 3). This wonderful facility gives us the means to engage our students and the broader community in new and expansive ways ([www.smcm.edu/dodge](http://www.smcm.edu/dodge)).

Thanks to Institutional Advancement, the Alumni Council and you, the engaging SMCM alumni, in fostering an unprecedented number of donors on Giving Tuesday for the record-breaking more than \$300,000 to support of our students. Thanks to our marine science faculty and our Congressman and Trustee **Steny Hoyer**, federal funding of \$900,000 from the Department of Education will provide a research vessel along with associated scientific instruments and equipment in support of that new and growing major. And thanks to our STEM faculty, the College received a \$500,000 grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute in support of our DEI work in STEM education.

When the weather warms, plan a visit to campus to walk along our new footpath and bridge connecting campus to the North Field along Route 5. Stay for one of the exciting performances in the new Dodge Performing Arts Center. And most importantly, encourage your friends and neighbors who are looking at colleges to consider St. Mary's College of Maryland, the National Public Honors College. They'll be glad they did.



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

---

#### Editor's Note

---

**F**OR TWO DECADES, THE CHANCE TO tell the stories of the things people do has been my good fortune. Interesting alumni, impressive faculty, thriving students – all part of this magazine editor's deeply stocked pool.

At an editorial board meeting last summer, the idea emerged to explore SMCM alumni who live and work near and far from campus. How close by? How far away? How about those alumni who left, then returned with PhDs and joined the faculty?

It was fun reaching out to find alumni near and far, learning what they're doing in their own corners of the world. Whether they were one mile or more than 10,000 miles from campus, the appreciation for their alma mater came through. So too did their success in finding, creating and nurturing community wherever they landed. "The idea of community is so rich on campus that people look to create that somewhere else," says local alumna and business owner **Catherine Teeter Grube '06**.

And what a treasure trove of evidence of the best of a liberal arts and sciences education! London-based **Stacy Hope '04** advocates for women in the mining industry across the globe. **Sidi Chleuh '18** is a data scientist modeling sustainable design for the Navy five miles from campus at Patuxent Naval Air Station. Medical communication expert **Nick Francella '06** leads vaccine briefings throughout Europe from his Belgium headquarters. **Amy Henderson '89**, SMCM associate professor of economics and current department chair, says her out-of-the-classroom time provides the chance to remember her own days as a student. She loves the chance to cheer for her students at sports and club activities.

Learn more from these alumni and others, near and far, in this special issue dedicated to them.

LEE CAPRISTO, *editor*



## CAMPUS & COMMUNITY NEWS



## College Receives Largest Single Gift

Longtime College benefactor Nancy R. Dodge made the largest single gift in the College's history this past summer. In recognition of this historic contribution, the College announced, on Sept. 24, 2022, the naming of the Nancy R. and Norton T. Dodge Performing Arts Center, honoring both Nancy Dodge and her late husband Norton, a former St. Mary's College trustee and professor of economics.

The announcement highlighted the grand opening celebration to mark the completion of the Performing Arts Center and the adjacent Learning Commons building. The Nancy R. and Norton T. Dodge Performing Arts Center houses the College's Music Department and includes classrooms, music labs, rehearsal rooms and a 125-seat recital hall. The building also showcases a 700-seat auditorium for music performances, lectures, colloquia, other large gatherings and a lobby area for receptions. The Performing Arts Center, along with the new Learning Commons building, comprise a \$66 million project funded cooperatively by the College, which raised \$2.5 million in private donations, and the State of Maryland.

*Nancy R. Dodge (center) at the dedication ribbon cutting with Board of Trustees Chair Susan L. Dyer (left) and President Tuajuanda C. Jordan (right). Also in attendance were Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates Adrienne A. Jones (D-Md.), Maryland State Delegate Brian M. Crosby (D-Md.), and Maryland State Senator Jack Bailey (R-Md., not pictured), along with several members of the Board of Trustees and the Foundation Board.*





## SACRED JOURNEY: SECOND ANNIVERSARY

On Nov. 4, 2022, the St. Mary's College of Maryland community came together for **The Sacred Journey: The Beloved Community**, an event to honor the second anniversary of the **Commemorative to Enslaved Peoples of Southern Maryland**. The event included a student-led libation ceremony and student-led reading of the names of the enslaved.

## RMC Trains Students for IT Careers

Nine SMCM students have earned the industry-standard CompTIA Security+ certification through a new partnership with Resource Management Concepts

Inc. (RMC), located in nearby Lexington Park. "RMC's generous provision of CompTIA SEC+ training and certification has provided our students with an educational and résumé-building opportunity that cannot be provided within the structure of normal academic courses," said **Simon Read**, associate professor of computer science.



**Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Maria Hinojosa delivered the Center for the Study of**

**Democracy's inaugural Gwen Ifill Lecture on Oct. 4, 2022. Hinojosa described the importance of diversity and inclusion in maintaining democracy in America within the responsibility of the media to present the stories of those who have historically been excluded.**

## New Strategic Plan Underway

St. Mary's College is underway on a new strategic plan, the pillars and timeline of which were approved by the Board of Trustees at its October 2022 meeting. During the fall semester, the steering committee and four working groups of faculty, staff, students and community members undertook goal setting to achieve the following pillars:

- Create an innovative, distinctive and competitive academic identity that attracts and retains talented students, faculty and staff.
- Empower all students for success.
- Build a sustainable, vibrant and diverse student body that exemplifies an inclusive institution.
- Become a sought-after and engaged community resource.

According to the timeline, St. Mary's College **President Tuajuanda C. Jordan** is expected to present a



final strategic plan for approval in May 2023. [www.smcm.edu/president](http://www.smcm.edu/president)



## College Ranks Among the Best in the Nation

St. Mary's College of Maryland continues to place among the best colleges in the nation. U.S. News & World Report ranks SMCM 6th among national public liberal arts colleges and 89th among all national liberal arts colleges, public and private. The U.S. News rankings validate myriad other national rankings that rate St. Mary's College highly. Money Magazine ranks SMCM #16 overall, and the top public college, in its liberal arts rankings, which incorporate both quality and value. Along with being ranked in The Princeton Review's "Best Colleges" Guide for 2023, St. Mary's College also made the review's "Top 50" Green Colleges list.



## PRESIDENT'S NEWS



National media legends Bill Kristol and Mara Liasson, with moderator Jessica Yellin, joined a panel hosted by President Jordan in the Nancy R. and Norton T. Dodge Performing Arts Center Auditorium.

"Can the inalienable rights referenced by the fathers of the Constitution exist for all Americans in the 21st century?" was the question asked at a national media panel held by **President Tuajuanda C. Jordan** on Oct. 7, 2022, in the Nancy R. and Norton T. Dodge Performing Arts Center auditorium. Moderated by Jessica Yellin, former Chief White House and Chief Domestic Affairs Correspondent for CNN and founder of News Not Noise, the panel featured Mara Liasson, a national political correspondent for NPR and frequent Fox News Channel contributor; and Bill Kristol, founder of influential publications such as *The Weekly Standard* and *The Bulwark*. (*Jelani Cobb, scheduled to appear, was a last-minute cancellation due to a family emergency.*)

**President Tuajuanda C. Jordan** has been named to the Maryland Humanities board, representing St. Mary's County. Maryland

Humanities is a statewide non-profit organization that creates and supports educational experiences in the humanities that inspire all Marylanders to embrace lifelong learning, exchange ideas openly, and enrich their communities.



**President Jordan** named **Katherine Gantz** as vice president for academic affairs and dean of faculty, effective Jan.

9, following a national search. A tenured professor of French, Gantz has held a leading role in academic administration at SMCM since 2016, overseeing academic policy and strategic planning, curriculum and all aspects of administration within academic affairs. Gantz reports directly to the president.

## FACULTY, STAFF & STUDENT NEWS



On Oct. 11, 2022, Professor of History **Christine Adams** gave an invited lecture at the University of Illinois on "Fashion and Politics: Elegantes and Merveilleuses under the Directory and Beyond." Her lecture stems from her current book project on the cultural and political impact of the Merveilleuses, a group of fashionable young women in late eighteenth-century France. On Nov. 16, 2022, she gave an invited talk for Washington, D.C.'s Opera Lafayette's Salon Series, titled "Born to Fill this Position: Madame de Pompadour and the Tradition of the French Royal Mistress." On Dec. 2, 2022, Adams gave an invited lecture on Madame de Pompadour at the Kennedy Center to introduce the chamber music program, "In the Salons of Versailles."



Articles written by **Adams** and fellow Professor of History **Charles Holden** were named to History News Network's "22 for '22: The Original Stories that Made the Year on HNN" in Dec. 2022. Adams' article, "The Dictatorship of the Supreme Court" ran on July 11, 2022. Holden's article, "Weaponizing

Bad-Faith History is a Conservative Tradition from Jim Crow to Alito" ran on Aug. 1, 2022.

St. Mary's College of Maryland mathematics students, **Kelsi Anderson '25**, **Kimani Daley '24** and **Ryan Knight '25**, presented their work at the National Association of Mathematicians Undergraduate MathFest held Sept. 23-25, 2022, at Morgan State University. Their presentations were part of the Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program at SMCM, working with Visiting Assistant Professor **Seth Cowall**.

Professor and Chair of Educational Studies **Katy Arnett '00** was the keynote speaker for the fall conference of the Delaware Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (DECTFL) on Oct. 14, 2022, in Newark, Del. Her keynote was entitled: "From Deficit to Barriers to Opportunities: Transforming What it Means to be an Inclusive Language Educator." DECTFL is a nonprofit organization promoting the teaching of world languages in the state of Delaware.



**Betül Başaran**, professor of history and religious studies, presented a paper at The First World War in the Middle East: Aftermath and Legacies Conference in Ypres, Belgium. She provided a case study of the new transnational Muslim networks that emerged after World War I and the important leadership roles that elite and royal women played in defining the "new Muslim woman" or the "modern female citizen."





JENNIFER AND ANDREW COGNARD-BLACK

Assistant Professor of Sociology **Andrew Cognard-Black's** work was cited in the opinion piece, "Can Honors Education Reach More Students?" on Nov. 16, 2022, in *Inside Higher Ed*. The piece, written by Richard Badenhause and James Buss, links to a published study, "Demography of Honors: The Census of U.S. Honors Programs and Colleges" for which Cognard-Black is co-author.

On Nov. 13, 2022, Professor of English **Jennifer Cognard-Black** and students of her "Books that Cook" class held the seventh Writer's Harvest at the Kate Chandler Campus Community Farm. The students raised awareness for Farming 4 Hunger (F4H), a local nonprofit formed in 2012 to serve those in need of fresh, whole foods in Southern Maryland. F4H has partnered with many organizations, including local farms, churches and businesses, as well as the Maryland Food Bank, the Department of Corrections and schools such as St. Mary's College.

**Julie Croteau '93** and **Skylar Kaplan '25** made the cut for their respective varsity baseball programs at St. Mary's College of Maryland — Croteau having blazed the trail for Kaplan and many others as the first-ever female to play collegiate baseball. The parallel revealed itself when Kaplan landed a part as an extra in the Amazon Prime Video streaming series "A League of Their Own": a revamp of the 1992 film of the same name, in which Croteau secured a role as a double.

On Oct. 7, 2022, Assistant Professor of Psychology **Gili Freedman** and Justin Danier-Best (Bard College) published an article entitled "Who is more willing to engage in social rejection? The roles of self-esteem, rejection sensitivity, and negative affect in social rejection decisions" in *The Journal of Social Psychology*. They found that self-esteem, rejection sensitivity and general distress were associated with thinking that it would be difficult to reject someone in the future.

**Dana Greene**, former professor of history at St. Mary's College and dean emerita of Oxford College of Emory University, has written a biography: "Jane Kenyon: The Making of a Poet" to be published by the University of Illinois Press in 2023.

Professor of Art **Sue Johnson** has been awarded a prestigious 2023 Virginia Commission for the Arts Individual Artist Fellowship. Johnson will use the fellowship support to complete work on her forthcoming artist book, "Burn a Pan Tonight: Still Life with Woman." The project focuses on images of women in advertising between 1850-1970 and integrates Johnson's found poetry and new original drawings and paintings made to accompany the text.



*Assistant Professor of Economics Josh Kaisen has published a research article in the Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization.*

Assistant Professor of Economics **Josh Kaisen** has published a research article called "An Example of Negative Wage Elasticity for YouTube Content Creators" in the *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*. Kaisen's work reveals that workers produce less when wages are higher, which hurts the inherent market—YouTube—by underprovisioning a public good.

Professor of Anthropology **Julia King** was recently awarded a grant through the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to study the mitigation of shoreline erosion in the George Washington Birthplace National Monument in Westmoreland County, Virginia. King will lead a team, to include students, in conducting research to further support this cultural and historic resource protection. King has also recently received a two-year grant through the American Battlefield Protection Program of the National Park Service. With this award, King will examine the role of Virginia's indigenous nations in Bacon's Rebellion, which took place in 1676, through a focus on Dragon Swamp in the Virginia Tidewater.





*Assistant Professor of Psychology **Nayantara Kurpad** and colleagues recently published an article in the journal *Metacognition and Learning*.*

Assistant Professor of Psychology **Nayantara Kurpad** and colleagues recently published an article entitled, “Metacognitive errors in the classroom: The role of variability of past performance on exam prediction accuracy” in the journal *Metacognition and Learning*. The article described research showing that low-performing students exhibited more variable past exam performance compared to high performers (Study 1) and the variability in course performance was also associated with poor calibration (Study 2). This research highlights the need for helping low-performing students to be better calibrated. Further, instructors and institutional researchers can support students through study strategies sessions, time management and tutoring.

Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies **Ellen Kohl** was recently awarded a three-year grant through the National Science Foundation to study Children’s Environmental Health Science and Science-Based Regulatory Policy. Results from this research will be used to engage Children’s Environmental Health

scientists, advocates, and policy makers to share lessons learned.

Professor of Chemistry **Randolph Larsen** and the marine science faculty, with support from Congressman and College Trustee **Steny Hoyer**, received \$900,000 in federal funding from the Department of Education. The funds will provide a research vessel capable of carrying students and instructors for educational and research activities throughout the Chesapeake and associated river systems. The remaining funds will be allocated for the acquisition of scientific equipment and instrumentation to study biological, chemical and physical properties of the St. Mary’s River, Lower Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay.

Associate Professor of French **George MacLeod** recently published an article entitled, “Race and Terrorism in French Cinema: Discourses of Whiteness and ‘Brown Threat’ in Nicolas Boukhrief’s ‘Made in France’” in the United Kingdom-based, peer-reviewed *Bulletin of Francophone Postcolonial Studies*. In this article, MacLeod argues for the importance of analyzing Islamophobia as a form of racism that cannot be isolated from other forms of appearance-based discrimination in France. He also makes the case for considering how the socially constructed racial categories of “White,” “Brown” and “Black” intersect with depictions of characters of Muslim faith in contemporary French cinema. MacLeod has a related forthcoming book, “Mediating Violence from Africa: Francophone Literature, Film, and Testimony after the Cold War” (University of Nebraska Press).

Associate Professor of Psychology **Scott Mirabile** and colleagues recently published an article entitled “Psychometric properties of the Persian version of the Coping with Children’s Negative Emotions Scale” in the *Iranian Journal of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences*.

Associate Professor **Kelly Neiles** was recently awarded a three-year grant through the National Science Foundation to develop and implement Course-Based Undergraduate Research Experiences (CUREs). Professor Neiles, leading four collaborating institutions, will use a backward design curriculum development model to create laboratory experiences specific to chemistry analytics.

Vice President for Equity and Strategic Initiatives **Dereck Rovaris** was recently awarded a one-year grant through the Maryland Higher Education Commission’s Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program. The award initiatives include increased outreach through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), extending SNAP benefits to include both on-campus and off-campus dining options, supporting on-campus National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness activities, and creating an on-campus meal sharing program for student learners. Additionally, this award will be utilized to upgrade the on-campus food pantry with a new freezer, microwave and modernized pantry cabinetry.

**Stephanie Schoch ’19** and **Amanda VerMeulen** recently published the article, “Ask and you shall receive?: A LibAnswers FAQ usability study” in the open-access journal *Weave: Journal of Library User Experience*. **Stephanie Schoch ’19** is a PhD candidate at



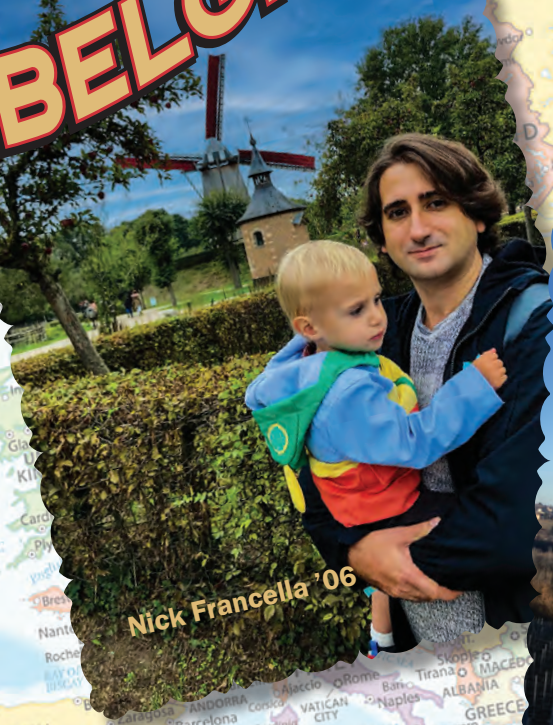
*Associate Professor **Kelly Nelles** was recently awarded a three-year grant through the *National Science Foundation*.*

the University of Virginia working on machine learning and natural language processing. **Amanda VerMeulen** is currently the director of the College’s Hilda C. Landers Library and Archive and previously held the position of assistant librarian for research and instruction.

Visiting Assistant Professor of Psychology **Amie Severino ’11** and colleagues recently published an article entitled “Simultaneous monitoring of mouse grip strength, force profile, and cumulative force profile distinguishes muscle physiology following surgical, pharmacologic and diet interventions” in the open-access journal *Scientific Reports*. They tested a novel grip strength measuring device that could potentially help in the development of future pharmacotherapies for multiple human disorders where grip strength decline occurs.



*Greetings from*  
**BELGIUM**



Nick Francella '06

*Greetings from*  
**ITALY**



Daniel Blair '08

*Greetings from*  
**LONDON**  
*United Kingdom*



Stacy Hope '04



*Greetings from*  
**TASMANIA**  
*AUSTRALIA*



Qamar Schuyler '97





# AROUND THE WORLD ALUMNI

BY LEE CAPRISTO, EDITOR

---

**Qamar Schuyler, Nick Francella, Stacy Hope and Daniel Blair** lived on campus when they were students at SMCM; now they live on different continents.

Just how far away are they?

**HOBART, TASMANIA, AUSTRALIA: 10,139 MILES FROM ST. MARY'S CITY.**

**BRUSSELS, BELGIUM: 3,879 MILES FROM ST. MARY'S CITY.**

**LONDON, ENGLAND: 3,676 MILES FROM ST. MARY'S CITY.**

**CASTAGNOLE DELLA LANZE, ITALY: 4,348 MILES FROM ST. MARY'S CITY.**

Though they live and work far, far away and never make it to Alumni Weekend, they're doing well and doing good around our globe.

And each one keeps a place in their heart for zip code 20686.

---



# QAMAR SCHUYLER AUSTRALIA

**A**sk **Qamar Schuyler '97** why she's in Australia and the short answer is it's close to the Pacific Islands. The Pacific Islands have been her dream destination since graduating from SMCM as a biology major in 1997.

One could wish for a friend like Schuyler: her adventures over the past 20+ years would be an amazing set of postcards sent from her nomadic years in Bali, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Vietnam, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Timor, China, the Mariana Islands, mainland Australia and Tasmania. Schuyler learned Indonesian in Bali by pretending she didn't speak English so she'd be forced to learn Indonesian. She lived aboard a ferrocement Chinese junk for two years, volunteering as a marine biologist exploring the corals and marine life of Southeast Asia and the South Pacific. She returned to the states to complete a master's degree from the College of Charleston in 2004, then spent three years as a NOAA Coral Reef Management Fellow, doing coral reef outreach and education in the Northern Mariana Islands. Eventually Schuyler emigrated to Australia to work in marine tourism as the research coordinator on boats that offered dive trips to tourists and research scientists. Each trip took different scientists so the research varied. She thrived in building a communication bridge between science and tourism. Her interest in sea turtles and marine debris emerged from this work. Schuyler came ashore in 2010 to start a PhD at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia, and capped it with a post-doctorate fellowship before moving south to Tasmania to join CSIRO (Australia's national science agency) in 2017.



**“I loved my time there; my best friends still today are from St. Mary’s.”**



As senior research scientist at CSIRO, Schuyler collaborates with industry to set best practices for PVC recycling, with the ambitious goal to reduce plastic leakage into Australia's environment by 80% by 2030. “The engagement with industry has been really interesting,” she admits. “For me, pure research is not as interesting as working in collaboration with other sectors. I like the nexus between research and communication.”

In her 2022 TEDx talk in Hobart, Tasmania, Schuyler compels us to “radically rethink our relationship with plastic.” Listen to the talk and you’ll hear the horrifying fact that every minute of every day the equivalent of 2.5 garbage trucks full of plastic enter the world’s lakes, rivers and oceans. Schuyler has spent the last decade analyzing and reporting the resultant harm to marine ecosystems, and the effectiveness of the management actions that are taken to reduce plastic.

Schuyler’s five years at CSIRO are the only ones in her working life that she’s spent in an office full time. With a mind to what’s next, Schuyler and her partner plan on taking a year with their 8-year-old son to sail a catamaran from Phuket, Thailand, through southeast Asia and then the Pacific. “We’ll either go down and around New Zealand or up and around Alaska, depending on how we feel,” she says. They’ll document their trip and discoveries along the way, inspired by other documentaries like PBS’ “Voyage of the Mimi.”

Schuyler’s kept in touch with former professor **Chris Tanner** and former admissions director **Rich Edgar**. “Rich was part of the reason I came to St. Mary’s,” she remembers. “My mom got interested in it and dragged me there to visit. I thought I wanted to be at Yale or Williams but in the end, St. Mary’s was a great place to be, with the waterfront and sailing. I loved my time there; my best friends still today are from St. Mary’s.”



Schuyler TEDx: [https://youtu.be/\\_XXO-f3ayO8](https://youtu.be/_XXO-f3ayO8)



# NICK FRANCELLA BELGIUM

**I**t was March 2020 and **Nick Francella's** wife went into labor with their first child the same day that Belgium went into COVID-19 lockdown. Their son Adrian was born amidst chaos in the hospital and spent his first year at home in Brussels with no visitors, no grandparents, no babysitters.

Francella '06 completed his PhD in microbiology from the University of Pennsylvania in 2013. He and his wife moved to Belgium in 2017 and it was there that Francella started working in the vaccines industry. "I took a job as a medical writer, responsible for synthesizing scientific data into practical information about the use of vaccines," he said. "Belgium has long been a hub of vaccine development and manufacturing, and my first assignment was to write about some relatively long-established vaccines against hepatitis A and B. Over time, I took on different responsibilities and was working on vaccines against HPV, rabies, meningitis, shingles and other diseases."

When the pandemic struck, Francella wanted to contribute to the response effort. "At this point I had a very specific but very useful skill set: I was good at anticipating the kinds of questions that people would have about the use of vaccines and I knew how to find the information that best answers those questions," he explains. "I had spent more than three years thinking and writing about things like vaccine safety, storage, dosing intervals, ingredients." He was contacted by a recruiter that wanted him to take that exact task for the vaccine that Janssen Pharmaceutical Company (of Johnson & Johnson) was developing. He signed on with a temporary contract and joined the fight.

"When the J&J COVID vaccine first received authorization for use in Europe and everyone



**"It takes a huge team to do this and everyone at the company plays their small part – no one person can claim credit for a new treatment or prevention."**

was preparing to send the shipments out from the factory, there was really a sense of teamwork and accomplishment," he remembers. "Personally, I was working really hard on preparing the call center for all of the questions they would receive about the vaccine, and it was amazing all of the collaboration and interest there was within J&J to help me develop answers to the types of questions we expected."

Nearly three years later, Francella continues to work for Janssen, but in a full-time role. He trains their internal team on the diseases

that Janssen's investigational vaccines target and on the data that they've seen during clinical trials, as well as crafting scientifically balanced, factually accurate communications on those investigational vaccines. The work is organized regionally and includes Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

"I like working in the pharma industry because despite any controversy or shortcomings, pharma companies are the organizations that are the most effective at transforming drugs and vaccines from ideas into reality," he says. "It takes a huge team to do this and everyone at the company plays their small part – no one person can claim credit for a new treatment or prevention."

Francella credits his career start to a genetics class with Professor **Rachel Myerowitz** and the guidance she provided for his successful application to a post-baccalaureate research fellowship with the National Institutes of Health. "At NIH I was assigned to a virology lab and the rest is history – I was on a path to specializing in infectious disease."

He and his wife expect their second child, a girl, in February. This time, one hopes that the grandparents won't need to wait long to meet her.



# STACY HOPE ENGLAND

**S**tacy Hope '04 applies her PhD in social anthropology as a consultant and mediator to women in mining. Her work frequently takes her to mining enterprises in Kenya and Guyana. She is the managing director of Women in Mining UK, based in London.

Her entry into mining happened by coincidence during her PhD fieldwork in the Guyana Amazon. "I lived in an indigenous community that engaged with local artisanal miners who used the community as a trading and regrouping point, before they travelled back into the bush to continue prospecting," she says. "Little did I know that years later, I would find myself in the throes of the mining sector — both at artisanal and small-scale and large-scale mining."

After she finished her PhD at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland, Hope moved to London to start a post-doctoral fellowship. Needing employment to fill the gap until the fellowship started, she took up a temporary job at a junior mining company in London. "There was the CEO, me and the Board, and that was it," she recalls. A week's work turned into a year's stay. When she left the job, she moved to Kenya to work in international development on indigenous issues. "In Kenya, I hired on with the United Nations as a consultant, working with corporate entities in making sure that major stakeholders, particularly in the extractives, farming and logging industries, were part of the development and safeguarding conversation," Hope explains. "One major aspect of my work was ensuring that marginalized communities were included in co-designing policy and program mechanisms so that all stakeholders had equitable voice in coming up with solutions."



**“Although as citizens of society we must work towards doing better, we must also explore ways in which we can connect our interests with what it means to work towards such a goal.”**

*Hope as an invited speaker (third from left on stage) at an Investment in African Mining conference.*

It was during this time that Hope started to develop what she calls a “gender-transformative approach” to her work. “I joined Women in Mining UK as a volunteer some 10 years ago, to discuss and debate women’s access to equity and participation in the sector.” She continues to pursue that dialogue in her current paid position as managing director.

An anthropology major at St. Mary’s College, Hope also completed a student-designed major in ancient history. She credits Professors **Bill Roberts**, **Iris Ford** and **Linda Hall** for their ability to guide in a way that gave her autonomy in her education. Hope’s advice for a current SMCM student who hopes to make the world a better place through the work they choose in their career is this: “Although as citizens of society we must work towards doing better, we must also explore ways in which we can connect our interests with what it means to work towards such a goal. Doing it superficially will not ensure longevity and fulfillment but connecting to the work you do will go a long way.”





# DANIEL BLAIR ITALY

**W**hen asked “Why Italy?” **Daniel Blair '08** says that for him, it was love at first sight.

“During my first year at SMCM I visited Italy as part of an optional trip in an Italian course,” he explains. “I stayed with an Italian family for 10 days and attended classes at a high school in Saluzzo. It was my first time outside the country and my first time attempting to seriously communicate in another language. It was terrifying, but everyone was so friendly and patient. I had a lot of fun seeing places I had never known existed and trying to communicate.”

“After that, I looked for other ways to go back. I wanted to improve my Italian and see more of the country. I returned multiple times for the Alba Music Festival with the College’s choir and chamber singers. I studied in Alba for a semester

and later worked as the program’s resident assistant. I made the conscious decision to ‘prolong the adventure’ as long as possible, figuring I wouldn’t always have the option to live abroad.”

A double major in English and math at SMCM, Blair blends the two as a technical writer for TUI

**“I’ve come to understand that the world is weird. It’s more fun that way.”**

Musement, a global company offering tailored travel experiences. “I write instruction manuals for our partners so they can sell experiences from our catalog,” he says. “I do a lot of text analysis – which is how I spent most of my time as an English major. We’re a global company so our instructions must be clear for non-native English speakers, while simultaneously communicating key technical concepts.” Blair adds that the skills he developed to solve math proofs help him with both writing and technical issues. “I often start

*Photo by Daniel Blair, taken near Monforte d'Alba.*

with what I know and make small steps to reach a goal,” he explains. “I regularly stop what I’m doing to research a topic, even a familiar one, because having a deeper understanding can help me make the connections I need.”

The Piedmont region of Italy agrees with Blair, it seems. “I got married this year and my wife has roots in the area. We’re not really in a hurry to move.” (see wedding note, p. 24)

If the time does come, the Italian food he’ll miss the most is gelato. “It was a major addiction in the beginning,” he admits. “Now it’s an old friend, ready to comfort me when I need it. American ice cream just can’t compete.”

Thinking back to his SMCM experience, Blair sums it up in a single word. “Weird. It’s a word that a student guide used to describe SMCM during my first-ever visit and I’ve found it to be fairly accurate. College gave many of us the support to pursue our interests without fear of rejection simply because something wasn’t popular. Sometimes when people are honest about what they like and what they think, it can seem weird. However, I’ve come to understand that the world is weird. It’s more fun that way.” ❖

$P = 160 - 5Q$  Demand is a benefit

# FACULTY WHO ARE ALUMS

IT IS TRUE THAT THE BEST TEACHERS INSPIRE THOSE they teach to become teachers themselves. No wonder St. Mary's College of Maryland has on its faculty several former SMCM students.

**Katy Arnett '00** is professor of educational studies and current chair of that department. She also serves as associate vice president for academic affairs. **Amy Henderson '89** is associate professor of economics and current chair of that department. **Troy Townsend '07** is associate professor of chemistry and interim director of the Center for the Study of Democracy. **Daniel Savelle '13** is assistant professor of economics. **Scott Strickland '08** is adjunct instructor of anthropology whose

alumna mother (**Susan Strickland '79**) was also a member of the SMCM faculty. **Leslie Walker '13** is adjunct instructor of anthropology.

With advanced degrees in hand, these academics certainly had options besides their alma mater, so our editorial board wondered what led to their decision to return as faculty and how having been a student influences the way they teach, among other things. Here's a taste of what they had to say.





---

*Associate Professor of Economics Amy Henderson '89*





*Adjunct Instructor of Anthropology  
Leslie Walker '13*

**What is still a strange disconnect between being a student here and being a professor here?**

**DS:** The largest disconnect is in how I view and use the spaces on campus. For example, I remember attending office hours in the same space that I am now having very different discussions with colleagues in.

**KA:** It's a lot better than it used to be, but I often had weird sensations of being a colleague to someone who had previously graded me.

**What was one of your strongest impressions of the school as a student and what is your strongest impression now as a professor?**

**LW:** I enjoyed my professors' earnest desire to help their students learn. I did not receive this treatment in graduate school. In fact, it was the opposite.

**DS:** The beauty and serenity of the water is and will always be the strongest impression

**SS:** Being someone that commuted, it was that you really miss out on a lot of the experience if you don't live on campus. As a professor/instructor, I very much appreciate all the extra time outside of class that is spent on the class such as grading, planning, etc.

**At what point did the idea develop of returning to SMCM in a faculty role?**

**TT:** I was offered a federal career path as a navy scientist. At the same time, a position opened up at SMCM for a 1-year visiting professor position in the chemistry department. **Emily [Bzdyk '08]** and I weighed the pros and cons of each path between the permanent high salary government job with benefits and the temporary entry-level teaching position. We came back to campus to visit in person, walked down to the river, and then we drove back home realizing that we had just decided to live the dream and return to St. Mary's.

**AH:** **Michael Ye**, who was the chair of economics at the time, approached me with the idea of taking a sabbatical from my private sector job to have an "adventure year" at St. Mary's.



### What or who played a central role in your decision to accept a faculty position at SMCM?

**LW:** Dr. Bill Roberts. He has been a great friend and colleague throughout my professional career. Also, Dr. Iris Ford, who inspired me to study anthropology.

**AH:** Andy Kozak and Don Stabile convinced me that returning to teach for a year would be a great experience for both me and the students. I wound up liking it so much I decided to stay!

**DS:** Timing and location were the main factors for my wife and me when deciding to relocate. The icing on the cake was my love of the school and desire to work with professors that helped shape my path through life.



Professor of Educational Studies Katy Arnett '00.

### What is an example of “inside information” you have about the nature of SMCM students, having been one yourself, and how does that help you as their professor?

**DS:** My understanding of SMCM housing and related topics. I was a resident assistant in Caroline Hall and I also remember trekking in the rain from Waring Commons to Kent Hall for class.

**LW:** I know exactly where to lead students to take advantage of the hidden resources at the College. I know the best places to study on campus, how and where to make copies of a friend's textbook if you have not purchased it yourself,

and when is the best point in your academic journey to begin meeting with the staff of the career center, and lastly how best to arrange your course schedule.

**KA:** I know the power of good mentoring and interactions with students. I wouldn't be where I am without the mentoring and guidance I had as a student, and I'm determined to pay that forward. One big tidbit that I still emphasize—especially to my new advisees and even when I'm at open houses recruiting—is that this is not a competitive campus.

### What one aspect of SMCM has changed dramatically during the years between graduating as a student and returning as a professor?

**LW:** The pandemic has changed how students learn, especially with the increase of hybrid learning. I first returned to SMCM to teach an online course during the summer of 2018. At the time, other faculty members were cautious about how an online delivery would impact student culture and the overall learning environment. The pandemic seemed to change everything, especially how we learn and teach. I hope the College continues to embrace this form of instruction and becomes a leader within higher education.

**DS:** The pandemic and resulting erosion of some campus traditions.

**SS:** There are certainly newer fancier buildings. The College has much more digital resources available post-COVID, which makes things easier.

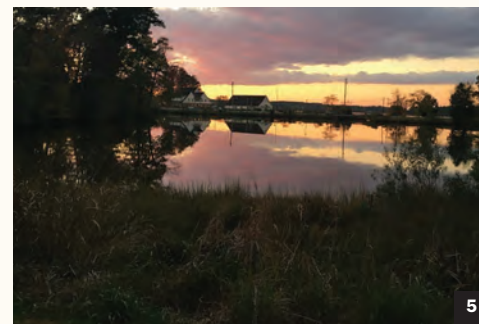
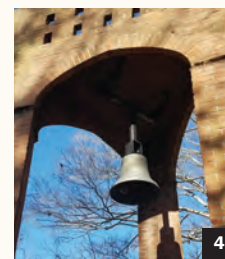
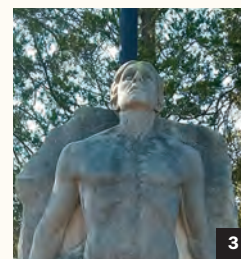
### What undergraduate feat were you known for that current students would find hard to believe?

**KA:** Anytime my students start “complaining” about the length of their SMP when they're in my office, I point them to my project, which came in at over 500 pages total.

**SS:** I was/am into punk music and played in a punk band. The last time we played was in 2011 at the former St. James Pub, which used to be next to St. James Deli.

## SMCM Inside Information

True SMCM insiders can ID these images with ease. Can you? Answers are on p. 18.







### What do you like most about working at your former institution?

**AH:** The students! Truly, the joy I find in my job comes from getting to know students well and helping them realize their goals. As a former student, I also really love when I get a chance to see my students in other contexts, like performing with the dance club or playing their sport.

**TT:** My teachers are now my colleagues, it's awesome! They are so cool.

**DS:** The familiarity with traditions, campus culture and the key quirks of SMCM.

### What legacy do you hope to leave behind at SMCM as a member of the faculty?

**SS:** If I can convert just one student a year into a map nerd, I consider that a success.

**TT:** When I reflect on my time as a member of the faculty, I would imagine my impact to be on the day to day personal and professional growth of forward thinking, civically minded graduates who value inclusivity, creativity and science.

**KA:** That some of the students I've had the privilege to teach, mentor, and/or otherwise work with during my time here are able to say that I've had a positive influence on their trajectory and development as a learner, and that like me, they can actually name MULTIPLE folks on the SMCM campus who positively influenced their life.



TOP: Adjunct Instructor of Anthropology Scott Strickland '08. MIDDLE: Associate Professor of Chemistry-Troy Townsend '07. BOTTOM: Assistant Professor of Economics Daniel Savelle '13

### What piece of advice would you give to current students that you would like to have known when you were a student?

**TT:** Go to office hours! Professors can seem intimidating, but now that I see it from the professor's perspective, I now know that any student who asks for help in a class does not mean that they aren't trying hard enough or don't understand the content. It's actually the opposite. Having been fortunate enough to be in a room with executives as a board member for a few organizations, I've learned that CEOs ask for extra help all the time. Therefore, I put students who ask for help and go to office hours in the category of "executive."

**SS:** If you are having trouble either getting to class or making deadline for assignments, just say something to your professor. Most are very understanding and they appreciate that much more over radio silence. ❖

### ANSWERS

- 1 Hidden Grave
- 2 Garden of Remembrance
- 3 Freedom of Conscience statue
- 4 Bell Tower
- 5 St. John's Pond
- 6 Church Point
- 7 Shoe Tree



# REMEMBER THIS?

Students climbing the Freedom of Conscience statue in September 1970. According to a note in the College Archives, **Mary Alice Waesche Benson '50** recalled a student in the 1960s who made a brassiere out of tablecloths and wrapped it around the statue. President **May Russell** “knew exactly who’d done it but she couldn’t take him to task without laughing.”

*Do you have a photo that captures your era at St. Mary’s College? Send it to [archives@smcm.edu](mailto:archives@smcm.edu).*



EDGAR BENSON



# Local and Loving It:

## Alums Making a Difference Right Here

BY GRETCHEN PHILLIPS, COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST  
AND LEE CAPRISTO, EDITOR



**I**N THE EARLY 2000S WHEN **Howie Grube '04** attended St. Mary's College of Maryland, his community was made up primarily of fellow students on campus. "Students relied on one another for everything," he recalled, laughing quietly to himself as he remembered meeting his now-wife **Catherine Teater Grube '06** when he "bummed a ride" he later admitted he didn't really need.

A strong campus community would play a big role in his and Catherine Grube's next steps after college. The couple adopted St. Mary's County as their home and began raising their family in St. Inigoes. Howie Grube said they considered moving closer to Washington, D.C. where job opportunities were more plentiful, however St. Mary's County had a familiarity and a community feel. St. Mary's County also had a landscape—particularly the area surrounding the College—that the Grubes did not want to give up. "I think the landscape and recreational opportunities lent themselves to the way Howie and I wanted to raise kids," Catherine Grube said. "We also wanted to stay connected to the College, which continues to provide a source of support and community for our family."



TOP: *Howie and Catherine Grube in the early days of St. Inie's Coffee business.* BOTTOM: *The Grube family welcomed Governor Larry Hogan to the reading room at St. Inie's Coffee this past fall.*

One can find the whole Grube family or a variety of combinations of the six of them on campus any given day of the week enjoying a walk, hanging out at the waterfront, taking in a Seahawk athletics game or participating in the many events open to the public. When not on the College's campus, the Grubes are often taking advantage of recreational activities available to them at Historic St. Mary's City (HSMC) museum, where Howie Grube has worked as director of development the past four years after 12 years in federal government.

In 2017, Catherine Grube put a big emphasis on community when she opened St. Inie's Coffee in Lexington Park. She wanted her business to be a place where people could connect and find community. "The importance of community and being accepting can be hard to find," she said. "Some people come in just for the coffee and end up making a connection with someone they wouldn't have otherwise known. That's why we are here, right?"

Through St. Inie's, Catherine Grube partners with several community organizations on free family events; she puts out a coat rack in the winter to provide gently used coats to those in





TOP: Sidi Chleuh as an undergraduate, working on his St. Mary's Project. BOTTOM: Chleuh poses on campus during Alumni Weekend 2022, when he was presented with the Outstanding Young Alumni Award.

need; she hosts trivia and open mic nights that are inclusive and open to all ages. For her, community is simply a part of a person's role in life. She credits her mother and her time at SMCM for knowing and embracing that idea.

Her most recent venture into making connections involves her latest coffee blend, 'Buzz Buzz.' All of the proceeds from sales of Buzz Buzz go toward needs in the Great Mills High School community—a school close to her heart.

"There is this idea of 'we are all in this together' and I want to support that because it is the closest high school to the shop and a school that isn't often recognized for its incredibly positive community," she says.

The first allotment of the Buzz Buzz proceeds went to the GMHS boys' basketball team, coached by **Jeff Burrell '06**. Catherine Grube

sees him as a role model dedicated to providing mentorship through basketball for youth. She credits Burrell also for providing opportunities to include youth that aren't as athletic as his players but could benefit from the group setting through roles like team manager and other supporting positions. Future allotments will go to those who apply for the funding and can show they are making an effort toward community.

**Sidi Chleuh '18** says he's always been fascinated with bridges, both physical and metaphorical. He loves math and works as a data scientist for the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division in Patuxent River. At St. Mary's College, he majored in international languages and cultures. He can communicate in eight languages.

Since 2014, Chleuh has volunteered with the National Language Service Corps and also with Translators without Borders. "It's a way for me to give back and help with the universal desire that we all have to connect," he says. "I've been blessed with language skills so sharing that is a no-brainer." English is his fifth language. He also speaks Arabic, Berber, French, Fulah, Mandingo, Portuguese and Spanish.

In 2019, working as a data scientist for the Advanced Analytics and Innovation Group for

NAVAIR, his team won the Navy's Sustainment Data Challenge. Chleuh modeled the aircraft portion of the algorithm that he and his team designed. "I brought human-centered design and ethnographic-type research to the process, largely gained from my liberal arts education and cultural expertise." He now leads a small team of data scientists.

He knows that his career pursuits aren't ones commonly paired and he's OK with that. "I have never been content to fit into predefined groups, nor did I ever let the 'expected' limit me," he says. "I was an athlete but also a musician and many other unlikely pairs. STEM vs. liberal arts education isn't an exception. I love math and the ability to understand complex things through that lens, its depth, its orderliness. I love languages, people and the beautiful flow they provide and also the ability to understand complex things through those lenses."

"As a data scientist, I get to tell stories through data, find patterns, and help people understand what is hidden in numbers," Chleuh sums up. "It's not much different from what I love about languages." ♦



# ALUMNI CONNECTION

## CLASS NOTES

### 1970s

**Silas Hurry '77 [1]** was presented with the Cross Bottony Award from the Historic St. Mary's City Commission on March 26, 2022 at HSMC's annual celebration of Maryland Day. This award recognized Hurry's more than half-a-century dedicated to the archaeological discovery of Historic St. Mary's City. Silas volunteered in the laboratory at the yet-to-be-created museum while still in high school in the late 1960s and served as an excavator beginning in 1972. He graduated from St. Mary's College in 1977 and undertook seasonal archaeological work on a wide range of sites including the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, Albuquerque New Mexico, Atlanta, Georgia, and then was employed full-time by Maryland Geological Survey. In 1988 he returned to Historic St. Mary's City, where he served as archaeological laboratory director and curator of collections. Silas was instrumental in achieving American Museum Association (now the American Museum Alliance) accreditation for Historic St. Mary's City in 2003. He led the effort to design a new curation and study space on the College campus to house the remarkable archaeological collections. He directed the move of the collection into the new facility in 2016 and the equipping of the conservation and other laboratories.



1

### 1980s

**Gabrielle "Gabe" Leenas Lucke '84 [2]** is the program manager of organizational effectiveness on the learning and development team of Hypertherm Associates, Inc., headquartered in New Hampshire. She is the 2022 recipient of the Hypertherm Community Hero Award, which recognizes the volunteer efforts of global associates who go above and beyond in providing support to charities and nonprofits in their community.



2

### 1990s

**Karen Blackistone '97** currently serves as general counsel and investment lead on crypto-specific efforts for Hangar, a technology innovation company. A graduate of the Georgetown University Law Center, Karen has advised emerging technology companies in highly regulated sectors on a wide

range of issues, including organizational structure, operational risks and strategic planning for high-stakes engagement with policymakers. Before joining Hangar, Karen was one of the first regulatory and compliance attorneys in Washington, D.C. with crypto-specific experience.

**Christine Quinn Cheesman '98** recently earned her doctorate of education from the Johns Hopkins School of Education in Baltimore, Maryland. She is published in "Parenting for High Potential," a publication from the National Association for Gifted Children. She also serves as president of the Maryland Coalition for Gifted and Talented Education.

### 2000s

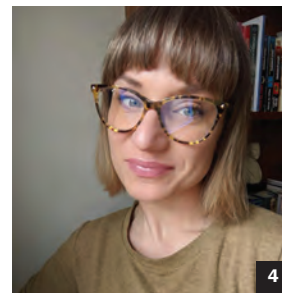
**Jenni James '02 [3]** recently became the owner of One Speed Marketing, LLC. The Boston, Massachusetts-based company provides digital marketing, website and virtual assistant support.



3

**Jeffrey W. Peyton '04** has joined Duane Morris LLP as a partner in the firm's Corporate Practice Group located in Baltimore, Maryland. He previously served as a principal at Miles & Stockbridge. Jeffrey is a commercial finance lawyer who represents national and regional banks, asset-based lenders, mezzanine lenders, financial institutions and other business creditors in a variety of commercial loan transactions.

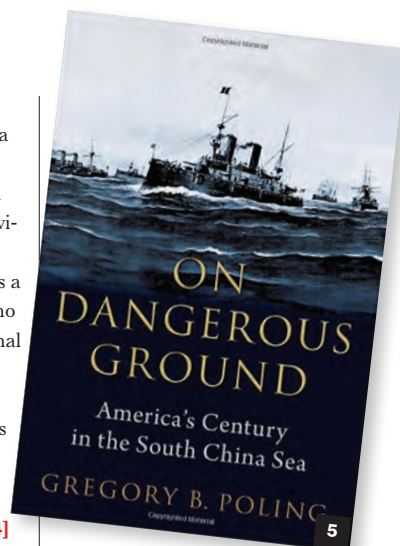
**Brianne Coons Carter '05 [4]** presented a paper in October of 2021 at the American Folklore Society annual conference in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. "Telling the Bees: The Rising Popularity of Amateur Apiculture" examines the cultural and societal motivations, practices and problems associated with backyard beekeeping. Brianne



4

is currently pursuing her master's degree in American Studies at Penn State - Harrisburg. She currently teaches 6th - 8th grade English language learners in York City, Pennsylvania, and enjoys maintaining her small apiary in Southern Pennsylvania.

**Jessica Fitzwater '05** was sworn in as executive of Frederick County, Maryland on December 5, 2022. Her children Jonah and Jane and her parents attended the ceremony. Jessica is a two-term Frederick County Council member, having



5

served since 2014. Before taking office, she worked as a music teacher. A widow and mother to two young children, she said this during her swearing in: "Through my own tragedy and pain, I realized that the train can come off the tracks for anyone. This experience has made me even more committed to a Frederick County where we address disparities head on, use our resources, our incredible caring and generous community, to ensure that every Frederick County family can thrive, even when faced with challenges."

**Greg Poling '07 [5]** published "On Dangerous Ground: America's Century in the South China Sea" (Oxford University, 2022) which examines more than a century of American involvement in the South China Sea. He is the director of the Southeast Asia Program and Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C. In November of 2022, he presented his book at St. Mary's College in partnership with the Center for the Study of Democracy and the Patuxent Partnership.



## 2010s

**Nathan Hesse '11** commenced employment as the deputy director of the Command and Seamanship Training Squadron at the United States Naval Academy in December of 2021. This program develops small-unit leadership, seamanship and navigation through offshore sailing. In the summer of 2022, Nathan sailed from Annapolis to Mystic, Connecticut, with a squadron of five Navy 44 sailboats and forty midshipmen.

**Sarah Platt '13** defended her dissertation at Syracuse University in July of 2022 and earned her PhD in anthropology in August. She recently commenced employment as a tenure-track assistant professor of anthropology at the College of Charleston in Charleston, South Carolina. In this position, Sarah plans to continue her research on the historical archaeology of urban Charleston in the eighteenth century.



PHOTO MAGIC MEDIA

**Terrence Thrweatt Jr. '15 [6]** received his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Baltimore School of Law in August of 2022. After taking the bar exam this coming February, he plans to swear into the American Bar Association in the summer of 2023. Terrence is a member of the Baltimore City and Baltimore County Bar Associations as well as the Maryland Association of Appraisers. He received his Master of Business Administration in 2017.

## Meet the Alumni Council Executive Committee

By **Tae-Shi Savage '24**, Mulberry Tree intern



**John Ahearn '76** was recently elected as treasurer of the St. Mary's College of Maryland Alumni Council. In this position, he hopes to keep the small liberal arts college legacy alive by inspiring alumni to stay connected and give back

to their alma mater. John has served on the Alumni Council for six years and is currently a senior vice president in wealth management at UBS Financial Services. In addition to his 35 years as a financial adviser, he has been the branch manager for the UBS Annapolis office for the past 12 years. He appreciates that SMCM provided him the liberty to explore different options and discover what he enjoyed before embarking on a career trajectory.



**Erin O'Connell '91** was recently elected as the Alumni Council vice president of chapter activities. In this position, Erin hopes to encourage community involvement, promote Bay to Bay Service Days among

alumni chapters and increase outreach to regional alumni. She previously served as the Annapolis chapter president before taking on her current role. As a council member, she enjoys giving back to her alma

mater, building relationships with fellow alumni and connecting with current students. Erin currently works as a sales training manager for digital marketing firm Hibu, where she puts her experience as an SMCM admissions tour guide and her psychology major to use by onboarding and training new hires.



**Michele Everett Shipley '92** was elected as the Alumni Council vice president of affinity networks in 2021. In this position, Michele hopes to assist the Office of Alumni Relations in launching and promoting alumni affinity networks. She

joined the Alumni Council in 2019 and served as the vice president of chapter activities before taking on her current role. As a council member, Michele likes giving her time to the College and connecting with fellow alumni and current students. She also enjoys seeing her daughter, **Emily Shipley '23**, enjoy her time on campus (pictured together). Michele currently works as a paralegal for Allegis Group in Hanover, Maryland, and states that her desire to contribute to the greater good in her professional life is a value that was fostered during her time as an SMCM student.



**Kevin Roth '93** was elected as parliamentarian of the Alumni Council in 2021. In this position, he hopes to evaluate the Alumni Council bylaws according to the organization's current needs while also identifying opportunities for the council to have a

greater impact on SMCM students. Kevin joined the Alumni Council in 2018. As a member, he enjoys supporting student engagement and loves returning to campus which to him feels the same despite nearly every building being new or fully renovated since he graduated. He currently runs the research and evaluation group of the National Recreation and Park Association, a nonprofit organization that supports equitable access to public parks for all people. During his time as an SMCM student, Kevin developed several key skills that have helped him achieve his professional goals, including the ability to persuade others, communicate efficiently, develop ideas and opinions and speak confidently in public.



**Sara Kidd Shanklin '11** was elected as secretary of the Alumni Council in 2021. In this position, she hopes to raise awareness about the Alumni Council among SMCM community members with a focus on how the council

contributes to the College beyond monetary support. Sara first joined the Alumni Council in 2017, serving as a member of the scholarship committee and chair of the alumni recognition committee. As a council member, she aspires to collaborate with current students and offer them opportunities to further their professional goals. After earning her Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in human studies from St. Mary's College, Sara pursued a master's degree in social work. She currently works at Cigna where she supports customers in navigating their insurance benefits.

## 2022 Alumni Scholarship Recipients

By **Tae-Shi Savage '24**, Mulberry Tree intern



**Adam Martin '26** is a 2022 Alumni Legacy Scholarship recipient and the son of **Jennifer Fleck Martin '92** and **Sean Martin '94**. After hearing stories of his parents' experiences on campus

and visiting the college numerous times, Adam believed that St. Mary's College of Maryland "already felt like home." As a student-athlete on the men's lacrosse team, he hopes to develop leadership skills, nurture meaningful connections with fellow students and make significant contributions towards the team.



**Jill Hayden '25** is a 2022 Alumni Legacy Scholarship recipient and the daughter of **Chandra Hayden '97**.

She always knew that a smaller college campus atmosphere would

suit her, and with the intimate class sizes and opportunities for meaningful relationships with faculty, St. Mary's College felt like the perfect choice. Jill is a dual-sport student-athlete on the varsity field hockey and varsity women's lacrosse teams. During her time at St. Mary's College, she hopes to broaden her social networks, establish a strong sense of independence and grow personally and professionally as she explores her career path.



**Kate Jakuta '07** is the 2022 recipient of the Don Stabile Post-Graduate Scholarship, generously funded by Professor of the College Don Stabile. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in social

work at the University of Maryland and plans to graduate in May of 2023. During her time at St. Mary's College, she was fortunate to study abroad twice in Costa Rica and Chile, experiences which, combined with her academic pursuits, inspired her desire to work with people of backgrounds other than her own. She currently supervises a team of four case managers at the Southeast Development Corporation, an organization that provides support to Baltimore families who are at risk of homelessness. With her social work license, Kate plans to expand the scope of her work in helping immigrant families escape poverty and achieve economic stability.



**Claire Kostelnik '17** is the 2022 recipient of the Don Stabile Alumni Doctoral Scholarship, generously funded by Professor of the College Don Stabile. She is currently pursuing a

doctoral degree in neuroscience at the Uniformed Services University in Bethesda, Maryland. Inspired by a neuroscience class and involvement with varsity soccer at St. Mary's College, Claire developed an interest in researching traumatic brain injuries. She subsequently pursued opportunities in concussion research, leading to an internship with Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, where she studied the effects of traumatic brain injuries amongst the military population. With her PhD in neuroscience, Claire plans to support the military community by studying the neurobiological underpinnings of traumatic brain injuries in the hopes of developing effective treatment options.

### 2020s

**Derrick Miller '20 [7]** performed in the world premiere of Arnold Saltzman's new opera in concert, "Geniza: Hidden Fragments," at the University of the District of Columbia's Theater of the Arts in October 2022. The opera was directed by Professor of Music **Jeffrey Silberschlag** and featured accompaniment by the Chesapeake Orchestra.

**Jeanette Marie Warren '20** also made an appearance. In November and December of 2022, Derrick appeared in the world premiere of "For Whom the Bell Tolls," a new opera by Brian Wilbur Grundstrom, Verdi's "Il Trovatore" with the Washington National Opera, Berlioz's "Requiem" with the National Philharmonic and Baltimore Choral Arts Society, Handel's "Messiah" with the Handel Choir of Baltimore and "Messiah" at St. Mary's College of Maryland. Derrick regularly sings with the National Cathedral Choir, the Baltimore Basilica and St. John's Episcopal Church in Lafayette Square.



**Rachael Meador '20 MAT '22** commenced employment as a chorus and general music instructor at Margaret Brent Middle School in August of 2022. During her time at St. Mary's College, Rachael studied conducting, musicology, music education, music theory, orchestral instruments and voice under the direction of music and MAT faculty. She also performed in numerous collegiate and local vocal ensembles, joining the Chesapeake Orchestra for the 2018 Alba International Music Festival in Alba, Italy, and Trinity Episcopal Church for the 2019 "Messiah" production at Carnegie Hall in New York City. She currently resides in Owings, Maryland.

### MARRIAGES & UNIONS

**Daniel Blair '08** and Susanna Carbone [1] were married on Sept. 15, 2022 in Monforte d'Alba, Italy. Groomsmen included **Paul Schaughency '06** and **Hank Miller '08**. The bilingual ceremony was co-officiated in English by **John Henry Adams '07**. **Jessie Blair '12** served as the vocal soloist during the ceremony. Other alumni in attendance included **Laura Wallace '07**, **Kyle Gordon '09** and **Alexandra McCallen '12**.



The couple currently reside in Castagnole delle Lanze in the province of Asti, Italy.





GONZALEZ, J. WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY



SHOT BY ELLEN

St. Michael's, Maryland, and currently reside in Edgewater, Maryland.

**Erin Chase '16** and **Clayton Daneker '16 [5]** were married on April 26, 2022 during an intimate ceremony in Sequoia National Park. They celebrated with friends and family on Aug. 20, 2022 at the Chesepiooc Real Ale Brewery in Crofton, Maryland. Alumni in attendance at the celebration included **Cindy Catudal Shank '95**, **Jori Barley '15**, **Lindsey Leitera '15**, **Lauren Cawley Branchfield '16**, **Bianca Calin '16**, **Jane Harkness '16**, **Sam Hirsh '16**, **Luke Land '16**, **Robin Goldman LeBlanc '16**, **Jake Lowenthal '16**, **Liza Moore '16**, **Eric Schroeder '16**, **Marty Shay '16**, **Andrew Wilhelm '16**, **Kieran Carney '17**, **Conner Hergenreder '17** and **Aaron Walker**. The couple currently reside in Odenton, Maryland.

**Mandy Bernard '16** and **Joe Lignelli '16 [6]** were married on March 6, 2022 at Antrim 1844 in Taneytown, Maryland. Joe's sister, **Anna Lignelli '21**, was in attendance. The couple currently reside in Marriottsville, Maryland.

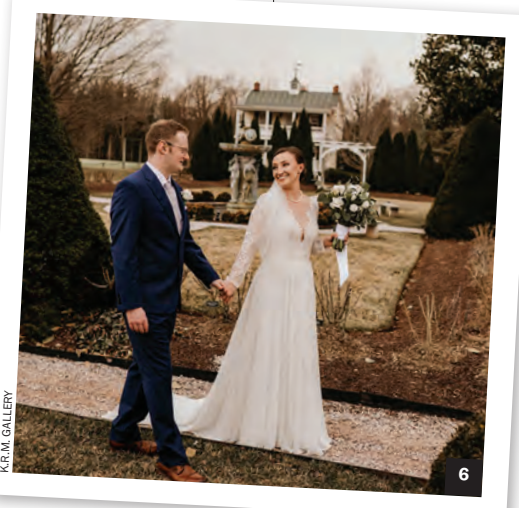
**Payton Brown '14** and **Nathan Hesse '11 [4]** were married on June 11, 2022 at St. Anne's Church in Annapolis, Maryland. They celebrated with friends, family and alumni at the Eastport Yacht Club. Alumni in attendance included **Will Eaton '11 MAT '13**, **Sam Eckert '11**, **Jimmy O'Keefe '11**, **Andrew Sargent '12**, **Colleen Vaughan '11**, **Jillian Jesperen '13**, **Ali Leonardi '14**, **Will Raulin '14**, **Matt Braun '15**, **Daniella Hanacek '15** and **Daniel Pratson '15**. The couple honeymooned along the Dalmation Coast and in



ANNA LOVE PHOTOGRAPHY

**Tara Brown '08** and **Chad White [2]** were married on Oct. 23, 2021 at Linwood Estates in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. The matron of honor was **Bridgin Lee '08**. Other alumni in attendance included **Kali Gates '08**, **Ian Murphy '08** and **Nora Onley '09**. The couple currently reside in Greencastle, Pennsylvania.

**Julie Beers '14** and **Miles Loring-Thomas '14 [3]** were married on Sept. 23, 2022 in Baltimore, Maryland. Julie transferred to St. Mary's College of Maryland during her junior year and met Miles soon after. Bridesmaids included **Amanda Wheeler '14** and **Mallory Buckingham '16**. Groomsmen included **JT Rohe '13**, **Timothy Hornig '14**, **Ben Love '14**, **David Mitchell McShane '14** and **Max Reamer '14**. There were numerous other alumni in attendance at the wedding. The couple currently reside in Baltimore, Maryland.



K.R.M. GALLERY





1



2



3



4



5

## BIRTHS & ADOPTIONS

**Makeyda Hilliard Soriano '09** and husband Mark [1] welcomed a daughter, Josefina Makamae, on Oct. 19, 2021. Josefina is named after her paternal grandmother. Her middle name means "my precious one"

in Hawaiian and was given in honor of her maternal great grandmother and father who are from Hawaii. The family currently resides in Columbia, Maryland.

**Sonja Kubik Charpentier '09** and husband Brent [2] welcomed a daughter, Brinley Kubik, on May 11, 2022. Brinley joins her five-year-old brother, Barrett. The family currently resides in Haddam, Connecticut.

**Katrina Rigby Horwitz '12** and **Michael Horwitz '11** welcomed a son, Leland, on Aug. 28, 2022. Leland will attend his first SMCM Alumni Weekend in June of 2023. The family currently resides in Silver Spring, Maryland.

**Verloska Jaatsy Tominack '12** and husband Mark [3] welcomed a daughter, Alina Clara, on Aug. 25, 2022 at Anne Arundel Medical Center in Annapolis, Maryland. Alina is

the first granddaughter on both sides of her family and is beloved by maternal grandparents Ana M. and Javier Torres and paternal grandparents Brenda and John Tominack. The family currently resides in Annapolis, Maryland.

**Hannah Sturm '14** and husband Jeff [4] welcomed a son, Arthur Lee, on April 5, 2022. The family currently resides in Perry Hall, Maryland.

**Nicole Jackson-Wolf '15** and **Jake Jackson-Wolf '15** [5] welcomed a daughter, Mackenzie Ray, on Oct. 18, 2022. The family currently resides in Lutherville-Timonium, Maryland.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Cherrix “Cherry” S. Gering** ‘42HS ‘44JC died on Aug. 14, 2022 at the age of 97. After retiring from the United States Air Force, Cherry and her husband remained active in the civic affairs of Snow Hill, Maryland, where Cherry’s father had served as mayor. They refurbished the Julia A. Purnell Museum of Snow Hill, making it one of the most popular tourist spots in town, and founded the tourist attraction “Tillie the Tug,” which provided scenic tours along the Pocomoke River. Cherry also enjoyed planning family outings for her grandchildren. She is survived by many family members and was predeceased by her husband of 70 years.

**Virginia “Ginny” Russell Bell** ‘63JC died on Sept. 2, 2022. Throughout the years, Ginny remained close with her fellow classmates from the St. Mary’s College Junior Class of 1963. She served as godmother for the daughter of **Melanie Ayres Merryweather** ‘63JC, who subsequently served as godmother for Ginny’s daughter. She is survived by her husband, daughter and two grandchildren along with many other family members.

**Teresa “Tracy” Gisriel Krug** ‘84 of Edinburg, Virginia, died on Aug. 9, 2022. After earning a Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Mary’s College of Maryland, Tracy returned to her high school as a teacher where she met her husband Lu. A few years, daughters and moves later, Tracy returned to school

and spent the rest of her career as a librarian. She is survived by her husband, two daughters and many other family members.

**Brenda Augrette Robinson** ‘85 of Fort Washington, Maryland, died on Sept. 9, 2022. Raised in Indian Head, Maryland, she graduated from St. Mary’s College of Maryland in 1985 and proceeded to earn two master’s degrees from the College of William and Mary and the Wharton Business School at the University of Pennsylvania. After teaching for several years at Temple University, Brenda began her career as an insurance executive and, for the next three decades, worked with Booz Allen Hamilton, Ullico, Baltimore Life, Old Mutual and AFBLA/5STAR with a specialty in risk management.

In her spare time, Brenda enjoyed planning family reunions, mapping her family’s genealogical tree and spearheading campaigns for the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. She was also an active member of the St. Mary’s College Alumni Association and was the founding president of the Black Alumni Chapter. Brenda is survived by her three sisters – former Alumni Council President and SMCM Trustee **Sherrie Robinson Bailey** ‘81, **A. Lorraine Robinson** ‘92 and Rhonda Robinson – as well as her brother-in-law, **Andrew “Drew” Bailey** ‘83.

**Alexander D. Klose** ‘03 of Drammen, Norway, died peacefully at home on May 14, 2021. After earning his Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Mary’s

College in 2003, Alexander received his master’s degree in education from George Mason University. Fluent in four languages, he taught in high schools in the United States and international schools abroad, and in 2012 began a career at the Svensedammen secondary school in Drammen, Norway. Committed to a cross-cultural education, Alexander inspired both of his children to speak fluent English while growing up in Norway. He especially enjoyed competitive swimming, which he participated in throughout high school and college and at a master’s level as an adult. Alexander is survived by his Norwegian wife Anette Kyvik, daughter Sunniva and son Johannes, along with many friends and family members around the world.

## GIVE THE GIFT OF A LASTING LEGACY



in the Nancy R. & Norton T. DoTe Performing Arts Center

Honor a special person or milestone occasion with an engraved plaque on an auditorium seat. These make perfect gifts for graduations, retirements, weddings or class anniversaries.



INSCRIBE A SEAT TODAY!  
**SMCM.EDU/GIVING/AUDITORIUM-SEATS/**

Your \$300 tax-deductible gift supports the Performing Arts Fund.

**ST MARY'S**  
COLLEGE of MARYLAND

Contact Miranda Pontarelli, annual giving officer, at [mjpontarelli@smcm.edu](mailto:mjpontarelli@smcm.edu) or 240-895-2122 if you would like three or more plaques.



# ALUMNAE OF THE WORLD

BY KENT RANDELL, COLLEGE ARCHIVIST

As we consider alums “near and far,” it is important to remember that our historic predecessor institutions were always places for serious study and dedication to the liberal arts.

For worldly travelers, one need look no further than **Emily Louise Clayton Bishop** (Class of 1900), who studied sculpture in France under Auguste Rodin and has pieces in the permanent collection of the Pennsylvania Museum of Art.

Some traveled the world in service to their country. **Florence Patti “Flo” Kennedy**, who attended in 1905, joined the Red Cross during World War II and served with the American forces in Mexico, France and Germany before becoming superintendent of McMahon Children’s Shelter in New York City. Later, during World War II, both **Ruth Margaret Hotes, née Reese ’37HS** and **Jane Aston Riehl née Mellor ’38HS** were WAVEs (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service) for the United States Women’s Naval Reserve. Before graduating from the Maryland Institute of Art and working at the Peabody Institute, **Clare Mackubin Whelan ’35HS** served as a WAAC (Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps) during World War II.

**Kay Aldridge ’34HS** undoubtedly traveled while living the glamorous life of a supermodel and an actress who was saved from many death-defying situations in exotic locales as the title lead of the popular “Perils of Nyoka” serials. Not to be outdone, **Jean Miles Perkins**, who attended in 1939, founded the philanthropic Jean Perkins Foundation, but not before being named “Miss Park Avenue” in 1939.



The Seminary and Junior College also produced professionals like **Wilma Elsie Tull ’36JC**, the first woman in the history of Delaware to be an allied member of the New York Stock Exchange. Sister **Mary Thecla (Flora Lancaster, attended 1940)** was superintendent of nursing at St. Joseph Hospital in Savannah, Ga. and an instructor at Mercy Medical. **Lyde Frankline Heim, née Peach ’36HS** worked for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) while **Clara Threadway Browne née Munroe ’31HS** worked for the National Institutes of Health. Alumnae in federal service also include **Lorena Belle Croft ’17**, who was a United States public health dietician, and **Emily Jane “Emmy” Griffith** (Class of 1885), who had a long career with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

An impressive corps of academics attended the Seminary, such as **Cora Beale Key ’06**, who received her doctorate in psychology and was co-author of a landmark study concerning IQ (Intelligence Quotient) and rural Western Maryland and West Virginia. **Alice Anna Deckman** (Class of 1895) was a scholar of Greek, Latin, and pedagogy who studied in France. **Maria Croker née Briscoe**, who attended in 1890, was the first poet laureate of Maryland and principal of Mechanicsville High School. **Violetta “Lettie” Gough, née Dent ’09** became Maryland’s first female county superintendent of schools, serving St. Mary’s County from 1928-1957.

Visit the archive for more information about our alums, or e-mail [archives@smcm.edu](mailto:archives@smcm.edu) if you know of any impressive alums who have not been included in this article.



TOP: *Emily Jane “Emmy” Griffith* (Class of 1895) enjoyed a long career with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office had her portrait taken in a Baltimore photography studio. BOTTOM: *Kay Aldridge ’34HS* gained world-wide fame starring in the popular “Perils of Nyoka” movie serials of the 1940s.





**NANCY R. AND NORTON T. DODGE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**



**ANGELIQUE KIDJO**

# COMING ATTRACTIONS

in the new Nancy R. and Norton T. Dodge  
Performing Arts Center

Tuesday, Feb. 7:

## STEP AFRIKA

Top-flight African American step dancers

Saturday, Feb. 18:

## MOZART TO MONK

Evolution of music from classical to ragtime to jazz

Wednesday, March 1:

## HONORING THE LEGACY OF LUCILLE CLIFTON

An evening of poetry & award presentation

Friday, March 24:

## TWAIN LECTURE: DULCÉ SLOAN

Comedian (The Daily Show)

Saturday, April 1:

## ANNA DEAVERE SMITH

Playwright, actress (Nurse Jackie, The West Wing), professor

Saturday, April 15:

## CHOPTEETH AFROFUNK BIG BAND

Fela Kuti-inspired big-band funk

Saturday, April 22:

## USNB SEA CHANTERS

Official Chorus of the United States Navy

Saturday, May 13:

## ANGELIQUE KIDJO

"Africa's Premier Diva" - TIME



**USNB SEA CHANTERS**



**DULCÉ SLOAN**



**ANNA DEAVERE SMITH**

**FOR TICKETS AND MORE INFORMATION** on DoTe Performing Arts Center offerings, go to: <https://www.smcm.edu/doTe>

**FOR OTHER COLLEGE EVENTS**, including VOICES Reading Series, Bruce Davis Theater productions, Awards Convocation and Commencement, go to: <https://inside.smcm.edu/events>



**3,000+**  
DONORS



**WE SURPASSED ALL OF OUR 2022 GOALS**  
**THANK YOU TO OUR**  
**DONORS AND CHAMPIONS!**

**700+**  
ALUMNI  
DONORS



RAISED OVER  
**\$300,000**  
TO SUPPORT SMCM  
STUDENTS