

ST MARY'S

COLLEGE of MARYLAND

The National Public Honors College



WINTER 2024



ST. MARY'S COLLEGE
of Maryland

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

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

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Photo from the College's collection

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In 2016, two discoveries were made regarding the history of the enslaved in Maryland: one at St. Mary's College and one at Georgetown University. Both connect to the Commemorative to Enslaved Peoples of Southern Maryland.

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COVER:

Percussionist Zayon Morgan '24 has been an integral part of each of the Sacred Journey events while a student at St. Mary's College.

FOR OVER 180 YEARS THIS INSTITUTION, IN ALL ITS ITERATIONS, HAS ASSESSED the lay of the land and been an innovator in the education landscape, addressing challenges head on and doing what it believed best to educate and train members of the community to be productive and engaged citizens. Over the decades, what's required to ensure that we meet that goal has naturally evolved as our world has transformed to become more diverse in the ways we see and engage with the global community.

As the country wrestles with what is "truth" and "justice" and "right," St. Mary's College of Maryland will, with the implementation of *The Rising Tide* strategic plan, continue to work to create an environment that is welcoming to all who demonstrate the intellect and moral conviction to be here. We will provide a holistic educational experience that prepares them to understand the history of this place and to address the challenges of today and tomorrow. LEADing the Way is what we do and your continued support of and engagement with us ensures a brighter future for all.

It is with steadfast momentum that we lead the way in all we do. This past fall, the College purchased a 57-passenger bus to start a campus transportation system that gives students access to regional communities, organizations and activities. This was one of the strategies called out in the strategic plan. This spring we continue with implementation of *The Rising Tide's* strategies: We will welcome the inaugural director of student fellowships and awards along with an international admission counselor. We will begin planning for an Office of Campus Outreach and Community Engagement and its leadership, along with considering proposals for new academic programs to support the future of St. Mary's College.

As current president of the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC), I'll be hosting the annual meeting of all member institutions on our campus from June 9-11. I have asked my senior leadership team to co-lead discussions with our nationwide colleagues about the critical value of the public liberal arts, especially in these tumultuous times.

Encourage your friends and neighbors who are looking at colleges to consider the National Public Honors College. With our spring open house on April 20 and an array of concerts, lectures and special events throughout the spring (details on inside back cover), there are plenty of opportunities to see us shine.



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

Editor's Note

IT'S AN INEVITABLE FACT THAT AS WE AGE, we come to regard certain things as vitally important to pass along to the next generation. Many families have a "back in my day" story that illustrates this point. A parent puts out an idea, a wish, hoping their child will catch it, take it, appreciate it. Likewise, teachers offer knowledge, history, examples, hoping to impact their students.

Our College president put forth the idea to honor the enslaved whose story had been hidden for more than 200 years but was revealed in 2016 to be part of the College's untold history. That idea ignited a campus-wide effort that culminated in the unveiling of the Commemorative to Enslaved Peoples of Southern Maryland in 2020. Gathered at the site for the annual Sacred Journey this past November, **President Jordan** told the crowd it warmed her heart to see so many joining her in this act of honor.

Professor of English **Jennifer Cognard-Black** has included the Commemorative as part of her course curriculum. Narratives of enslavement become more real when considered at the site. Similarly, Quenton Baker's erasure poetry cladding the structure provides her students an example from which to construct their own poems drawn from difficult texts.

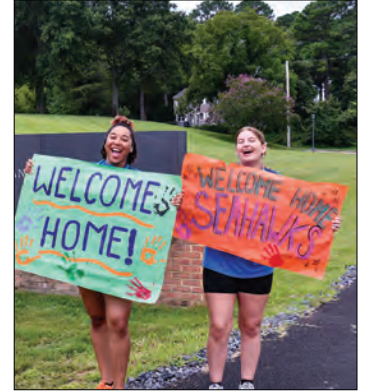
Connecting a class field trip to a Maryland plantation site with French history and culture, **George MacLeod** and his French students worked together to build their appreciation of the College's land acknowledgment and pledge by translating it into French.

Malaki Freeman '24, Maya Rachel Pingho '24 and Anais Williams '25 are creating a podcast to share with other students the importance of understanding the Commemorative and the history of the enslaved in Southern Maryland. They want their fellow students and new students to know and care about this history that they have learned as SMCM students.

There's a quiet satisfaction in having an idea you've offered be considered, questioned, even challenged by alternate viewpoints. More importantly, the exchange of ideas connects us together as lifelong learners.

LEE CAPRISTO, *editor*

CAMPUS & COMMUNITY NEWS



St. Mary's College of Maryland Welcomes Most Diverse Class in History

St. Mary's College of Maryland welcomed 519 first-year and new transfer students, the largest incoming class in over a decade and the most diverse in the 183-year history of the College.

Facts and figures for the Class of 2027:

- Students hail from 17 states and Washington, D.C.
- 22 of 24 counties in Maryland
- Citizens of 25 countries are represented
- 30% of these students are from historically underrepresented groups, with 27% being the first in their families to attend a 4-year college

Similarly, applications for admission reached record a record high in 2023 of 3,108.



Maryland Public Buildings of the Year

The Nancy R. & Norton T. Dodge Performing Arts Center and Learning Commons, both dedicated in September 2022, were named American Institute of Architects (AIA) Maryland's Public Buildings of the Year at the organization's annual Excellence in Design Awards. The construction project, a combined \$66 million cooperative funding arrangement between the College and the state of Maryland, was also given an Honor Award for Institutional Architecture by the group, which represents more than 1,800 architects and allied professionals in promoting the practice of architecture. The architects for the project were GWWO | Architects, Inc. and the Gund Partnership.

Visit smcm.edu/dodge for more information and coming attractions.

Gift Commitment Largest in College History

To support the College's \$20 million Taking the LEAD Campaign, which was publicly launched on Sept. 22, 2023, **R. Scott Raspa '86**, generously included the College in his estate plans. He and his spouse, John M. Staples, designated a total of \$4 million between the endowment and the R. Scott Raspa and John M. Staples Scholarship Endowed Fund. This is the largest gift commitment in College history. With Raspa's bequest, nearly \$19 million has been raised through the campaign.



Raspa began his term with the SMCM Foundation Board of Directors in September 2020 and currently serves as treasurer. He is also a member of the Taking the LEAD Campaign Steering Committee.



On Sept. 22, 2023, the College's rowing center was dedicated as the William E. Seale Rowing Center. An economist and professor emeritus of finance at George Washington University, Seale is a partner in the ProFunds Group and was the owner of Financial Markets Group Inc. Now mostly retired, he has been a valued advocate, proponent, adviser, mentor and contributor to the College's vision and mission. Most recently, Seale served on the College's Board of Trustees, from 2019 to 2023. Previously, he served on the Foundation Board of Directors from 2012 to 2015.

BOARD & FOUNDATION BOARD NEWS

During its October 2023 meeting, The College's Board of Trustees presented the College's highest honor, the Order of the Ark and Dove, to **Dallas Dean '60**.

She is a lifelong champion of education, establishing the Dallas P. Dean Master of Arts in Teaching Scholarship at the College in 2002. She has both helped meet emergency expenses for the educational studies department as well as provided scholarships to support increased access to the MAT program. Her support, advocacy and mentoring for



SMCM students pursuing educational studies spans decades, predating the establishment of the MAT program.

PRESIDENT'S NEWS



President Jordan, with Institutional Advancement's alumni relations team, visited Maryland alumni in their own backyard for the first time since the pandemic. This initiative, known as the "Taking the LEAD Tour," featured special gatherings in Annapolis, Bethesda and Baltimore during November and December 2023. Additional "tour stops" are planned for the spring.

On Sept. 26, 2023, **President Jordan** gave the keynote address during the American Conference of Academic Deans (ACAD) Virtual Deans' Institute. The ACAD is an organization dedicated to the professional development of academic leaders. In her remarks, "Leadership: A Calling that Just

Cannot be Ignored," President Jordan spoke of her journey to her college presidency. She addressed her calling to leadership, the importance of empowering others, being self-aware, and having humility and grace.



On Sept. 15, 2023, **President Jordan** received the 2022-23 Presidents' Cup from United East Commissioner Stephanie Dutton, who visited campus that day for the occasion. The Presidents' Cup annually recognizes the athletic achievements of its members. The Presidents' Cup is determined by a scoring system which rewards a school for success during both regular season and postseason competition. St. Mary's College finished as the runner-up last season in its inaugural year in the league.

FACULTY & STAFF NEWS

Professor of History **Christine Adams** provided the introduction to Madame de Maintenon and her political and cultural influence during the late reign of King Louis XIV as part of Opera Lafayette's Salon Series on Sept. 20, 2023 in Washington, D.C. Adams' talk, "The Secret Wife," was followed by a companion talk about the musical influences of Francois Couperin by musicologist Don Fader.

Professor of English **Karen Leona Anderson** is a contributing author to "Microbium: The Neglected Lives of Micro-Matter" edited by Joela Jacobs and Agnes Malinowska (punctum books, 2023). Anderson's contribution is a work titled "Fungi."

A book edited by Professor of History **Adriana M. Brodsky** was featured in the fall 2023 catalog of publications by the New York University Press. Brodsky's co-edited collection with Laura Arnold Leibman, "Jews Across the Americas: A Sourcebook, 1492 – Present," was published in September 2023. Considered groundbreaking in its offerings toward understanding Jewish American history, the book captures the historical diversity and cultural breadth of American Jews across Latin America, the Caribbean, Canada and the United States.



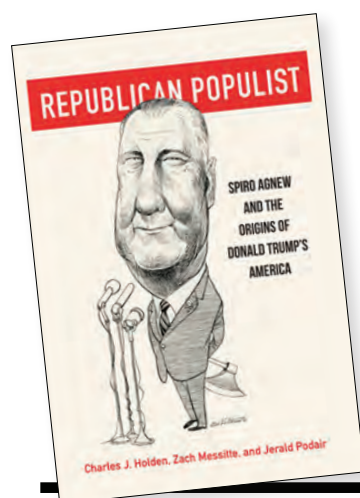
Ben Click, professor of English, completed a five-year tenure in December 2023 as the editor of "The Mark Twain Annual," the official publication of the Mark Twain Circle of America. The annual publishes critical and pedagogical articles about Mark

Twain, his writing and its literary and cultural legacy. It has an international readership and Click worked to increase the presence of international Twain scholars within the annual's pages. Under his editorship, the annual published 54 critical and pedagogical articles and 20 book reviews. In addition, Click curated the annual's first special issues: "Mark Twain and the Natural World" (2019) and "Mark Twain and the West" (2021) and produced two special symposia of the same names for the Center for Mark Twain Studies at Elmira College in Elmira, New York. Click has been awarded a Quarry Farm Fellowship (in Elmira) for the fall of 2024.



Professor of English **Jennifer Cognard-Black** edited with Melissa A. Goldthwaite "Good Eats: 32 Writers on Eating

Ethically" (NYU Press, January 2024). The collection features a diverse ensemble of award-winning writers, chefs, farmers, activists and educators who invite readers to consider what and why we eat, individually and collectively. **Will Becker '20** is one of the contributing writers, of "Men & Meat." On Nov. 10, 2023 Cognard-Black led a creative writing master class on microfictions as part of the annual National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) conference in Chicago, Illinois. Earlier in the fall, Cognard-Black, under her pen name J. Annie MacLeod, won second place in the Exposition Review's Flash 405 contest with her piece of flash fiction, "The Dolls."



Professor of History **Charles Holden** co-authored with Zach Messitte and Jerald Podair, an article that appeared in the Los Angeles Review of Books on Aug. 27, 2023. "Oh, We Knew Agnew: On Spiro Agnew's Lasting Legacy" looks at political buffoonery as part of Agnew's legacy and how it remains relevant today. The trio co-authored "Republican Populist: Spiro Agnew and the Origins of Donald Trump's America" in 2019 (Univ. of Virginia Press).

Barrett Emerick, associate professor and chair of the Department of Philosophy, is coauthor of the recently published book, "Not Giving Up on People: A Feminist Case for Prison Abolition." Emerick and coauthor Audrey Yap link feminist theory with real-world activism to advocate for systems focused on rehabilitation and restoration to the benefit of victims, perpetrators and society as a whole. Emerick also published an article with coauthors Katie Stockdale and Audrey Yap in *Feminist Philosophy Quarterly*. The paper is titled "Weapon and Shield: Apologies and the Duty to be Vulnerable" and explores some of the ways in which apologies can be used against people. It also explores what makes for a good apology.

Assistant Professor of Psychology **Gili Freedman** and collaborators including **Bella Moutoux '22** and **Isobel Hermans '22** recently published an article titled "She made a mean beef stroganoff: Gendered portrayals of women in STEM in newspaper articles and their effects" in the journal *Communication Monographs*. In this manuscript, researchers examine how journalists write about women who have won the Nobel Prize in a STEM field.



"Historical Tapes: Adele France and John LaFarge in Southern Maryland," by **Janet Butler Haugaard**, editor emerita of St. Mary's College of Maryland, was published in September 2023 and is now available at the campus bookstore and its online store. The book's release coincides with the 100-year anniversary of Adele France's leadership at St. Mary's Seminary.

Kristina Howansky, assistant professor of psychology, recently published a chapter in a new book. Howansky's chapter, "Fostering Inclusivity in Higher Education Through Identity Safety Cues: A Practical Guide," can be found in the "The Routledge International Handbook of Gender Beliefs, Stereotype Threat, and Teacher Expectations."

Associate Professor of Psychology **Ayse Ikizler '07** was recently published in "Biopsychosocial Perspectives on Arab Americans: Culture, Development, and Health 2nd Edition" (Springer, 2023). The chapter, titled "Stress and Health Among Arab/MENA Americans," synthesizes theoretical models and empirical research to summarize the state of the literature and offers recommendations for future directions.

Assistant Professor of Psychology **Nayantara Kurpad** and colleagues recently published an article titled



"Low-Performing Students Confidently Overpredict Their Grade Performance throughout the Semester" in a special issue of the

open-access *Journal of Intelligence*.

Associate Professor of French **George MacLeod** has a new

book, "Mediating Violence from Africa: Francophone Literature, Film and Testimony after the Cold War" (University of Nebraska Press, 2023). MacLeod considers how Francophone African authors and filmmakers portray iconic figures such as child soldiers, genocide survivors and celebrity humanitarians across a range of genres.

Associate Professor of History **Sarah Malena** contributed the chapter "History Without Texts: Interdisciplinary Interpretive Methods for Understanding the Early Iron Age" to a collection of essays in honor of prominent archaeologist and mentor Thomas E. Levy. Malena's chapter reflects on the challenges involved in investigating historical periods and groups that did not produce lasting written documents. The two-volume work, "And in Length of Days Understanding (Job 12:12): Essays on Archaeology in the Eastern Mediterranean and Beyond in Honor of Thomas E. Levy," edited by Erez Ben-Yosef and Ian W. N. Jones, is part of the *Interdisciplinary Contributions to Archaeology* book series published by Springer.

Associate Professor of Psychology **James Mantell** and Professor of Psychology **Aileen Bailey** were recently awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation, Division of Undergraduate Education, titled "Developing Modernized Data Science Instruction in Psychology Curricula." The purpose of the three-year, \$297,000 project is to develop, assess and share open educational resources that enhance data science skills within undergraduate psychology courses.

Pamela Mertz, professor of biochemistry, has been named a member of the 2023 Malate Dehydrogenase CUREs (Course-based Undergraduate Research Experiences) Community Faculty Fellow Cohort. Throughout the two-year fellowship, Mertz will receive tailored mentoring, access to a variety of community resources and funding for supplies and equipment. She will also contribute to a series of mini-review papers written by members of the MCC CUREs Community to be published in an MDH-themed issue of "Essays in Biochemistry" in 2024.

Professor of Biology **Jordan Price** co-authored and published a paper with **Karolyn Garcia '19**, based on Garcia's St. Mary's Project research. The paper appeared on Nov. 7, 2023 in the journal *Evolution: International Journal of Organic Evolution*. Garcia previously presented this work at the annual meeting of the Maryland Ornithological Society. The paper's abstract states that although many studies have looked at the evolution of color differences between the sexes (sexual dichromatism) in birds, few have compared the relative rates of these evolutionary changes in males and females.



Shanen Sherrer, associate professor of biochemistry, is the first faculty member from St. Mary's College to be awarded a policy fellowship from the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Sherrer is a member of the AAAS' Science & Technology Policy Fellowships program with other scientists and engineers. The one-year immersive experience in the public policy arena is designed to leverage their expertise to help confront major societal issues in the federal government.

Associate Professor of Theater **Amy Steiger** wrote a chapter published in a newly released book, "Stanislavsky and Race" (Routledge, 2023). The book explores Stanislavsky's approach through the lens of race, place and identity through a collection of essays from leading figures in the field. Steiger's chapter is titled "Stanislavsky, Rose McClendon and Reparations: Whiteness, Professionalization and Reframing Amateurism in the Theater of the United States."



Daniel Tobiansky, assistant professor of neurobiology, and colleagues recently published an article titled, "Neurosteroids and the mesocorticolimbic system" in the journal *Neuroscience & Biobehavioral Reviews*. His paper

reviews the most recent research on how steroid hormones like estrogen or testosterone are quickly made in the brain and affect brain activity. In particular, the paper focuses on the "mesocorticolimbic system" which mediates reward-seeking behavior and other higher cognitive functions like behavioral flexibility.



Antonio Ugues Jr., associate professor of political science and director of the Center for the Study of Democracy, was appointed to the Maryland 250 Commission by Governor Wes Moore. The Maryland 250 Commission was created by executive order to serve as Maryland's official liaison with the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission and to coordinate efforts within Maryland to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America on July 4, 2026.

Professor of Psychology **Libby Nutt Williams** recently published a chapter in the newly edited book by Hill and Norcross (2023) entitled "Psychotherapy Skills and Methods that Work" as well as an abbreviated article in the journal *Psychotherapy* on the same topic: The Use of Questions in Psychotherapy. In addition, her chapter and article detail the state of the research on questions, including diversity, training and practice implications. **Lynx Gabinet-Bethouille '22** and **MacKenzie Brooks '22** gathered relevant literature for the review.

STUDENT NEWS



Neuroscience and biology students **Tara Barnes '23** and **Anna Estremsky '25** were interviewed while presenting their poster at the Society for Neuroscience Conference and spotlighted by the podcast "In Plain English." The students' interview is in season 3, episode 3 (Society for Neuroscience Shorts: Part 1) of the podcast. This international conference is the world's largest gathering of neuroscientists and was held in Washington, D.C.

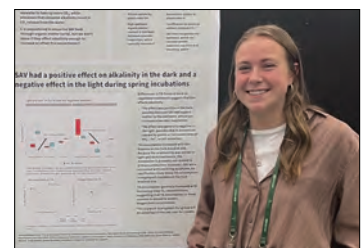


Two environmental studies majors earned the Mel Fellowship in Natural Resource Careers with the Maryland Forestry Foundation. It is the Mid-Atlantic's largest college fellowship in natural resources, awarding \$10,000 annually to four Maryland college students.

Peyton Eppard '25 holds a Mel Fellowship for this current academic year. Eppard's main objective is to produce a research paper outlining suggestions for the Maryland Forestry Dashboard, which he says will be a display of current forest data of most use and relevance for private forestland owners and the

public. **Sydney West '23** held a Mel Fellowship during the 2022-23 academic year. West served in the Natural Resources Careers group, advertising and promoting the Natural Resources Careers Camp held each July for high school students. West also wrote a research paper as part of the fellowship, titled "The First Foresters: Native American vs. Modern Day Forestry Management Practices." In addition, West contributed several researched stories to the Maryland Forestry Foundation's blog. West recently completed a postgraduate internship with the Maryland Environmental Service.

Environmental studies and biology major **Meghan Stevens '24** presented her research, produced under the mentorship of **Cassie Gurbisz**, associate professor of marine science, at the Coastal & Estuarine Research Federation (CERF) conference held Nov. 12-16, 2023 in Portland, Oregon. Stevens' poster, titled "Is estuarine submerged



aquatic vegetation an alkalinity source or sink?" earned an award from the CERF governing board as one of the top three undergraduate posters of the conference.



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AN IMPACT BROAD AND DEEP

BY LEE CAPRISTO, EDITOR, AND **EMILY VANCE** '24, MULBERRY TREE INTERN; ENGLISH AND ILC-SPANISH DOUBLE MAJOR

IN 2016, ARCHAEOLOGISTS SURVEYED ST. MARY'S COLLEGE LAND THAT WAS TO BE DISTURBED for the construction of a new athletic stadium. They unearthed evidence indicating that the land had once been where former cabins of enslaved laborers stood. The discovery aligned with the simultaneous discovery that the College itself had owned enslaved laborers in its early days.

That very same year, it first became widely known that in 1838 a group of 272 men, women and children enslaved by Southern Maryland's Jesuit priests had been sold to help save Georgetown University, which at the time was a fledgling college on the edge of financial ruin (the GU272). A book written by New York Times journalist Rachel Swarns, "The 272: The Families Who Were Enslaved and Sold to Build the American Catholic Church," came out in June 2023. In the book, Swarns reveals these horrors:

- Between 1800-1860 about a million enslaved people were forcibly relocated from the Upper South states, including Maryland and Virginia, whose soils had been depleted by generations of tobacco farming, to the states of the Deep South, such as Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, whose booming cotton and sugarcane plantations had an insatiable hunger for labor. (p. 139)

- Henry Johnson, owner of several large Louisiana plantations and whose wife was from St. Mary's County, Maryland, purchased the 272 enslaved laborers in 1838. The sum was \$115,000 (roughly \$422 per person); the handwritten agreement detailed delivery and payment plans (\$25,000 with first delivery; \$90,000 due over ten years at 6% annual interest). (p. 121)
- Johnson did not honor the terms of the agreement that the enslaved families would be kept together in Louisiana. (p. 168)
- From the sale of the 272, the Jesuits received more than \$130,000 (about \$4.5 million in today's dollars). (p. 207)

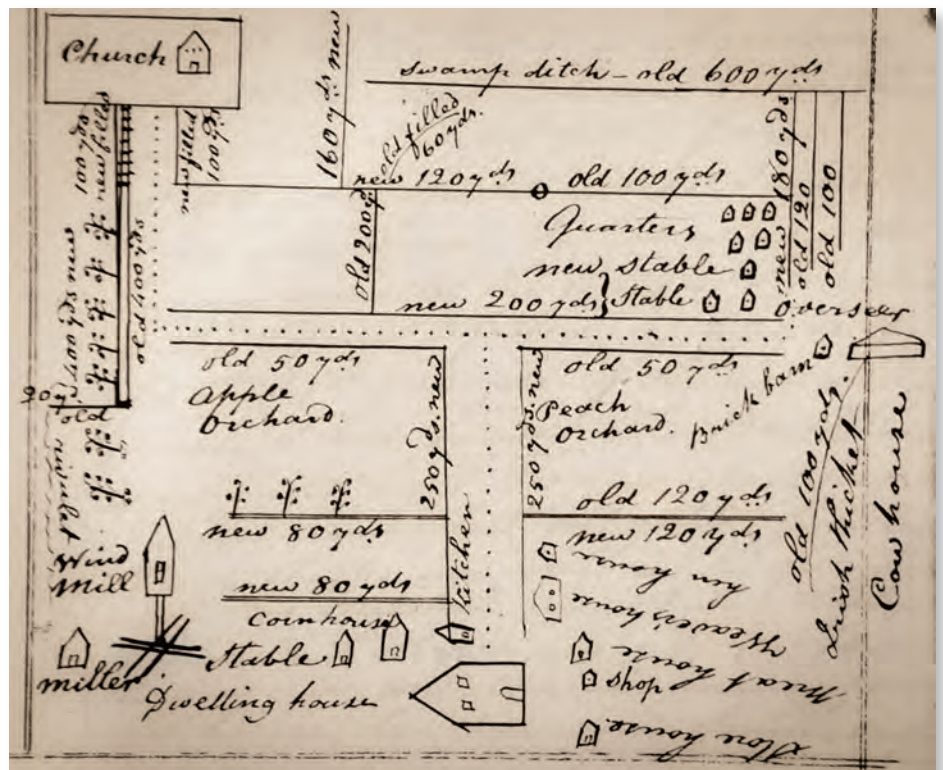
A Commemorative Committee at St. Mary's College, chaired by Professor of English **Jeffrey Coleman**, was formed in 2017 to commission an appropriate commemoration through a vetted, community-engaged bid process. In March 2019,

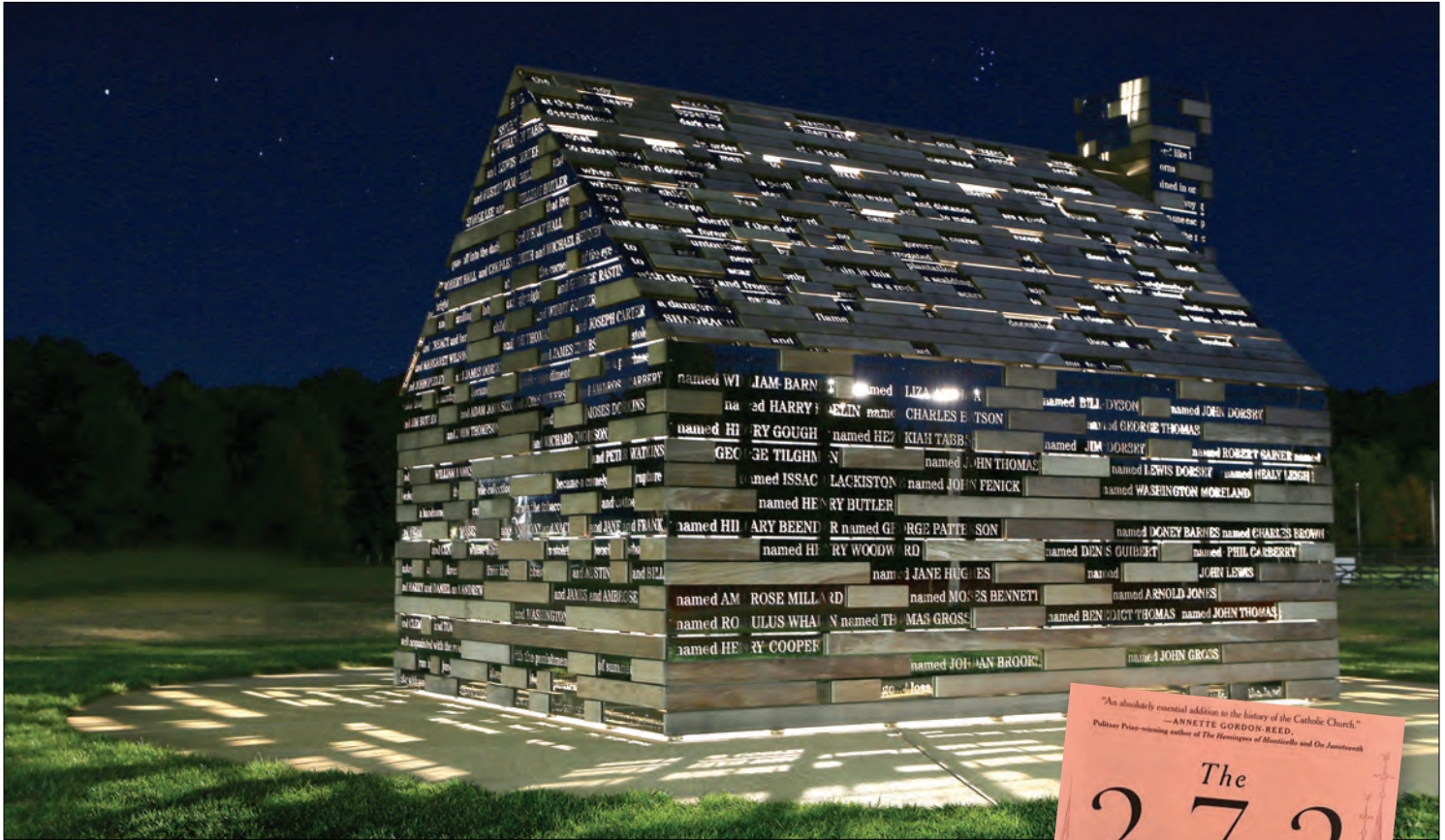
the project was awarded to RE:site studio of Houston, Texas, and construction commenced. RE:site's Shane Albritton and Norman Lee contracted with poet Quenton Baker of Seattle, Washington, whose erasure poetry is inscribed on stainless steel, mirrored panels of the structure that takes the form of a slave cabin. The poems borrow devastating language from actual Southern Maryland runaway slave advertisements from the late 1700s-early 1800s, erasing, combining and reconfiguring it into a powerful ode to those whose lives and voices were hidden. The Commemorative to Enslaved Peoples of Southern Maryland was unveiled digitally, amidst the pandemic, on Nov. 21, 2020.

Erected to reveal a history long hidden and a voice long silenced, the Commemorative's impact is broad and deep. According to "The Commemorative to Enslaved Peoples of Southern Maryland: Conceptual Framework and Capacity-Building Report 2022-2023," the

“Faced with a choice between removing artifacts or honoring the enslaved; between boxing up our history or confronting it head-on, our community chose humanity and hope over anger, favoring a monument that would give voice to the enslaved – bringing their story to the fore.”

President Tuajuanda C. Jordan, PhD
(in USA Today, November 2021)





Commemorative's presence "intervenes on a landscape that is inexplicably tied to the history of slavery in Southern Maryland and gives shape to the College's new sense of itself."

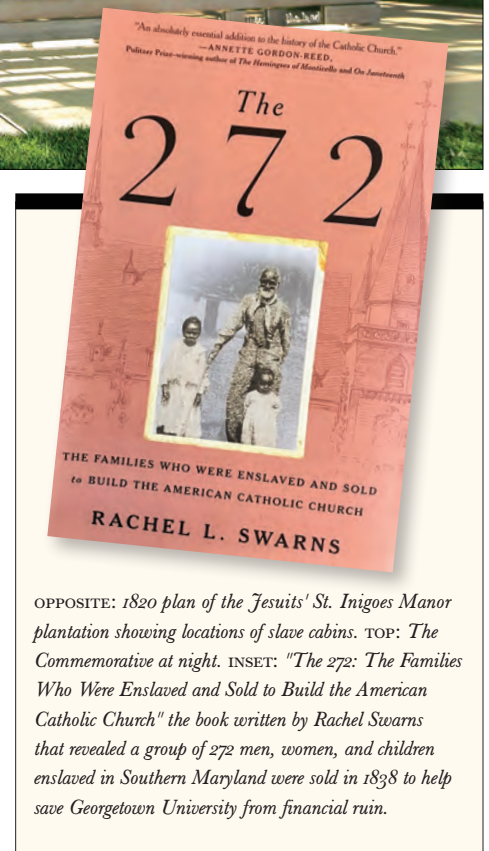
The Commemorative's purpose, function and execution are nationally recognized:

- Top 100 public art projects 2021
- National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Award in 2021
- National Park Service's official National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom list
- Society for Experiential Graphic Design (SEGD) honor award winner June 2022
- CODA Award winner, public spaces category, September 2022
- International Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) Gold Award for Sacred Journey event, 2022
- NEH Chair's Grant, 2023

Its deeply personal impact has been incredible.

For **Jeffrey Coleman**, who has been with the Commemorative project from the beginning, the Commemorative "is a beautiful and haunting monument...to a painful yet essential historical memory."

Nancy Radcliffe '97, who volunteers with the Southern Maryland Equity in History Coalition, came to know the Commemorative more recently. "I have visited the Commemorative several times alone and with friends. Whenever I go, I feel a deep, deep aching in my heart and because I studied the experiences of the enslaved here, it's as if I personally knew the people. I also feel a great gratitude that the light is shining on the truth; I feel so grateful that many people are not turning away from the horrors of our history but are working toward a true accounting."



OPPOSITE: 1820 plan of the Jesuits' St. Inigoes Manor plantation showing locations of slave cabins. TOP: The Commemorative at night. INSET: "The 272: The Families Who Were Enslaved and Sold to Build the American Catholic Church" the book written by Rachel Swarns that revealed a group of 272 men, women, and children enslaved in Southern Maryland were sold in 1838 to help save Georgetown University from financial ruin.

The Power of a Paper

BY NANCY RADCLIFFE '97

"I was taking a history class with Professor **Garrey Dennie** that really fascinated me. We studied comparative slave systems (mostly the Caribbean and North American) and the actual experiences of enslaved peoples.

"My history paper was titled 'The St. Mary's County Slave Revolt of 1817: Possible Religious Connections.' Through reading and research, I noticed a link between religious beliefs and slave insurrections, and I wanted to show how religion played a role in this little-known slave revolt in St. Inigoes, Maryland. The internet was in its infancy, so my research took me to the Maryland State Archives, Georgetown University Library and the Library of Congress. I discovered lots of journals and letters written by the priests residing at the Jesuit Mission at St. Inigoes. I read about the degrading and brutal treatment of the enslaved working there. In fact, the treatment there was so severe that a superior of the Maryland Missions had to recommend that pregnant women should not be whipped in the priest's house!

"[In] 2015 or 2016 a reporter from the New York Times named Rachel Swarns called me. She had come across my history paper and called me to ask about any names I might have in my notes. I searched my records and unfortunately, I only found a few because most of the court documents I had cited named defendants as 'Negro Joe' or 'Negro Nate'; no surnames were used.

"When I was contacted by Rachel Swarns, I felt very honored. To think that something I did 26 years ago was useful in exposing injustices and in promoting reparations, I was over the moon. Even if my part was a tiny speck in this growing flame, it made me think of the impact we can all have on the world if we push to discover the truth and have the courage to speak it. I guess my faith in the arc of justice was restored."

Dereck Rovaris, vice president for equity and strategic initiatives, first visited the Commemorative on a bitterly cold day in January 2022. A former colleague of Tuajuanda Jordan at Xavier University of Louisiana, Rovaris was shocked that as president of St. Mary's College, Jordan had, upon learning of the enslaved dwelling remains, moved the athletic stadium so that the remains could be honored. "I'd never heard of any school moving a stadium!" Rovaris exclaimed. Today he asserts that there is "no reason for students to graduate without knowing the history of this place."

Over Labor Day weekend in 2023, more than 150 descendants from the GU272 visited the Commemorative when they gathered in Southern Maryland to reconnect with other descendants of family members who were separated and affected by the 1838 sale. The group, known as The Reclamation Project's Southern Maryland GU272, also visited seven former Jesuit plantations, connecting their history with the land. Community Liaison **Kelsey Bush '94** was among them. He is a descendant of enslaved laborers from Historic Sotterley as well as those families of the GU272. His ancestors stayed in Southern Maryland.

Last spring, Bush welcomed students from Great Mills High School to campus to visit the Commemorative and study its erasure poetry. "What was touching was those who found their family names on the Commemorative," Bush recalls. "It was interesting to watch their faces process and to come to terms with what was in front of them."

Bush hosted another group in October, from Maryland's Eastern Shore, who were accompanied by College Trustee **Peter Bruns**. The visit was brief but impactful, Bush says. "To only have a short time to tell the history, but to allow the Commemorative to engage them and hold them in the space to reflect and understand, was extremely powerful."

Clare Fisher, a post-doctoral fellow specializing in American monuments, served the College as an NEH-funded Commemorative fellow in 2022-23. Fisher has codified a plan for the Commemorative's future, drawn from data collected through surveys and discussion groups through-

out the region as well as with on-campus groups. Her report and plan, "The Commemorative to Enslaved Peoples of Southern Maryland: Conceptual Framework and Capacity-Building Report 2022-2023," delivered to the College in August 2023, identified several clear goals for the Commemorative moving forward:

1. Develop a clear vision and mission statement for the Commemorative so its purpose is not misinterpreted as self-serving.
2. Expand ownership of the Commemorative by involving more sectors of the community in its future, particularly the descendants of the enslaved.
3. Expand the physical setting of the site to include seating provision and improved signage.
4. Seek ways of spotlighting the Commemorative during student orientation/first-year experience.
5. Expand the Commemorative's educational outreach into local schools and home-schooling networks.

A current NEH grant supports the efforts of three student interns this academic year to further develop student engagement with the Commemorative: **Anaïs Williams '25**, **Malaki Freeman '24** and **Maya Rachel Pingho '24** are currently working to develop a Commemorative-related podcast series featuring local and regional descendants of the enslaved. Pingho explains, "Our plan is to create a podcast that allows descendants to discuss their personal perspectives on the Sacred Journey, the Commemorative and if willing, their own perspectives of being descendants. We are hopeful that we can bring a real raw and certainly meaningful approach to awareness of the history of Southern Maryland and really add some value to the story by continuing to honor and talk about the experiences of descendants of the enslaved of Southern Maryland." Freeman adds that a "hidden histories" narrated walking tour will physically and digitally guide students and visitors to important campus locations such as the Commemorative and the Antonio site that was a stop during the Sacred Journey. ❖



Two of the more than 150 descendants from the GU272 who visited the Commemorative on Labor Day weekend in 2023

A full-page photograph featuring a person in silhouette, walking from left to right while playing a drum. The person is wearing a long-sleeved shirt, pants, and sneakers. The background is a bright sunset or sunrise sky, with a brick building and trees visible in the distance. The person's shadow is cast on the ground.

A key performer in every Sacred Journey, percussionist Zayon Morgan '24 leads the way.

Students and Faculty Connect on Sacred Journey

BY LEE CAPRISTO, EDITOR

THE SACRED JOURNEY IS THE COLLEGE'S SIGNATURE EVENT MARKING THE ANNIVERSARY of the dedication of the Commemorative and a time for the community and campus members to honor the people it represents. To complement Maryland's Emancipation Day (Nov. 1, 1864), the event is held in early November. It features a walk of the campus grounds from the Commemorative to the waterfront of the St. Mary's River, where the names of the enslaved are honored by a roll call and a libation ceremony.

Intentional student participation in the planning and delivery of the Sacred Journey has positively boosted engagement with the Commemorative among that group. This year's Sacred Journey included increased involvement by varsity athletic teams led by their coaches. "At the end of the day, we want students and younger generations to be appreciative of what the Commemorative represents," asserts **Jeffrey Coleman**, professor of English and a founding member of the committee that brought the Commemorative to life. "The impact this appreciation can have on how we encounter and treat each other as humans can be very profound in the future."

During the waterfront portion of the Sacred Journey, Gwendolyn Banks, a descendant of enslaved laborers and board trustee at Historic Sotterley, challenged students "to be accountable for finding out the contributions of our ancestors," adding that "we can learn from our ancestors' history, from their struggles."

"The Commemorative is a great model for the world because it brings people together and the Sacred Journey really embraces that we just have to keep walking on this journey for justice."

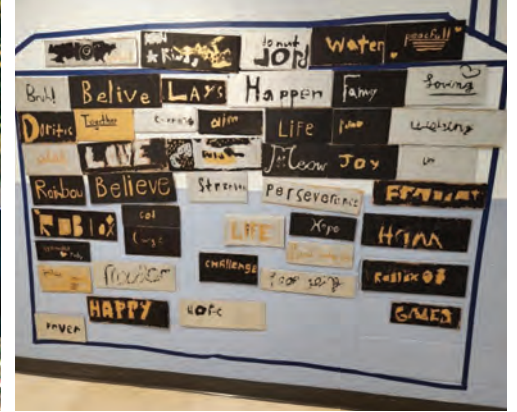
Maya Rachel Pingho '24

Zayon Morgan '24 is a percussionist who has been a key performer in every Sacred Journey.

"It was my first-ever musical experience here at SMCM and I felt more and more honored every year when I was asked to participate again," he admits. "As a senior looking back on four years with this event, I can conclude that the project itself makes people feel seen as we're unearthing the true history of the land we've inhabited."

"I never viewed the drumming I did as performance, but as storytelling. By using the grooves and rhythms I learned from Glenn Paulson, my career-long percussion teacher, my job was to communicate moments of joy, remorse, etc."

Blythe Petit '24, environmental studies major and French minor, walked the Sacred Journey with other members of her French class. "It was really moving to hear the names of enslaved people read out," she recalls, "especially because of how much emotion it drew from the [student] readers."



Maya Rachel Pingho '24 is one of three NEH-funded interns connected to the Commemorative and was a student member of the Sacred Journey planning committee. For Pingho, the most impactful part of the Sacred Journey was “walking through my college campus and being slightly taken aback by the fact that I attend college here for my education and yet there was a time when receiving an education was not even possible for people of color.” It struck Pingho that “we do not often realize how lucky we are to live in an area of the world where at one point a minority was not even granted an opportunity for an education and now we are all walking together working to fix this history for ourselves and our future generations.”

Like Pingho, **Malaki Freeman '24** is an NEH-funded intern and was a member of the Sacred Journey planning committee. “The most impactful moment during the Sacred Journey was being on the water and hearing the woman sing ‘Wade in the Water’; her voice gave me goosebumps. The thought of the enslaved coming to the shore as she sang resonated with me.” Freeman believes that the Commemorative can become an ingrained part of the St. Mary’s College student experience through integration into the curriculum and events. “Building awareness of the Commemorative by involving clubs such as BSU [Black Student Union] ... will give students that experience and knowledge.”

Professors bring the Commemorative and the Sacred Journey into their classes in various ways.

**“My heart is full.
I am grateful that
you all recognize
the value and
significance of
what we’re trying
to do and that you
come out and
support us.”**

President Tuajuanda C. Jordan, PhD

Jennifer Cognard-Black, professor of English: “In my survey of Anglo-American literature classes, the Commemorative has served as a way to make our readings and discussions of narratives of enslavement by Olaudah Equiano and Harriet Jacobs feel real—close to the bone. When students come to realize that there was enslavement in Southern Maryland too, the stories by Equiano and Jacobs that may have, at first, felt distant become more immediate. As a result of these conversations, many of my students have wanted to know more about the history of enslavement in Maryland, and so I’ve also started to teach Josiah Henson’s

autobiography in this course as well; Henson was enslaved in Charles County.

“Furthermore, in both my creative writing and literature classes, I have asked students to create their own found poems out of difficult American texts of their own choosing. In doing so, the students come to appreciate the process that **Quenton Baker** engaged in and how powerful and resonant it can be to transform writing that perpetuates inequality and oppression into a poem that offers both a critique of the past and hope for the future.”

Carrie Patterson, professor of art, led an art education class to create with local elementary school students the “House of Hope” based on the Commemorative.

Garrey Dennie’s history class walked the Sacred Journey and wrote reflective papers about the experience, as did **George MacLeod’s** French class. **Jeff Silberschlag’s** student musicians provide accompaniment during the Sacred Journey every year and **Larry Vote’s** PING vocal ensemble opens the event at the Commemorative.

TOP LEFT: *The PING vocal ensemble opens the event at the Commemorative.* TOP CENTER: *Student musicians provide accompaniment during the Sacred Journey.* TOP RIGHT: *elementary school students led by Professor Carrie Patterson’s art education class created the “House of Hope” inspired by the Commemorative.* OPPOSITE: *The Sacred Journey led by President Tuajuanda C. Jordan, PhD winds its way through the campus.*



CONNECTING HISTORY ACROSS CULTURES

BY LEE CAPRISTO, EDITOR AND GEORGE MACLEOD,
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF FRENCH

When he first arrived at St. Mary's College in 2016, Associate Professor of French George MacLeod was actively looking for ways to connect his courses on Francophone African and Caribbean culture to Maryland history. "Spanish is a very visible part of everyday life in Maryland, so it can be easy to forget about French," MacLeod said. "But that doesn't mean that French and Francophone culture and history aren't present. Sometimes you just need to do a little more digging to find those connections."





In 2017 MacLeod learned about L'Hermitage Plantation, located on the Monocacy National Battlefield near Frederick, Maryland. The property is administered by the National Park Service. L'Hermitage dates to 1793, when a white French family – the Vincendière's – with 12 of their enslaved laborers, fled a slave uprising on the French colony of Saint-Domingue.

This past October, MacLeod and seven students from his upper-level course on Francophone culture and civilization visited the site of the plantation, toured the Vincendière's house, and met with National Park Service officials who described the process of discovering, interpreting and preserving this history of slavery. Monocacy National Battlefield's Alex Vindas Cruz, head of natural and cultural resources, coordinated the visit. Students met with Joy Beasley, the associate director of cultural resources, partnerships and science for the National Park Service, who led the archaeological excavation that discovered the enslaved laborers' dwellings. Monocacy National Battlefield Park Rangers Andrew Banasik and Tracey Evans offered a tour that



TOP: Students of Associate Professor of French **George MacLeod's** Francophone culture and civilization class pose with NPS' Joy Beasley (left at back) at Monocacy National Battlefield Park. ABOVE: MacLeod and students working on the French translation of St. Mary's College of Maryland's Land Acknowledgment and Pledge.

included the archaeological site of the plantation and the interior of the Vincendière's house. "Not only does this site show how Maryland's history is intertwined with the French and Francophone world," said MacLeod, "but it also helps students understand how our courses in international languages and cultures connect to the College's ongoing efforts to remember and commemorate local histories of slavery."

"I think as students of French, we have a responsibility to be well-informed about the presence of Francophone history in our local region," said **Tess Ovington '24**, a triple major in business administration and management; economics; and French. "Yes, the central theme of our course is Francophone culture, but this visit mixed *la Francophonie* with something more tangible, more real for those of us studying in Southern Maryland."

"After having visited the Vincendière house and having seen not only where the Vincendière family lived in Frederick, but also where their enslaved community lived, under constant surveillance, I understood the park ranger Andrew [Banasik] who emphasized the impor-



tance of experiencing and getting to know a place in order to appreciate its history,” said French and English double major **Maggie Neuman '23**.

While the Monocacy National Battlefield has recently added more exhibits engaging with the history of slavery on the site, some students remarked at the lack of a visible memorial to the former enslaved workers, in contrast with St. Mary's College's nationally recognized and acclaimed Commemorative to Enslaved Peoples of Southern Maryland. “One of the things we discussed after the visit,” said MacLeod, “was the practical and political challenges to creating thoughtful and visible monuments to our nation's shameful history of slavery. Comparing the still unfinished interpretative work at Monocacy to the College's Commemorative



TOP: L'Hermitage slave village archaeological site (in the unplanted field beyond the buildings) at the L'Hermitage Plantation, Monocacy National Battlefield. ABOVE: St. Mary's College of Maryland's Land Acknowledgment and Pledge marker overlooking St. John's Pond.

also helps our students think about all the work that remains to be done and what our roles and responsibilities are in this ongoing process of reckoning with the violent and traumatic aspects of our national history.”

Following the visit, students in MacLeod's class were asked to participate in the Sacred Journey, an annual event in which the College and broader community processes from the Commemorative to the St. Mary's River to remember and honor the enslaved individuals who lived and worked at or near the present-day site of the College.

MacLeod's students then translated the College's Land Acknowledgment and Pledge into French. “In addition to improving language skills, translating our land acknowledgment



and pledge also forces students to really engage closely with the text and to think deeply about its meaning,” said MacLeod. “When I saw that the French-Canadian universities that we were studying in our unit on Canada all had bilingual land acknowledgments, translating ours felt very important.”

In a previous visit to L’Hermitage in 2018, upper-level French students met with a descendant of the Vincendière family who had contacted and formed relationships with the descendants of those her ancestors had enslaved. MacLeod hopes that in future visits, students might be involved in the park’s unfinished business, which may include reaching out to descendants as well as finding ways to make visible and memorialize Monocacy’s connections to Francophone history and the brutal form of French Caribbean slavery

that the Vincendière family tried to import. “Joy Beasley, the archaeologist who led the slave village excavation, described finding a small shell with a hole in it on the slave village site,” recalled MacLeod. “She described how moving it was to find what was perhaps an enslaved person’s piece of homemade jewelry.” Later **Kiki Sandifer ’24**, English major and French minor, suggested a large, visible sculpture in the form of this unknown person’s shell as a possible monument to the enslaved community of L’Hermitage. “I think that could be the next step in our relationship with this site,” said MacLeod. “Finding ways to harness our students’ incredible thoughtfulness and creativity as part of the ongoing work of honoring the legacy of the enslaved people of this state.”

RAN a-vay from the subscriber, living near the middle ferry on Monocacy, Frederick county, about two weeks ago, a negro fellow named JERRY, about 25 years of age, a very stout well made negro, about 5 feet 7 inches high. He was bought of Doctor Davidge last spring, who formerly lived in Annapolis, where this negro was raised, who, in his masters absence to Britain, was hired out to work at brick-making both at Annapolis and Baltimore-town; at one or other of those places it is supposed he may be found. It is supposed that he carried off with him a bay horse and bridle; the horse is about fourteen hands high, and branded on the left buttock something like J. Whoever takes up the said negro and puts him into gaol in Baltimore or Anne-Arundel county, shall receive **SIX DOLLARS REWARD**, and if brought home and delivered to me **TWELVE DOLLARS**.
J. Davidge J. DELAVENCENDIERE.
 Frederick county, December 1, 1795.

The Vincendière family fled their island home of Saint-Domingue during an uprising by enslaved laborers and settled in Frederick, Maryland in 1793. While this uprising led Saint-Dominique to become the first modern nation-state (Haiti) to abolish slavery in 1804, Victoire Vincendière perpetuated enslaved labor at her L’Hermitage plantation in Frederick County for more than 50 years and was the second-largest slaveholder in the area in 1800. A newspaper advertisement posted by Vincendière in 1795 offers a cash reward for the capture and return of one of her enslaved laborers who escaped.

Learn more: nps.gov/mono/learn/historyculture/ei_lhermitage.htm

ALUMNI CONNECTION

CLASS NOTES

1950s

Karen P. Yochim '58HS continues to write and publish Cajun crime novels from Louisiana, with almost a dozen to her credit. Her latest titles are “A Coffin for the Undertaker and a Touch of Moonshine,” “A Louisiana Cold-Case Murder” and “The Mysterious Tarot Deck.” She also penned a mental health book, “You Can’t Hide Your Inner Vibe.”

1980s

J. Tyler Bell '85 [1] and his wife, Jane Kostenko, attended the Maryland Day 2023 ceremony where they were awarded the Cross Bottony from Historic St. Mary’s City. The Cross Bottony is the museum’s highest honor and was bestowed upon them for their many years of dedicated volunteer service. The pair were also presented with citations from the Maryland General Assembly. **President Tuajuanda C. Jordan** was the invited keynote speaker at the ceremony.

Following her retirement from the Maryland Office of the Attorney General, **Jennifer Wazenski '88** has launched a private natural resources and environmental law practice, Watershed Legal Counsel, in Annapolis, Maryland. Jennifer served as principal counsel to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources from 2010-2021 and deputy counsel to the Maryland Department of the Environment from 2008 to 2010.

1990s

Alasdair Brooks '90 [2] was appointed the chief executive of Re-Form Heritage in August 2021. Re-Form Heritage is a charity based at Middleport Pottery in the British city of Stoke-on-Trent. Previously, he held the position of artifacts coordinator of the Tutankhamun collection at the Grand Egyptian Museum in Cairo, Egypt. From 2021 to 2023, Alasdair also served as the president of the Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology, Europe’s leading society for the study of historical archaeology.

In August 2023, **Dan Schiffman '91, [3]** founder of the Frederick-based financial firm Capital River Wealth Management, celebrated 25 years as a wealth management adviser with Northwestern Mutual. The Capital River team partnered with their local marketing director, **Jacqueline Caminiti '05**, to plan a party celebrating the milestone with friends, family and clients. One highlight of the evening was Dan receiving a Proclamation of Recognition from the Frederick County Chamber of Commerce for 25 years of service to his clients and his community. Cheers to the next 25!

2000s

Lauren S. Menser '01 was appointed as chief executive officer of the Association for Molecular Pathology (AMP), a nonprofit organization whose mission is to advance the clinical practice, science, and excellence of molecular and genomic laboratory medicine through education, innovation, and advocacy to enable highest quality health care. She took leadership after serving as



the director of strategic development for the organization since 2016, during which she substantially increased and diversified revenue in her direct areas of responsibility, played a pivotal role in the successful launch of AMP’s international events program, and created the AMP Corporate Advisory Council.

Eric Carlson '04 currently serves as the branch manager of the Florham Park and Bedminster, New Jersey offices for Ameriprise Financial. Eric has also recently become a new team member of Insight Financial Advisors. He and his wife currently reside in Bernardsville, New Jersey with their two sons, Luca and Liam.

Michael Church '04 and **Jeffrey Nutt Hankin '09 [4]** met one another when they attended the International Snow Science Workshop, an annual gathering of snow and avalanche

professionals from around the world, in Bend, Oregon in October of 2023. Michael produces public-facing avalanche hazard forecasts for the Idaho Panhandle Avalanche Center while Jeffrey is a ski patroller and avalanche forecaster for Crested Butte Ski Resort in Colorado.

Stacy Hope '04 and **Dan Driscoll '00 [5]** posed for an alumni photo in London at a major mining conference, “Resourcing Tomorrow.” Both continue their work in the mining industry and while based in London, both focus their work on Africa. Stacy has joined the board of trustees of The Impact Facility, a global sustainability organization. Dan is now managing director of his own company, Extractives Advisory, whose purpose is to “help companies at every level of the natural resources value chain bridge the skills gaps encountered as they grow and evolve.”

Whitney Fahrman '05 was named The Maryland Optometric Association’s (MOA) Optometrist of the Year, an award that recognizes outstanding service to the optometric profession and the citizens of Maryland. Whitney previously served as the president of the MOA between the years of 2021 and 2023 and is currently practicing at the Delmarva Laser Eye Center in Easton, Maryland.

Lisa Coté '09 began employment as the director of justice, equity, diversity and inclusion at Wilson College in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. The college is also her mother’s alma mater, and she is excited to work within a small, tight-knit community and reconnect with friends and former students from SMCM now that she is closer to home.



'10, Alex Flick '10 and Lizi Pinkus Bear '14, MAT '15 [7] and finished fourth overall in that race. Rachel also paired with former coach Nik Meyer [8] to win gold in the mixed masters' race. Anna Schultz Bennett '12 cheered all the rowers.

2010s

Joseph Meringolo '11 will give a virtual presentation on the topic "Study Abroad & Chat-GPT: Meaningful Background for Transformative Practices" for the Forum on Education Abroad Annual Conference in March. Additionally, he participated in a panel discussion, "New destinations and frontiers in Education Abroad" – at The PIE Live in Boston in November of 2023. The panel discussed geo-political change,

technological advancements, and population growth as well as surveying opportunities across the sector for K-12 growth and private college and university providers.

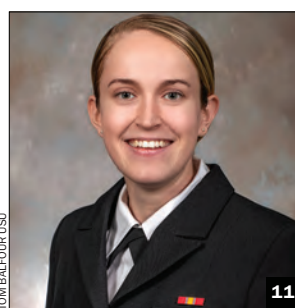
Holly Fabbri '12, MAT '13, associate director of alumni relations at St. Mary's College of Maryland, presented "A Murder in St. Mary's County: Domestic Violence and Male Honor in a Southern Community" on Dec. 6, 2023, in Leonardtown, Maryland, for Historically Speaking, a joint

undertaking of the St. Mary's County Historical Society and the College's Center for the Study of Democracy. Holly spoke of St. Mary's County resident Flora Catherine Johnson Love and the investigation into her mysterious death in 1901. Johnson Love was Holly's great great grandmother and her research, which originated as her St. Mary's Project while an undergraduate, focused on that and other domestic violence cases of the time. Holly's work will be part of a book collaboration with the St. Mary's County Historical Society.

Virginia Stouffer '13, along with **Mike Fitzpatrick MAT '12** and **Corey Ahearn '07 MAT '09 [9]** proudly wore SMCM attire during PSAT Day at Northwood High School in Silver Spring, Maryland. The three work to empower teenagers through their education, with Virginia as school counselor, Mike as algebra teacher and Corey as English teacher.

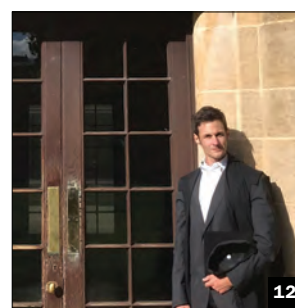
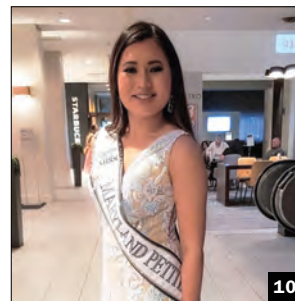
Ashley Dam '16 has been awarded a National Geographic Explorer's grant for their "Plant Planet Plate" project that blends eco-gastronomic, ethnobotanical and plant humanities approaches to gather data on the use of local flora in foods and folk medicine in Cambodia. Plants identified in the project will be transplanted into a community garden as a living library. Ashley earned a master's degree in medical anthropology at the University of Oxford and a doctoral degree at the University of Gastronomic Sciences in Pollenzo, Italy.

Courtney Esworthy-Good '16 earned a master's degree after working as a surgical technologist at The Johns Hopkins University Hospital and Sinai



Hospital for five years. Courtney is currently practicing as a physician assistant in the emergency department of a neighboring hospital.

Valerie Gregorio '19 [10] competed at the Petite USA pageant from Aug. 9-11, 2023, while representing Maryland. She was presented with the Bronze Presidential Service Award at the pageant, as well as the Above and Beyond Award at the National Institutes of Health in recognition of her support of the purchasing department during a period of staff shortages. Valerie modeled for New York Fashion Week and for CB Modeling Associates' Statements Fashion Show in the fall of 2023. She appeared as a model in HOLLYWAY magazine in July 2023 and Style Cruz magazine in August 2023. Valerie is currently a model for CB Modeling Associates and VisualsDMV-models and is represented by the D&R Talent Management Agency. She is also signed with Anthony Gilardi Acting Studio as a studio member.



Navy ensign and fourth-year Uniformed Services University medical student **Mary "Katie" Robey '19 [11]** was selected to compete on the 2023 All-Navy Women's basketball team. A lifelong basketball player, Katie competed in the Armed Forces Basketball Championships at Fort Moore, Georgia in November 2023. Navy finished third, beating the Marine Corps team 62-55. Katie is studying to become a doctor.

2020s

Samuel Johnson '22 [12] was a recipient of Oxford University's Ertegun Scholarship, a highly competitive and prestigious award given to 15 students total from around the world with a 1.5% acceptance rate. He was only one of two students from the United States to receive the award. Johnson is currently studying maritime history at Oxford University as a graduate student.

2023 Alumni Scholarship Recipients

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

Alumni Legacy Scholarships

Luke Dawson '27 is a 2023 recipient of the Alumni Legacy scholarship and the child of **Deborah Craten '94**. He was inspired to attend St. Mary's College of Maryland after learning from his mother about the welcoming environment and campus community values. His goal is to become a history teacher and he believes that the SMCM curriculum that allows him to major in history and minor in education will further his career plans of teaching at the secondary or collegiate level. Outside of the classroom, Luke enjoys involvement with community volunteering because of his "many

memories from childhood" that are rooted in volunteering.

Gabriel Beanland '27 is a 2023 recipient of the Alumni Scholarship and the child of **Kevin Beanland '02**. He was inspired to attend St. Mary's College of Maryland due to his many years of visiting the college for reunion weekends with his father and how the campus felt like "a home away from home." He is inspired to learn more about the world and who he is as a person while attending SMCM through his studies in music at the new Nancy R. & Norton T. Dodge Performing Arts Center that opened in the fall of 2022. Outside of the classroom, Gabriel likes to play the piano and volunteer at his synagogue.

Don Stabile Alumni Postgraduate Scholarships

Aryel Rigano '13 is the 2023 recipient of the Don Stabile



Alumni Postgraduate Scholarship and currently resides in Blacksburg, Virginia.

After graduating from St. Mary's College of Maryland with a major in anthropology, Aryel pursued a doctor of veterinary medicine degree at the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine - Virginia Tech. Aryel credits SMCM for the opportunity to grow as a researcher through learning how to "communicate

effectively through writing and public speaking" and building the foundation of "empirical reasoning and problem-solving skills." The Don Stabile Alumni Postgraduate Scholarship will support Aryel's research undertaken in collaboration with faculty to investigate barriers future veterinarians experience that prevent them from entering sectors of the profession facing severe shortages. Aryel's long-term goal post-graduation is to create a positive change on "both human and animal welfare" through veterinary medicine.

Maxime Zamba-Campero '19 is a recipient of the Don Stabile Alumni Doctoral Scholarship and currently resides in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She is pursuing a PhD at the University of Pennsylvania. Maxime credits



SMCM for positively shaping her outlook on higher education, research and mentorship due to the instruction of her professors, being a member of the DeSousa-Brent Scholars Program and the small class sizes. SMCM also played a large role in her decision to pursue higher education and choose a career in medicine. As a Mexican American woman in STEM, Maxime's long-term goal is to become a faculty member at an undergraduate institution and engage with the broader community in ways that foster the development of underrepresented scientists.

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AMY CHAIARA



MARRIAGES & UNIONS

Lauren Mozer '03 and **Michael Climer [1]** were married on Oct. 15, 2022 in Union Mills, North Carolina. Alumni in attendance included **Alice Bonner '03**, **Angela Darrah '03**, **Leslie Fields '03**, **Amanda Geary '03** and **Jaelithe Sing '03**. The couple currently reside in Renton, Washington.

Audrey Hamilton McHugh '08 and **Colin McHugh [2]** were married on Oct. 14, 2023 at Tall Timbers Marina in Tall Timbers, Maryland. Alumni in attendance included **Jamison Combs '01**, **Ryan Raley '01**, **Kelly Combs '02**, **Sarah Raley-Dale '04**, **Thomas Brewer '05**, **Phil Heckwolf '05**, **Wes Lanich '05**, **Donna Barnett '06**, **Kate Northfield Lanich '06**, **Matt Adams '08**, **Josh Barnett '08**, **Graham Bateman '08**, **John Carucci '08**, **Jenn Glass '08**, **Hillary Heckwolf '08**, **Kathleen Kennedy '08**, **Lindsay MacDonald '08**, **Cole Pototsky '08**, **Megan Talley '08**, **Jill Bradley '09** and

Martin Saunders '09. The couple spent their honeymoon doing pizza and pitcher night at the Green Door in St. Mary's City, Maryland and currently reside in Wildewood, Maryland.

Amanda Porter '11 and **Francisco Rodezno '14 [3]** were married on June 24, 2023 in Baltimore, Maryland. The couple met in 2010 while employed at the Michael P. O'Brien Athletics and Recreation Center at St. Mary's College of Maryland, but did not start dating until after Alumni Weekend in 2018. Alumni in attendance included the bride's sisters **Nichole Sappington '06** and **Jessica**

Porter '08 as well as wedding guests **Mallory Kwiatkowski '08**, **Becca Clement '10**, **Ginny Boone '11**, **Kalvin Day '11**, **Kelsey Ekker '11**, **Mike Horwitz '11**, **Megan Knipp '11**, **Emily Martin '11**, **Ashley McBain '11**, **Makeda Mikael '11**, **Gabe Rubinstein '11**, **Damian Smoter '11**, **George Tsereteli '11**, **Mary Walters '11**, **Pat Wheatley '11**, **Katrina Horwitz '12**, **Lilly Penney '12**, **Javi Ruales '12**, **Chris Bing '13**, **Katie Morgan '13**, and **Michael Woollen '14**. The couple honeymooned in Barcelona and Italy and currently reside in Baltimore, Maryland.

Jacob Taylor '15 and **Maggie Stetler-Stevenson '15 [4]** were married on April 29, 2023 in Baltimore, Maryland at the Baltimore Museum of Art. The couple met each other as first-year students at St. Mary's College of Maryland. Alumni in attendance included **Ben Israel '14**, **Nick Brown '14**, **Heather Hadfield '14**, **Dylan Hadfield '15** and **Delia Titzel '15**. The couple currently reside in Silver Spring, Maryland.



AUBREY ABEL



NICHOLE PARVELE



JASMINE YAB



Keely Houk Pompella '17 and **Nicholas Pompella [5]** were married on Oct. 28, 2023 at Brown's Orchards and Farm Market in Loganville, Pennsylvania. Alumni and college friends in attendance included **Daley Burns**, **Lee Capristo**, **Genia Gavin '17**, **Allison Shimoda '17**, **Christina Wondoloski '17**, **MAT '18** and **Matt Wootan MAT '22**. The couple work and reside in Lafayette, Indiana. Keely is art

director with Purdue for Life Foundation at Purdue University; Nick is writer/editor for Purdue's Polytechnic Institute.

Claire Kostelnik Robey '17 and **Jimmy Robey '17 [6]** were married on Aug. 8, 2023 in Dana Point, California. The best man was **Jake Robey '27**. Bridesmaids included **Carolyn Barranco '17**, **Sydney Larkin '17**, **Katie Robey '19**, **Sophia Rowe '19**, **Bridget Robey '21** and **Betsy Robey '23**. Groomsmen included **Graham Haliskoe '17**, **Zach Rowe '17**,

Colin Thatcher '17 and **Lawrence Ekin**. There were numerous other alumni in attendance. The couple honeymooned in Maui and Kauai and currently reside in North Bethesda, Maryland.

Meghan Lang Walker '17 and **John Walker III [7]** were married on Oct. 14, 2023 in Luray, Virginia. The officiant of the wedding was **Christian Harris '18**. Alumni in attendance included **Jordan Cartwright '16**, **Moriah Austin-Brantly '18** and **Arielle Gross '18**. The couple currently reside in San Diego, California.

Abby Rose '19 and **Brian Fogelson [8]** were married on April 30, 2023 in Catonsville, Maryland. The couple met in her sophomore year at St. Mary's College of Maryland and enjoyed watching sunsets with each other frequently, while Abby attended SMCM. The couple honeymooned in Barbados and currently reside in Severna Park, Maryland.

Sophia Macek Rowe '19 and **Zachary Rowe '17** were married on July 15, 2023 in Baltimore, Maryland. The groomsmen was **Nick Raimondo '17**. There were numerous attendees at the wedding, including SMCM alumnus **Kyle Wise '14** who was the DJ. The couple honeymooned in Hawaii and currently reside in Towson, Maryland.

BIRTHS & ADOPTIONS

Megan Krzys '11 and **Andy Krzys '13 [1]** welcomed twin girls, Caroline and Sophie Krzys, on Dec. 27, 2022. The family currently resides in Chestnut Hill Cove, Maryland with a puppy named Tilly.

Alyssa Weber '13 and **Jonathan Weber '13 [2]** welcomed a daughter, Jane Marie Weber, on Oct. 12, 2023. Jane joins her older sister, Nina, aged four, as well as two proud aunts **Rebecca Weber '20** and **Julia Weber '21**. The family currently resides



GOLDEN MOMENTS

in Columbia, Maryland where Jonathan teaches at the newly opened Guilford Park High School and Alyssa works at Howard Community College.



JANE MARIE WEBER

IN MEMORIAM

Gail Linda Tillman '63 died on March 10, 2023. Gail had lived in Nottingham, Maryland.

Victor Edgardo Chavez '90 died unexpectedly on June 4, 2023. Victor emigrated to the United States in 1980 with his family to Long Island, New York before moving to Maryland. He pursued an education at St. Mary's College of Maryland where he graduated and worked as a government contractor. He also gave back to the community by serving as a lifeguard, volunteer firefighter and EMT. Victor was described as having a very generous heart and loved to spend time with his family and friends as well as partaking in activities such as watching Star

Wars, listening to different kinds of music, and indulging in his favorite activity of bike riding. He is survived by his loving wife of 19 years, Joann Maguire-Chavez, as well as their daughter Tara. He is also survived by his mother, siblings, nieces and nephews.

Jeffrey S. Gibson Jr. '12, MAT '13 died on October 11, 2023 at his home in Lexington Park, Maryland at the age of 33. He graduated with a major in psychology and a minor in education, then earned a master's degree in teaching. He worked as a computer science teacher at Spring Ridge Middle School and served as secretary of the St. Mary's County Democratic Central Committee. Jeffrey is survived by his paternal grandmother, his parents and his brother.

SAVE the DATES



JUNE 14

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NEW-STUDENT ORIENTATION: FROM RATS TO SEAHAWKS

BY **EMILY VANCE '24** (ENGLISH AND ILC-SPANISH DOUBLE MAJOR) AND **ELLA PRICE '24** (HISTORY MAJOR)

A freshman walked into the dimly lit student union, nervously trailing behind fellow newcomers as they made their way to the stage. They stood in a line, watching and waiting as their upperclassmen stood before them. The upperclassmen read out the rules of the week ahead of them, Rat Week. The freshmen, now the Rats, awaited as they had an SMJC beanie crowned upon them and name tags hung around their necks. Thus began Rat Week, a week of light-spirited hazing where the freshmen and their “most honorable” sophomores got to know each other.

student handbooks and other simple tasks. The end of Rat Week consisted of the Rat Court, an event to judge the Rats who broke the rules and “punish” them for their crimes.

In 1969 the Student Government Association congregated in its very first public meeting to discuss the rules and regulations of Rat Week. It was a lengthy list, thoroughly describing the changes that had been made alongside a restatement of the usual expectations that came with Rat Week. They further reminded students of the purpose of Rat Week, being “to, basically, help the freshmen become better acquainted with the upperclassmen and to bring the

the campus environment and subsequently its culture. The new culture and traditions the campus was establishing could have been the reason for the end of some older traditions, such as Rat Week.

Orientation today begins with students adorned in brightly colored matching shirts making their way to the Townhouse Green. They anxiously await to see which classmates will be in their group and who will lead them through the orientation process. Once in their group they become acquainted with the campus; get to know the students with whom they will spend the next four years; and prepare for the events that



Rat Week took place on the first week of classes every year, documented in the digital archives, spanning from the early 1950s to about 1970. Rat Week began with the aforementioned capping ceremony, which was followed by the Rat Dance, a chance for the Rats to socialize with upperclassmen and get to know them better. Throughout the week, Rats participated in small hazing rituals that ranged from carrying lunch trays, picking up an upperclassman’s cigarette butt, singing the Alma Mater from the



LEFT: Rat Week took place on the first week of classes every year from the early 1950s to about 1970 and began with the capping ceremony and Rat Dance. ABOVE: Orientation begins with students adorned in bright colored matching shirts on the Townhouse Green and includes the Twilight Induction Ceremony.

freshmen closer together as a class.” It was emphasized that no “storm trooper tactics” were to be utilized and any cases of that nature would be handled by the orientation committee.

Mentions of Rat Week in the school newspaper diminished in the beginning of the fall semester in 1971. The ending of Rat Week coincided with the students’ wish for more freedoms such as the removal of a curfew in the dormitories. The opening of Prince George, Dorchester, Caroline and Queen Anne Halls, today the primary first-year residences, brought about a major change in

will take place over the next couple of days. The highlights of the current orientation week include the Twilight Induction Ceremony, the President’s Book signing and Late Night @ the ARC. Orientation today carries on the goal of creating friendships between classes on campus, but also eases first-year students’ transitions to campus living and provides opportunities for fun, tradition and learning. Despite changes in tradition, culture and leadership, St. Mary’s College welcomes new students with open arms.

An extra thank you to “Skip” Smith ’73 for the information that made part of this piece possible.

BIG EVENTS AT SMCM



THE KING'S SINGERS



THE JOGO PROJECT



ALAN DOYLE



LARRY VOTE

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



Featuring a diverse array of performances, including our own Jeffrey Silberschlag, leading the SMCM Orchestra and Larry Vote, directing his final performances with the SMCM Chorus, Chamber Singers and PING vocal ensemble. Join us in our intimate and acoustically optimized auditorium for a world-class experience.

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performances and more at:
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FRIDAY, FEB. 9

SMCM ORCHESTRA | 7:00 P.M.

Our own students led by Professor Jeffrey Silberschlag (free)

FRIDAY, FEB. 16

THE KING'S SINGERS | 7:00 P.M.



World-renowned a cappella group with heritage from London

SATURDAY, FEB. 24

THE PRINCESS CONCERT | 7:00 P.M.



Vocal and piano talents, themed from your favorite fairytales

THURSDAY, FEB. 29

HONORING THE LEGACY OF LUCILLE CLIFTON | 7:00 P.M.

Poetry readings and reflections to honor the legacy of Lucille Clifton (free)

SATURDAY, MAR. 23

THE JOGO PROJECT | 7:00 P.M.



Fresh blend of Go-Go, jazz, funk, rock, and more

SATURDAY, MAR. 30

TWAIN LECTURE: RANDY RAINBOW | 7:00 P.M.



Comedian (YouTube series: The Randy Rainbow Show)
Four-time Emmy®-nominated American comedian

SATURDAY, APR. 27

LARRY VOTE'S FAREWELL CHORAL CONCERT | 3:00 P.M.

Directing his final year of performance with the SMCM Chorus,
Chamber Singers, and PING vocal ensemble (free)

THURSDAY, MAY 16

ALAN DOYLE | 7:00 P.M.



Best-known as lead singer for Great Big Sea



This is a paid admission event. All events, free and paid admission, require tickets through the website.




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