

# Ventures



## COURAGE & CARE IN THE FACE OF COVID-19

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Ventures magazine is produced twice a year, in summer and winter. For expanded features, photos, and videos, visit Ventures online at [stevenson.edu/ventures](http://stevenson.edu/ventures).

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# Ventures

News for alumni and friends of Stevenson University Vol. 41 | No. 1 | Winter 2020-2021

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With the Winter 2020/2021 issue of *Ventures*, we mark the end of what has been one of the most challenging years in decades for our nation, our university, and our families and friends. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought unprecedented changes to our lives—how we learn, how we work, and how we interact with others in community. We also know that it has significantly affected many individuals and families personally. Please know that the thoughts, prayers, and well wishes of our university community are with you as we close out 2020 and look forward to better things in 2021.

When Stevenson decided to open for the Fall 2020 semester, we anticipated that COVID-19 would pose many challenges for our operations. We were able to remain open, offer online and in-person options for instruction, and provide campus housing and safe activities and events through virtual and physically distanced means. We worked to monitor, respond to, and limit COVID-19 cases throughout the Fall. Notably, the positivity rate from our Random Surveillance Testing of students was 1.15% for the Fall semester, and we are grateful that, consistent with prior studies in 2020, symptoms in young adults were generally mild and short in duration. These experiences are serving us well as we head into the Spring semester.

Throughout the pandemic, individuals have risen to the challenge. The extraordinary efforts of our faculty and staff helped us to remain open, teach and serve our students, and complete the semester successfully. Our students persevered, focused on their goals, and worked to complete their studies and degrees despite changes and obstacles presented by the evolving nature of the pandemic. Our “Student Success” section will give you a few highlights of our students’ many achievements throughout 2020.

Each of us has a role to play in meeting the challenges of COVID-19, but we cannot fail to acknowledge those who are on the frontlines. Our feature article, “With Courage,



Care,” shares the perspectives of Stevenson students and alumni who are helping patients, their families, and the greater community during this pandemic through nursing, testing, and primary care. Certainly, there are many more members of our SU community who are not mentioned in the article but who are working daily to ensure the health and safety of others. For your selfless service and dedication, we thank you.

Lastly, I want to thank Stevenson’s alumni, parents, donors, and friends who have continued to show their support for our university community despite the pandemic. Your generosity throughout 2020 provided transformational gifts that are creating a brighter future for our students. You will read about some them here in this issue of *Ventures*.

Elliot L. Hirshman, Ph.D.



## In Memoriam: Dick Watts

On October 25, Stevenson University lost an individual who was truly iconic of Mustang athletics and foundational to what SU has become in DIII sports. Richard “Dick” Watts passed away at the age of 92. He served as VJC/Stevenson’s Director of Physical Education and later Assistant to the Athletic Director from 1990 to 2013.

“Dick Watts represents the spirit of service and commitment to innovation that is the core of Stevenson University,” said President Elliot Hirshman. “We are grateful for his legendary accomplishments in moving the university and our athletics programs forward.”

“Dick was truly essential to the creation of our athletic program,” said Director of Athletics Brett Adams. “As the founding father of team sports, Dick helped form a club lacrosse program at Villa Julie and later helped Carol Zimmerman complete the application for NCAA membership. Dick was the force behind our many ‘firsts’—our first field, our first scoreboard, our first teams. Without Dick Watts, to have the program we have today with 700 varsity athletes and 200 club sport athletes would not have been possible.”

The architect behind the university’s physical education, intramural, and intercollegiate athletic programs, Watts spent 25 years at Stevenson, from 1988 to 2013, first as a consultant to VJC President Carolyn Manuszak then later serving as a Physical Education instructor, Director of Physical Education,

and Assistant to the Athletic Director. He was instrumental in educating the administration about the importance of athletics to the university while assisting with the application and acceptance into the NCAA as a member of Division III, which came in 1994.

Watts was a member of the inaugural class of the Stevenson University Athletic Hall of Fame in 2014, and in 2015 the Hall of Fame was named in his honor.

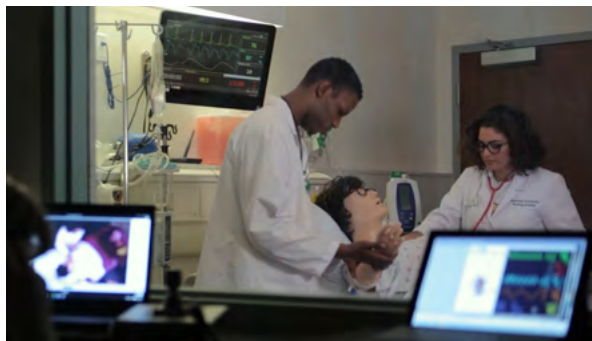
Before arriving at Villa Julie, Watts was the head men’s lacrosse coach at UMBC (1971-93) and served as the school’s first athletic director from 1967 to 1985. He guided the Retrievers to the NCAA Division II national championship in 1980 and totaled 178 victories during his career. A 1956 graduate of Johns Hopkins, he was a two-time All-American as a defenseman for the Blue Jays.

Watts is a member of no less than five Halls of Fame. In addition to the Stevenson Hall of Fame that bears his name, he is a member of the US Lacrosse National Hall of Fame, the UMBC Hall of Fame, the US Lacrosse Greater Baltimore Chapter Hall of Fame, and the Intercollegiate Men’s Lacrosse Coaches Association Hall of Fame, to which he was inducted in 2019.

“Those who are fortunate to have been around Dick and be mentored by him are saddened by his passing, but we will be forever grateful for the love and guidance he gave to us and to Stevenson,” said Adams.

# 2020: A Year for Transformative Giving to Stevenson

## Rosewood Milestone: The Future Owings Mills East



On September 25, 2020, Stevenson marked a significant milestone in its history, concluding its agreement with the State of Maryland and assuming ownership of Parcels 1 and 2 of the former Rosewood Center property.

Under the Owings Mills East, LLC, the property will be developed as an athletic and recreational hub providing space for the expansion of Stevenson’s current facilities. Owings Mills East will ultimately encompass a track, turf and grass fields, and baseball and softball fields as well as roads, parking, and facilities for maintenance and equipment. Grading and site preparation are now underway.

Despite the challenges of 2020, the year also brought a number of transformative gifts to the university that will help develop new campus facilities and support student success. Please see “Advancing the Mission” starting on page 26 for news about gifts supporting the new Owings Mills Campus Library, Starliper Applied Finance Lab, nursing program, and scholarships.

“Advancing the Mission” section for **MORE.**

## New Leadership on the President's Cabinet

This year, President Hirshman appointed two new vice presidents to the President's Cabinet. In July, Melanie Edmondson, formerly Associate Vice President of Financial Affairs, joined the Cabinet as Interim Vice President of Finance and Administration and CFO. Edmondson has served the university for more than 24 years, joining in 1996 as Controller. Edmondson brings a breadth of experience in budget and financial analysis, planning, and reporting systems as well as extensive experience with construction accounting and management, and work with state and local government agencies. Edmondson and her husband Chad are proud parents of 2018 SU graduate, Sam; and Jake, who is completing his Legal Studies degree this year. Edmondson's exemplary track record and dedication were recognized in May 2018 when she was honored with the President's Medal.

Antionette Marbray joined Stevenson as Vice President and Chief Compliance Officer, COVID-19 Operations, in September. A seasoned administrator with more than 20 years of experience in student affairs and in higher education law, policy, and compliance, Marbray served as an Associate Vice President at San Diego State University where she provided leadership and had direct responsibility for health and wellness, student rights and responsibilities, international student services, and career services, among other areas.

Marbray is charged with monitoring developments in federal, state, and local COVID-19 compliance requirements that impact the university, and informing the President, Vice Presidents, and other university stakeholders. In addition to serving as a member of the President's Cabinet and COVID-19 Core Operations Team, Marbray works collaboratively with Vice Presidents and others across Stevenson to review university COVID-19 policies and practices for compliance and effectiveness, implement training and educational programs, and ensure the university reflects best practices related to COVID-19.

Prior to joining San Diego State University, Marbray held administrative and leadership roles in university policy compliance and risk management at the University of Florida and at Bowie State University in Maryland. These positions included serving as an Assistant General Counsel at the University of Florida and Interim Vice President and General Counsel at Bowie State. In addition to extensive experience in critical incident and crisis management, including serving in a leadership capacity in the San Diego State University Emergency Operations Center, Marbray also served as Director of Title IX and Equal Opportunity Employment Programs at the University of San Diego. She holds a Juris Doctorate from Duke University, a Master's in Education from the University of Florida, and a bachelor's degree from the University of South Florida.



Melanie Edmondson



Antionette Marbray

# Stevenson Launches First Doctoral Program

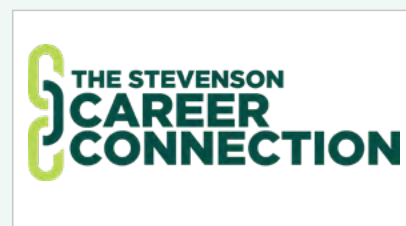
In March, Stevenson announced the launch of its first doctoral program, the Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.) in Clinical Psychology. This full-time, five-year, in-person program will prepare students to become licensed clinical psychologists.

The program is designed to provide students with a strong grounding in theory and research, with particular attention to promoting respect for human diversity and working effectively with individuals and groups from diverse cultural backgrounds. The faculty are active scholar-practitioners and licensed clinical professionals with expertise in depression and anxiety disorders; sport and performance psychology; adolescent development; and pastoral counseling, among other areas. The university is accepting applications for the program's first cohort to start in Fall 2021.

Marie McGrath, Ph.D., who joined the Psychology faculty during the summer of 2020, will direct the new Psy.D. program. A licensed psychologist and certified school psychologist, McGrath holds a Ph.D. in School Psychology from Temple University. Prior to joining to Stevenson's faculty, she spent 16 years at Immaculata University in Pennsylvania, where she served as a faculty member in the doctoral program in Clinical Psychology and the master's/specialist program in School Psychology.

For information, visit [stevenson.edu/psyd](http://stevenson.edu/psyd). The university welcomes inquiries from interested students, alumni, and individuals looking to pursue careers in clinical psychology.

## Introducing the Stevenson Career Connection Center



Beginning with the Spring 2020 semester, the Office of Career Services became the Stevenson Career Connection Center. The new brand expresses what has long been the mission of Stevenson—connecting students to career pathways through their academic studies and through co-curricular experiences that help students set the stage for post-college professional success. Through the Career Connection Center, students will find expert support to hone their skills and develop a professional brand, find a mentor, develop a career network, and optimize their job search. Visit the Career Connection Center at [stevenson.edu/career-connection](http://stevenson.edu/career-connection)

## SU Lauded as “Best Value School” in the 2021 U. S. News Rankings

For the third year in a row, Stevenson University has been named among the nation's “Best Value Schools” by *U.S. News and World Report*. The 2021 Best Colleges listings, released September 14, also ranked Stevenson among the “Best Regional Universities-North” and “Best Colleges for Veterans.”

To assign a university the “Best Value” designation, *U. S. News* evaluates an institution's academic quality and its net cost of attendance after the average level of need-based financial aid. The higher the quality of the program and the lower the cost, the better the value. Only schools ranked in or near the top half of their categories are included because *U.S. News* considers the most significant values to be among colleges that are above average academically.



## Biomedical Engineering Program Coordinator Brings Wealth of Industry and Academic Experience

Stevenson welcomed Neil Rothman, Ph.D., as the new Program Coordinator and Professor of Biomedical Engineering last spring. In addition to his extensive academic and administrative experience, he brings a wealth of biomedical entrepreneurship and industry experience that will benefit Stevenson students. Rothman looks forward to using this experience in engineering, R&D, and product development in the medical device and scientific instrumentation fields to train Stevenson's Biomedical Engineering students to think creatively, innovate, and solve problems to improve people's lives.

Rothman earned his B.S. in Biomedical Engineering and a M.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and his Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from Johns Hopkins University. His biomedical industry experience includes three decades in technology development and consulting for companies such as Brainscope Company, Infinite Biomedical Technologies, GE Healthcare, and others.

"Early in my career, I worked on the development of therapeutic devices, such as instruments for orthopedic surgery and systems for resuscitation from cardiac arrest," Rothman said. "I transitioned to working on diagnostic devices to monitor respiration, run clinical diagnostic tests, and most recently devices that employed the EEG (electroencephalogram or electrical signals from the brain) to diagnose traumatic brain injury and concussion.

"Our students have much to look forward to in the coming decades," he said. "The field of biomedical engineering is expanding at an ever-increasing rate and creating many new career pathways. Our program is designed to prepare them for success in this expanding field."



## Academic Leadership: New Appointments



Christine Moran, Ph.D.



Cheryl Wilson, Ph.D.,



Ali Eskandarian, Ph.D.

Starting with the Fall 2020 semester, two current Stevenson academic administrators took on new roles and the university welcomed new leadership for Stevenson University Online.

Christine Moran, Ph.D.—formerly Dean of Student Success, Associate Dean for Service-Learning, and Professor, Education—assumed a new role as the Dean of the School of Education, in addition to Vice Provost for Student Success.

Cheryl Wilson, Ph.D., Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, has an extended role as Interim Dean of the Brown School of Business and Leadership, and Vice Provost for Academic Affairs.

New to Stevenson is Ali Eskandarian, Ph.D., Dean of Stevenson University Online, and Vice Provost for Online Learning, who joined the university in October. Eskandarian

brings more than 20 years of innovation and experience in academic administration and program development to the position. From 2012 to 2018, he served concurrently as the Dean for the College of Professional Studies, and the Dean and Chief Executive for the Virginia Science and Technology Campus at The George Washington University (GW). He was also a Founder and Co-Director of the Center for Quantum Computing, Information, Logic, and Topology, and Professor of Physics at GW. He is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), and a Fellow of the Washington Academy of Sciences.

**Leeanne Bell McManus, Ph.D.**, Professor of Communication, was invited to review the National Communication Association Ethics division for the 2020 convention. Bell has also been selected to serve on the convention planning team to plan future conferences for the Eastern Communication Association.

**Heather Harris, Ph.D.**, Professor of Communication, served as the moderator for the panel, Women and Race, during the Black Lives Matter Movement for the Women of the World (WOW) Global 24 Conference in June. The WOW Global 24 conference was the first free 24-hour festival uniting women across the world.

**Glenn Johnston, Ph.D.**, Program Coordinator for History and Humanities, Assistant Professor of History, and University Archivist, has been appointed to a review panel for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) “Humanities Initiatives at College and Universities” program.

**Beth Kobett, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Education, presented a webinar in April for the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, “Discover and Leverage Your Students” Strengths through Powerful Asset-Based Instructional Design, to more than 600 participants tuning in from all over the world.

**Sara Narayan, Ph.D.**, Professor of Chemistry, published the paper, “Sustainability and Some Green Initiatives in Undergraduate Education,” in the June 2020 issue of *Physical Sciences Reviews*.

**Takisha Toler, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Marketing, and her MKT 336 students worked on an academic service-learning project with the Baltimore Ravens and the Ravens Flock, a Stevenson student club. The students developed the 2020-2021 Media Kit for the Ravens Flock that included a theme and a series of events for the club. Baltimore Ravens and Stevenson University partnered in Fall 2019 to develop the first NFL campus flock program.

# FACULTY



Leeanne Bell McManus, Ph.D.



Heather Harris, Ph.D.



Glenn Johnston, Ph.D.



Beth Kobett, Ph.D.



Sara Narayan, Ph.D.

**Mark Lortz, Ph.D.**, Director of Music, and **Gordon Hicken, D.M.**, Assistant Director and Assistant Professor of Music, co-authored the article, “Tambourine Technique,” for the August issue of the national magazine, *The Instrumentalist*. Lortz and Hicken are both percussionists, and their article addressed the fundamentals of tone production and technique when playing the concert tambourine. Lortz also received notification from the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Performers, that his original composition, “The Caw of the Wild,” was performed by the Baltimore Ravens Marching Band for the Baltimore filming of *American Ninja Warrior*.

**Harlan Parker, Ph.D.**, Orchestra Conductor and Adjunct Professor of Music, guest conducted the Northern Colorado Honor Band in Fort Collins, Colorado, in January 2020.

**Lauri Weiner, J.D.**, Associate Professor of Counseling and Human Services, was appointed to a four-year term on the Board of the Council for Standards in Human Services Education (CSHSE). This organization serves as the accrediting body for Human Services programs.

**Alex Hooke Ph.D.**, Professor of Philosophy, published an article, “A New Justice, A New Watchword,” in *Cultural Politics* Winter 2020.

**Aaron Chandler, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of English, submitted an article for publication in *Twentieth Century Literature*: “Slum Simulacra: Jack Kerouac, Oscar Lewis, and Cultures of Poverty.”

“Examining Ecological Constraints on the Intergenerational Transmission of Attachment via Individual Participant Data Meta-analysis”, a peer-reviewed article by **Maria Wong, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Psychology, was the most downloaded paper in the journal *Child Development* for the past year.

**Diane Lehmann, DNP**, Assistant Professor of Nursing, was spotlighted in *The Maryland Nurse News and Journal* for her work as a forensic nurse.



Takisha Toler, Ph.D.



Mark Lortz, Ph.D.



Gordon Hicken, D.M.



Harlan Parker, Ph.D.



Lauri Weiner, J.D.



Alex Hooke, Ph.D.



Aaron Chandler, Ph.D.



Maria Wong, Ph.D.



Diane Lehmann, DNP



# STUDENT SUCCESS

In April, School of Business students **Maiya Lyons**, **Ricardo Facey**, **Courtney Swartz**, **Matt Resnik**, and **Lauren McDonough** placed first in this year's virtual Weinman Cup competition at Towson University, under the guidance of advisor Mark Arvisais, Associate Professor, Management. The Weinman Cup is a rigorous competition open to select undergraduate business schools and requires teams to solve a difficult and complex supply chain problem.

Ten Fashion Merchandising students—**Justin Baluyot**, **Elle Bialozynski**, **Mary Kate Gagliardi**, **Aaron Hernandez**, **Megan Ingold**, **Elaina McDonough**, **Jackson Rhodes**, **Meghan Roberts**, **Corinne Schroeder**, and **Skylar Werner**—accompanied Assistant Marketing Professor Holly Lentz-Schiller to the Coterie and Children's Club Trade Show in New York in February. Students attended seminars, met with industry professionals, visited the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and dined with Emily Haas '17, a Fashion Merchandising alumna and advisory board member, to learn about careers in fashion merchandising and life in New York City.

Fashion Merchandising majors **Gabrielle Hatcher** and **Allison Sullivan** won first place in the Educators for Socially Responsible Apparel Practices International Student Poster Competition. The students created their socially responsible shoe company, Shoevolve, with a focus on renewable resources and sustainable practices during the Spring FMER 340 class.

Congratulations to **Amira Morsi** (Fashion Design), **Keith Rantin** (Business Administration), **Mikela Robinson** (Business Communication), and **Ben Saah** (Fashion Design) for winning the Virtual Sales Competition sponsored by Enterprise in October. The students had 20-30 minutes to demonstrate their sales and marketing skills to a panel of three Enterprise judges, with an emphasis on recent global and economic challenges. They presented a 30-second commercial, a 10-minute social media marketing presentation, and an overview of two of the eight NACE Core Competencies. Keith Rantin and Mikela Robinson tied for first place, each receiving \$1,750, splitting the first (\$2,000) and second place (\$1,500) scholarship awards. Amira Morsi received the third-place award for \$1,000, and the \$500 honorable

# IN PURSUIT OF FASHION

THE SANDY SCHREIER COLLECTION



Students Justin Baluyot, Corinne Schroeder, Meghan Roberts and Elle Bialozynski visit the Met during the Fashion Merchandising program's trip to New York in February.



Stevenson's Mock Trial team competed virtually in the Charm City Classic.



Angel Longus was accepted into the National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates summer program.

mention award went to Ben Saah. The awards were given thanks to Enterprise's generous gift to the Stevenson Career Connection Center last November.

Stevenson's Mock Trial team continues to have success as one of four teams with a second-place finish, competing virtually in the Charm City Classic against teams from the University of Virginia, University of Maryland Baltimore County, American University, and George Washington University.

Senior **Jaden Thornton**, a Legal Studies major with a double minor in English and Psychology, who has competed on the Mock Trial team since he was a freshman, has been named "Top Regional Attorney" twice and won the "Top Attorney" award at Johns Hopkins, Elizabethtown, and most recently in November at Yale.

Legal Studies and Honors student **Mark Reichart** had a paper accepted for presentation at the Richard Macksey National Undergraduate Humanities Research Symposium at Johns Hopkins. The paper, "The Colonel:

William Faulkner's *Idol and Moral Compass*," was written for Professor Laura Snyder's ENG 153 course.

Business Communication junior, **Isabella Maxey**, inspired by her parents who work in healthcare and her desire to give something in return to essential workers, created #AspireToInspire, a creative movement to encourage and support essential workers while simultaneously inspiring creatives to develop material for that cause. Her project invites people to use their skills and talents to address the worldwide global impact of COVID-19.

Junior Psychology major **Angel Longus** was accepted into the National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates summer program. Longus was selected to intern at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and completed the program virtually.

Theatre Major/English Minor **Tiffany Ko** has had her poem "Time Comes" published in the 2019 edition of Maryland's Best Emerging Poets. The anthology is published each year by Z Publishing.



Patrick Watson



Evan Williams



Danika Ani

# MUSTANG 2020 SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

Three members of the Mustang track and field program were named All-Americans by the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) after the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships were canceled in mid-March. On the men's side, senior **Patrick Watson** was All-American in the 5K, and junior **Dereck Davis** earned the honor in the 60-meter dash. For the women, senior **Danika Ani** was recognized in the weight throw.

Watson, a Criminal Justice major was also named a First Team Academic All-American by CoSIDA.

Men's volleyball junior Logan Smiley became the fifth player in program history to be named All-America as he earned AVCA (American Volleyball Coaches Association) Second Team honors.

Twelve winter student-athletes were honored as Academic All-Conference by the Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC): **Nick Gray**, **Austin Master**, and **Ryan Patrick** (men's ice

hockey); **Karly Aguirre**, **Trinity Barless**, **Allyson Barlow**, **Nikki Kendrick** and **Annie Smyth-Hammond** (women's ice hockey); Watson and Davis (men's indoor track and field); Danika Ani (women's indoor track and field); and **Melanie Milam** (women's swimming).



Melanie Milam



Julia Kline



Karly Aguirre



Ray McDermott

EXCELLING ON AND OFF THE FIELD

# ACADEMIC + ATHLETIC SUCCESS

Stevenson had a league-high seven MAC Senior Scholar-Athlete Award winners for the 2019-20 academic year.

Patrick Watson was also the recipient of the MAC's Senior Scholar-Athlete Award in men's indoor and outdoor track and field. Three other senior student-athletes also won the award: **Ray McDermott** (men's tennis), **Julia Kline** (women's golf), and **Evan Williams** (men's ice hockey). Stevenson had a league-high seven MAC Senior Scholar-Athlete Award winners for the 2019-20 academic year.

A total of 304 winter and spring student-athletes were named to the MAC Academic Honor Roll. Student-athletes need to earn a 3.20 GPA in their primary season of competition to be eligible. The 304 is an increase from 242 that earned the honor in 2019 and marks the third straight year Stevenson's number of honorees has increased. Included in the total are 47 student-athletes who earned a 4.0 GPA in the spring.

In October, the Stevenson Athletic Department announced that it was establishing a chapter in Chi Alpha Sigma, the national college athlete honor society. In order to be inducted into Chi Alpha Sigma, a student-athlete must attend a four-year accredited college or university that is a member of the NCAA, NAIA, NCCAA, or USCAA. The honoree also must achieve at least junior academic standing by the fifth semester and must have achieved a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 3.4 (on a 4.0 scale). Athletics Academic Coach Chip Rouse will serve as advisor for Stevenson's chapter of Chi Alpha Sigma, and the first induction ceremony will be held during the spring semester of 2021.



**WANT MORE?** Check out [gomustangsports.com](http://gomustangsports.com) and find videos, photographs, stats, schedules, interviews, and much more. To stay up to date, bookmark the site and visit it frequently.





# WITH COURAGE, CARE:

HOW STEVENSON STUDENTS AND ALUMNI ARE  
SERVING ON THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC'S FRONTLINES

BY CLAIRE HOFFMAN

The COVID-19 pandemic has seen its share of heroes—and quite a few members of the Stevenson University family, unsurprisingly, number among them. Students, alumni, and faculty from the university’s Berman School of Nursing and Health Professions and Fine School of the Sciences have been hard at work caring directly for patients or working long shifts in laboratories to develop testing and antibodies that provide hope for the future. Here are their stories.

## LIFE ON THE FRONTLINES

While things were still relatively calm in the United States, Tanya Castagna—who received a bachelor’s degree in Nursing from Villa Julie College in 2004—was already hard at work fighting the pandemic in Italy. The Baltimore native works as a peri-operating room nurse at a university hospital in Sardinia, Italy, a region that was particularly hard-hit in the early months of the pandemic and is now experiencing its second wave of cases and lockdowns.

Castagna describes the pandemic as a “surreal experience,” noting that elective surgeries have recently been put on hold again as her hospital attempts to avoid overload. “But this time, I have more clarity and less fear,” she says. “My destiny has called me to be a nurse during this pandemic ... I’m sure it will be a trying winter for many—however, after the storm passes, there will be rebirth. There will be renewal.” She adds that her time at VJC helped prepare her for the work she now pursues. “I remember studying about pandemics but never thought I would witness one in my career. In the early days of the outbreak, I often thought about my preparation at Villa Julie and the very reasons why I chose this profession. With time, my fears quickly changed into courage.”

As the virus progressed to the United States, many medical workers of all types also saw their jobs change overnight.

Christopher Toth graduated from Stevenson in 2016 with a degree in Biochemistry, and now works as a family medicine physician assistant at GBMC’s Family Care clinic in his hometown of Jarrettsville, Md. As a primary care specialist, Toth has seen significant changes to his job since the onset of COVID-19—particularly with a shift to telemedicine. “Oftentimes, as primary care providers, we are the first ones contacted by patients with questions and requests for recommendations, testing advice, and so on,” he explains. “At the beginning of the pandemic, we were getting maybe 10 calls a day from people worried that they’d been exposed.”

While Toth returned to the physical office relatively quickly, most of his cases were people who needed urgent medical care—but as safety guidelines and PPE protocols have become clearer, Toth says he’s now been able to return to normal primary care appointments. One unseen benefit of the pandemic? Toth says there’s been an increased focus on addressing underlying issues of anxiety and depression—particularly through the increase in video visits, which allow him to see those patients sooner than normal. “For addressing mental health concerns, telemedicine has a huge role,” he notes.

It’s not just Stevenson alumni working on the frontlines. Current Nursing student Regina Nicoli, who will graduate in May 2021, works as a patient care technician and student nurse



Stevenson MLS alumni working at Sinai Hospital include, left to right: Christin Reuter '08, Karley Andrews '19, Kari Ritenour (Nickles) '13, Katherine Bratt '12, and Jasmine Arrington '14.



at the Baltimore Washington Medical Center. Her day-to-day work involves checking vital signs, assisting patients with bathing, and helping nurses wherever possible. But during the peak of the pandemic in late March and April, Nicoli was often assigned to designated COVID units—which she describes as “a completely different environment.”

“Honestly, I was terrified the first day I was floated to the unit and had to take care of a COVID-positive patient,” she remembers. Her fear quickly dissipated after realizing the patients were far more scared than she was. “I was the one person who was able to come into their room due to the visitor restrictions. I had to leave my fears at the hospital entrance, and I took care of all my patients to the best of my ability.”

Another thing that has helped Nicoli through the fear? The advice she got from Stevenson professor Deborah Lyons, who taught one of her first Nursing classes. “She said, ‘You can do anything for a short amount of time,’ and that has stuck with me—especially when I had to dress head-to-toe in PPE and I was overheating and frustrated with the current situation. I would recall Professors Lyons’s quote and it would get me through the rest of my shift.”

After graduation, Nicoli plans to continue in the field of nursing and is still weighing areas in which area she might specialize. “I can remember one senior nurse asking me if I still wanted to be a nurse after working through this pandemic. I said ‘absolutely’. There is nowhere else I would rather be,” she says.

## AN ONGOING FIGHT

While the country adjusts to the new normals of masking and social distancing, the pandemic is still very real for frontline workers like Avery Wrigley, who graduated from the Nursing program in 2018 and currently works in a Progressive Care/Telemetry Unit at GBMC. Typically, the 30-bed unit handles stroke patients—but from March to August, it served as the designated floor for COVID-19 patients.

“We had 30 COVID patients daily,” Wrigley recalls, adding that while the unit was given a break in August, it started seeing more COVID patients starting in November. At the peak, she adds, there were roughly four patients to every nurse. “Some patients had mild symptoms, however many of them declined rapidly. We had to prepare for it every shift.”

Wrigley says the fear of exposure to the virus has made it the most stressful time of her career—but that her training from Stevenson has helped enormously. “While nothing can prepare you fully for a pandemic, I always heard Professor Laurel Moody in my ear saying, ‘You can do it. You know what you’re doing.’ Behind my N95 mask and face shield, I put on a brave face and handled it.” She adds, “I was able to pull things from every class to apply to my work. Using health assessment, therapeutic communication,

and learning time management through my classes at Stevenson really prepared me as much as possible.”

Gary Pyner, a 2017 Nursing graduate who works as a critical care nurse at the R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center at the University of Maryland Medical Center has a similar story. He works in the Critical Care Resuscitation Unit, which he describes as a “one-of-a-kind unit” specializing in hybrid resuscitation and high-acuity ICU. “We admit some of the sickest people in the state and surrounding areas that need emergent medical or surgical intervention with advanced forms of resuscitation,” he explains. While Pyner typically deals with cardiac, vascular, and other life-threatening emergencies, he says the COVID patients he has treated “have been some of the sickest patients many of us have ever treated. Being a critical care nurse is very stressful, but adding COVID on top of it has been a lot. You can’t really prepare for this.”

Still, Pyner says he loves his job, and is grateful for his time at Stevenson—particularly for the individualized teaching, tutoring options, and the advanced-level simulation that helped prepare him for the demands of critical care nursing.

Another Nursing graduate making good use of her Stevenson education is Katelyn Byram, who earned her degree in 2019 before moving to Memphis, Tenn., to work as a pediatric nurse in the pulmonary unit at Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital. While she recently transferred to the NICU, she previously treated children with cystic fibrosis, asthma, and pneumonia—so when the pandemic broke out, her floor became a designated COVID floor due to its specialty in all things respiratory.

“What we didn’t know was COVID in children presents differently than COVID in adults,” she explains, “The majority of children who have been positive suffer from MIS-C—multi-inflammatory syndrome.” It causes issues such as a full-body rash, swollen legs, very high fevers, and other symptoms.

Byram says that her day-to-day job changed dramatically due to the pandemic. “I went from caring for chronic lung patients and patients with lung conditions, to caring for any COVID-positive patient, symptomatic or asymptomatic.” She credits her training in respiratory issues while at Stevenson for preparing her to help treat this influx of COVID patients.

Another crucial thing she learned at Stevenson, she notes, was how to develop relationships with patients and their families—a skill that has always been crucial in pediatrics, but especially during the anxiety surrounding COVID-19. “It is so important to make a connection with the family and learn what they need from you,” says Byram, as it helps give families and patients some control in a situation that seems out of their control. “Even on a busy day, it’s vital to sit with the family member and patient and talk about the medications and treatments, answer questions, and learn how best to be your patient’s advocate.”



The microbiology laboratory at Sinai Hospital of Baltimore has five Stevenson graduates working there, including (from left) Mattie Milchling '16, Kari Ritenour '13, and lab manager Christin Reuter '08. Also pictured: the Cepheid Gene Xpert, one of the instruments used for COVID-19 testing.

## HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

The battle against COVID isn't only fought side-by-side with patients and their families, it is fought through laboratories, testing, and research. Alumni from Stevenson's Medical Laboratory Science (MLS) program are doing heroic work in these fields, with many performing COVID-19 antigen testing or testing for antibodies to the virus. Other alumni are working to diagnose complications from the virus, such as coagulopathies and cardiomyopathies, as well as providing routine diagnostic support.

Sinai Hospital of Baltimore's Microbiology and Urinalysis Lab is overseen by MLS adjunct faculty member Christin Reuter, who graduated from the MLS program in 2008. Reuter works with four other Stevenson alumni—Kari Ritenour (Nickles) '13, Gretchen (Mattie) Milchling '16, Destiny Robinson '18, and Karley Andrews '19—as part of a team that works with doctors and nurses via telemedicine to determine a patient's need for COVID-19 testing. They are also helping set up specimen collection tents, safely and effectively processing thousands of samples and finding ways to process more patients with fewer materials. Reuter notes that the lab's work has been thrust in the spotlight during COVID-19. "While we are 'behind the scenes,' the work we do is paramount in patient care," she explains. "Almost 70 percent of patient-care decisions are driven by a patient's laboratory results."

Working with several MLS alums—and being one herself—has proven to Reuter that the Stevenson's approach makes students career ready. "The MLS program 100 percent prepares you for life post-graduation," she says. "I was able to advance up the career ladder rather quickly due to opportunities that presented themselves and my career preparedness gained from Stevenson."

Katherine Bratt, a 2012 MLS graduate, is working as a medical laboratory scientist in Sinai's Special Chemistry/Immunology Department. Her job involves testing blood and body fluids to aid in the detection, diagnosis, and treatment of disease—and has gotten increasingly hands-on during the pandemic. "We have added a COVID-19 IgG antibody test to our menu after I and many others at the hospital volunteered our blood for its validation," she explains. "This test is a good indicator of past infection with the virus and can hopefully become a useful test in the future once a vaccine becomes available."

Two more alumni working at Sinai Hospital are Mary Moorhouse, who earned her AAS in Medical Laboratory Technology in 2005 and a B.S. in Medical Laboratory Science in 2007, and Mary Fischer, a 2017 MLS graduate. The two currently work in the hospital's Blood Bank (with Moorhouse serving as the manager of the bank at both Sinai and Northwest Hospitals), which is part of an investigational study—along with the Mayo Clinic and the American Red Cross—on ways to utilize convalescent plasma




SU nurses on the frontlines: Regina Nicoli '21, Avery Wrigley '18, and Gary Pyner'17. Wrigley blogged about her work during the early months of the pandemic for Greater Baltimore Medical Center. Nicoli and her aunt, who both work as nurses at University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center, were featured on Fox News Baltimore for their work with COVID patients.

from patients who have recovered from COVID-19. The plasma can then be transfused to current COVID patients to confer passive immunity and provide a faster recovery. "COVID-19 has presented many challenges around blood supply shortages and inventory management, as well as developing protocols for use of investigational convalescent plasma for patients," explains Moorhouse. "We have tremendous support of our medical directors and administration, which has really made working during the pandemic much easier."

MLS alumni are also making an impact at Johns Hopkins Hospital, where 2019 graduate Charly Dadjou is working in the Molecular Microbiology Department, which performs more than 1,500 COVID-19 tests per day. Jeemin Kim, also from the class of 2019, is working in the hospital's Immunology Laboratory, and 2020 graduates Logan Pretty, Jamie Murphy, Kyle Johnson, and

Bailey Martini are working in Microbiology, Special Chemistry, and Flow Cytometry, respectively. While the lab workers aren't working directly with patients, their work is vital during the pandemic—a sentiment expressed by Asia Robinson, who graduated in May 2020 with a B.S. in Biology and is currently pursuing an M.S. degree in Forensic Investigation from Stevenson. Robinson also works as a clinic lab assistant for a testing company, where she helps test more than 22,000 samples on a day-to-day basis. "Sometimes it can feel overwhelming and even devastating—but most importantly, I focus on the reality that someone's life is in my hands and they are depending on me to give them the results of a COVID-19 test."

Those tests are absolutely critical in the fight against COVID, Robinson notes—not only for individual patient care but for public health. "It is truly an honor to do what I do." 

***While our article cannot mention every Villa Julie and Stevenson student and alum serving in the fight against COVID-19, this story is meant to salute all of our graduates, students, faculty, friends, and family members serving others during this global pandemic. You are heroes and you are Mustangs. Thank you!***





# Fulbright Scholar Award Caps International Focus to Alumnus' Research

By Claire Hoffman

When he graduated Stevenson in 2010 with a B.S. in Biology, Matthew S. Bramble, Ph.D., immediately dove head-first into a life of travel and service. He spent two years at the United States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, studying host-viral protein interactions, before earning his Ph.D. in Human Genetics from UCLA in 2017.

Now, he works at the Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C., as a staff scientist in the Department of Genetic Medicine research.

But now, Bramble is set to embark on his biggest adventure yet: Last spring, he was awarded the prestigious Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award to South Africa and the Philippines. He's one of nearly 800 citizens who will teach, conduct research, and provide expertise abroad for the 2021-2022 academic year through the Fulbright program, the government's flagship international education exchange program established in 1946. Recipients of Fulbright awards are selected on the basis of academic and professional achievements, as well as a record of service and leadership in their fields.



Matthew S. Bramble, Ph.D

Bramble's research will center around expanding access to low-cost and user-friendly diagnostic solutions for inborn conditions. It all ties in nicely with the work—and travel—he has long been passionate about; in fact, he currently travels extensively to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), as well as South Africa and the Philippines, for research projects and teaching efforts.

"My current work focuses heavily on a disease known as Konzo, which is a debilitating condition caused by the improper consumption of cassava," he explains. Currently, Bramble is investigating how the gut-microbiome may be involved in modulating the disease, and how genetic differences between populations can explain the susceptibility to the condition. "Prior to that, I spent time in the DRC working on projects involving Ebola, with a focus on the immune system of those individuals that have survived previous outbreaks of that virus."

He'll be able to continue that research with his Fulbright plans, which he calls "very synergistic with my current work at Children's National Medical Center."

"In addition to researching Konzo, we also have used smartphone-based applications to successfully diagnose Down Syndrome in the DRC—so this award aims to expand such technology and others in the Philippines as well as South Africa," he explains.

Bramble says he became passionate about using AI-based tools and technology to help diagnose genetic conditions "rather randomly" during his time as a Fogarty Global Health Fellow, which brought him to the Congo for the 2017-2018 academic year.

"I knew there was very little genetic expertise in the DRC, making it all the more valuable. It seemed like a good idea and a challenge, so I decided to take it on in

addition to my Ebola studies," he says. Since his research has proved successful so far, he's excited to expand it to other countries that lack genetic services and well-trained genetic specialists.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Bramble says his Fulbright will likely start in January 2021, when he'll be physically placed in each country for about three months. He credits his time at Stevenson for providing him the educational and personal resources needed to succeed in his career.

"I think my Stevenson education was above and beyond," adding that the mentoring he received and personal relationships he

was able to forge with dedicated faculty were the highlight—particularly with Biology professor Joseph Matanoski, whom Bramble credits with fostering his interest in travel.

"The collective notion of the entire SU faculty that I pursue a Ph.D. turned out to be the best career and academic advice that I was ever offered," he says.

*"The collective notion  
of the entire SU  
faculty that I pursue  
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be the best career and  
academic advice  
I could be offered"*



THANK YOU!

TOTAL DONOR  
COUNT FOR FY 2020:

1,553

TOTAL DOLLARS  
RAISED IN FY 2020:

\$3,594,029

Stevenson University could not thrive without you—the alumni, parents, faculty, staff, friends, corporate partners, and students—who choose to share their treasure, their expertise, and their time to enhance our students' experience.

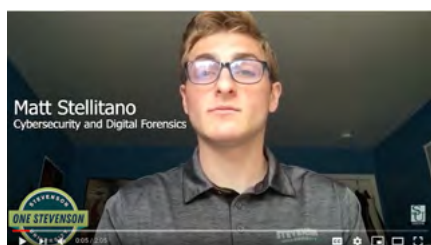
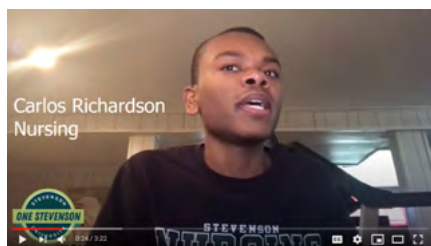
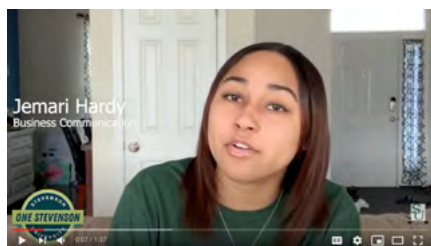
You are here for our students throughout the academic year. You move them in, cheer them on, and share their pride when they graduate—and, most critically, you give.

During the fiscal year of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020, nearly 1,600 donors gave a total of \$3,594,029 to Stevenson. As a result, more scholarships were awarded, academic programs and resources were bolstered, and enrichment opportunities were expanded.

**On behalf of our students and the entire  
SU family, we thank you.**

# One Stevenson Campaign

Last March, our lives and plans were upended. Our campuses closed and our students and faculty were forced to quickly adapt to new modes of learning and instruction. Although they faced great uncertainty, our Stevenson students wanted to help. In the earliest weeks of the pandemic, Stevenson students came together to share video messages of hope for our SU community. They shared ideas for how we could all stay healthy, productive, and optimistic as we worked to navigate this new journey. They reminded us that together we are One Stevenson. Check out a few of their video messages below.



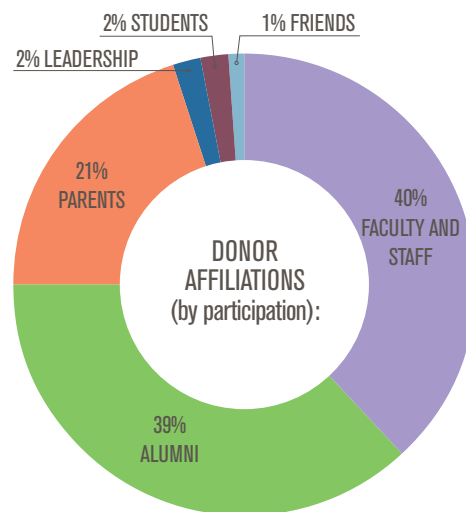
# SU Day of Giving 2020



On Thursday, April 23, the Stevenson University community made an incredible difference in the lives of our students in just 24-hours. On our second annual Day of Giving, Mustangs across the country united to contribute to the Stevenson Scholarship Fund, which offers financial assistance to qualifying students struggling to cover the cost of tuition.

Like so many, our Stevenson students continue to deal with unexpected expenses, loss of housing and employment, and other challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite facing these unanticipated financial barriers, many students were able to continue their studies at Stevenson this fall thanks to the generosity of our Day of Giving donors.

We were so grateful for and humbled by each member of our community who stepped up during this difficult time to support our amazing students. Special thanks to all who participated on April 23!



President Elliot Hirshman, Ph.D., shares a message of gratitude with members of the Stevenson University community following the second annual Day of Giving.

# *Transformational Gifts to Stevenson*

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## *PHILIP A. ZAFFERE LIBRARY*

Stevenson University has received a \$2 million gift—one of the largest in the university’s history—from the Philip A. Zaffere Foundation for its new Owings Mills campus library. The new 55,000-square-foot library will be named in honor of the late Philip A. Zaffere, an entrepreneur, inventor, and food production engineer from Maryland’s Eastern Shore. The facility will complement the Manning Academic Center and School of Design at Stevenson’s Owings Mill North campus location.

“We are very grateful for this extraordinary gift and the difference it will make in the lives of our students,” said Stevenson President Elliot Hirshman. “Philip Zaffere’s life demonstrates so many of the characteristics that Stevenson works to develop in our students—determination, vision, and innovation. We are honored that our new library will bear his name.”

Philip A. Zaffere was born in Federalsburg, Md., in 1930, and took over operations of his family’s bakery business during his college years. An outside-of-the-box thinker, Zaffere engineered food production methods and technologies that eventually took his family’s small company to a national level. He developed successful formulas for the mass production of baking crumbs and transformed his family’s company into Shoreman Food Technologies. Under Zaffere’s leadership, Shoreman—which was ultimately sold to the PET Food Corporation in 1988—became the main supplier for nationwide brands such as Stove Top Stuffing and Mrs. Paul’s frozen foods. While the needs of his family’s business interrupted his own college studies, Zaffere maintained a deep and lifelong curiosity for the sciences and engineering as



well as a commitment to supporting education and his community. He passed away in January 2016.

Stevenson will break ground and begin site development on the new Philip A. Zaffere Library this spring. In addition to library facilities, the complex will include a black box theater; a faculty commons with offices; and a variety of gathering spaces for academic, social, and cultural functions. The building will enhance Stevenson's student experience on the Owings Mills campus by expanding research, study, and social spaces as well as foster collaborations between academic departments.

"Phil was someone who not only could see into the future, but had the courage to act on it," said Phyllis Friedman, a long-time friend of Zaffere. "I know that he would be so proud to have his name on this library of the future that will offer to so many the opportunity to create a better world."

## ALUMNI BROTHERS COMMIT \$50,000 TO NEW LIBRARY



Harry Tsakalos '96, and Filio '03 and Chris Tsakalos '03

For Harry Tsakalos '96 and his brother Chris '03, family traditions run deep. The brothers are scions of Baltimore's Greek American community, and their grandfather, Harry Tsakalos, and great grandfather, Isidore "Steve" Paterakis, founded one of Maryland's iconic businesses, H&S Bakery, in 1943. Supporting and giving back to the community are values that have guided their family for generations.

This is a tradition they continue as Villa Julie/Stevenson alumni. Over the years, the brothers have supported Stevenson's Annual Fund, joining the Nick Mueller Society, and supporting fundraising through events such as the university's annual Golf Tournament. In this spirit, Harry, Chris, and Chris's wife Filio—also a 2003 Villa Julie alumna—have made a commitment of \$50,000 to the new Philip A. Zaffere Library. Like the previous generations that helped them, they saw an opportunity to make a positive impact on future generations.

"We wanted to give back to Stevenson because it's important for the next generation to realize that the university is committed to preparing them for the real world," said Chris, who serves as a member of the President's Advisory Council.

"I wanted to give back to support Stevenson," added Harry, who studied Business Information Systems at Villa Julie. "The college had an enormous influence on my life. It shaped me into the person I am today. Because of that, I want to provide the same opportunities to future generations of Stevenson students."

In the end, it is the community and personal support that they found at Villa Julie that made the difference for them as students and now as alumni.

"I would say what we loved the most about VJC was that the faculty and staff knew each student individually," Chris said. "You were not just a number. The relationships made during our time there last for a lifetime."





Malcolm and Sandy Berman



## *BERMAN GIFT TO NURSING*

Stevenson University is pleased to announce a \$100,000 gift from Sandy and Malcolm Berman to fund the purchase of a new high-fidelity birthing mannequin for the Stevenson Nursing program. The mannequin will be used to provide obstetric, neonatal, and emergency critical care simulations for the training of the university's undergraduate Nursing students.

In 2016, the Bermans donated the naming gift for the Sandra R. Berman School of Nursing and Health Professions, named in honor of Mrs. Berman, whose philanthropic work has long focused on improving healthcare and education. The School currently serves more than 500 undergraduates pursuing degrees in Nursing and Medical Laboratory Science.

"I have been fortunate to witness how the university has grown over the years, and with that, the number of Stevenson nurses who serve in our region's hospitals and healthcare facilities," said Mrs. Berman. "I am very proud of our Nursing students and graduates. With this gift, Malcolm and I hope that we can help the next generation of Stevenson nurses contribute to the health, wellness, and care of our community."

The Bermans, who have been married for more than 60 years, have an abiding commitment for supporting a wide range of institutions and causes. Mrs. Berman began her tenure on Stevenson's Board of Trustees in 2013, and her dual interests in quality education and the improvement of healthcare are linked in her support of nursing education at the university. In addition to their naming gift, the Bermans also established an endowed scholarship fund for Stevenson nursing students.

"On behalf of the entire Stevenson community, I wish to thank the Bermans for their ongoing commitment to enhancing the education of our Nursing students," said President Hirshman. "Their generosity has not only enhanced learning for hundreds of Stevenson nurses, but it is also opening doors for our graduates to make significant contributions to the health and wellness of our community."

## *DENNIS STARLIPER APPLIED FINANCE LAB*

Faculty member Dennis Starliper donated \$150,000 to create an Applied Finance Lab for the university's Brown School of Business and Leadership.

"With 35 years of experience as a corporate controller, treasurer, CFO, and bank director, I enjoy relating the technical academic material students are learning in the classroom to how it is practiced in real workplace scenarios," Starliper said. "The Applied Finance Lab will make this experience even richer for them."

The Dennis A. Starliper Applied Finance Lab is a sophisticated teaching and research tool to enhance our students' career readiness by developing their command of financial technology platforms and investment decision-making processes. Located on the third floor of the Brown School of Business and Leadership, the Starliper Finance Lab features digital stock tickers, multiple market data displays, and computers containing software to simulate investment performance.



Dennis Starliper



## *REYNOLDS ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP*

“Dennis spearheaded the idea of an Applied Finance Lab that would bring the experience of working in the financial markets to our students,” said President Hirshman. “This transformational gift demonstrates Dennis’s deep personal commitment to our students and to Stevenson’s focus on career preparation.”

Dennis Starliper is the former Executive Vice President and CFO of Provident Bank. He was first introduced to Stevenson and the Brown School by former Stevenson University Trustee and Board Chair Kevin Byrnes. After a long and distinguished career in banking and finance, Starliper decided to share his knowledge and expertise in finance with a new generation and became an Adjunct Professor of Accounting at Stevenson in 2009. This is his second gift to the Brown School. Previously, he established an annual scholarship for Stevenson Accounting and Business Administration students.

Stevenson is pleased to announce that university Trustee Jennifer Ward Reynolds and her husband George K. Reynolds III have committed \$100,000 to establish a scholarship fund for Stevenson students. The Reynolds Endowed Scholarship will assist students with a strong academic standing who demonstrate financial need.

“We deeply believe in the power of higher education to transform lives and communities,” the Reynolds said. “Creating this scholarship fund at Stevenson is not only an investment in the future of individual students, but in our greater community, as well. Stevenson graduates step into the community armed with the skills and knowledge that enable them to be immediately productive and engaged contributors to society, which benefits us all.”

Reynolds has served twice as Trustee of Stevenson with her most recent term on the university’s Board starting in 2018. Currently a partner and director of the Harford County-based commercial real estate firm Ward Properties, she has spent more than 30 years in asset management, most recently holding the position of Vice Chair and Chief Investment Officer of Legg Mason Trust. She has previously served as the chair of the board of trustees at Dickinson College, her undergraduate alma mater. Her service has also included chairing the board of the National Aquarium as well as appointments to the boards of the Walters Art Museum, Sheppard Pratt Hospital, and the Baltimore School for the Arts. The Maryland Daily Record has twice recognized her as one of Maryland’s Top 100 Women.

George Reynolds is an attorney with Miles & Stockbridge and a member of the firm’s estate planning and administration practice. A graduate of Wesleyan University and the Boston University School of Law, he has practiced law in Maryland for more than 40 years. His areas of focus have included education law, tax law, estate planning and administration, trusts, and elder care law. A regular speaker to professionals and groups on these legal topics, Reynolds is a past Maryland State Chair of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel. He is currently



George and Jennifer  
Ward Reynolds

a member of the Walters Art Museum board, and past member of the boards of the Howard County Conservancy, St. Joseph Hospital Foundation, and the National Arthritis Foundation of Maryland.

“Jennifer and George have long served as transformational leaders in our community,” said President Hirshman. “We are grateful for their extraordinary generosity and the difference they are making by supporting Stevenson’s students.”

## LEADERSHIP PARENT GIVING

Stevenson University is excited to announce that the parents of a Stevenson Class of 2022 student—inspired by the recent generous gifts from Trustees, faculty, and friends of Stevenson—donated a gift of \$208,000 to the university. The donors designated the gift to fund gap scholarships that can assist scholarship-receiving students when they face a short-term interruption in their ability to pay due to circumstances beyond their control.

In explaining their motivation for giving to Stevenson, our parents stated, “Stevenson is a special place with a special mission. In potentially uncertain times, it is more important than ever that our long-term investments in a Stevenson education and in our students are not lost to short-term disruptions that can occur in their lives. Stevenson students are our future, and by supporting them today we are ensuring that they will be ready to make important contributions to our society in the years to come.”

“This extraordinary gift demonstrates the powerful impact that our community’s leaders—in this case, Stevenson parents—can have in supporting our students,” said President Hirshman. “We are deeply grateful for this generous donation.”

# Planned Giving Q&A with DEBBIE WEBSTER '78

**Q:** What inspired you to leave a bequest for Stevenson University?

**A:** There are several reasons. First, I wanted others to have the same opportunity I was given in 1974 to go to college. Second, I wanted to pay it back because of Dean Rose Dawson. I had not graduated from high school at the time I met her. I had been working for a year when my sister, who was attending the University of Maryland School of Law at the time, suggested I look into this small college run by nuns. It seemed like a stretch, but Dean Dawson accepted me as a Villa Julie College student after a long interview. We negotiated with my high school to accept the credits earned at VJC as satisfying the requirements I needed to earn my high school diploma. Dean Dawson’s decision to take a chance on me changed the course of my life. Lastly, the time was right. My husband passed away in May of this year after a long, debilitating illness, exacerbated by COVID-19. As I no longer had to be concerned about paying for his care, I had the freedom to make this change.

**Q:** How was your experience at Villa Julie College?

**A:** For the first time since I was in elementary school, I was enthralled with learning. In no small part, this was due to the quality and dedication of the professors who made history and literature accessible and interesting. I valued being a part of the discussions and debates in law classes and learning how to write briefs that could influence decisions and thinking with facts and a sound rationale. I moved to Baltimore from Williamsville, N.Y. to attend VJC. My neighbors came from all walks of life—musicians, artists, teachers and bankers and so on. I was fortunate to experience both Stevenson’s beautiful landscape and the heart of Baltimore at the same time.

**Q:** Do you feel that your time at Villa Julie College served you well throughout your life? If so, how?

**A:** VJC helped me lay a foundation for my career. I value my work as well as my family and community. I call into play specific skills that I learned at VJC almost every day. VJC and all life’s lessons have made me better equipped to take on challenges, to be resilient and adapt to changes. I have a wonderful career in affordable housing policy, development, and finance in Maryland and, since 1999, in Indian Country with several non-profits. I have had my own business since 2007 doing this same work. I am successful because I contribute to improving the conditions where people live.

# VIRTUAL EVENTS

## FOUNDER'S DAY

October 1, 2020 marked the 73rd anniversary of Stevenson University's founding in 1947 as Villa Julie. On this special day each fall, members of our campus community join together to honor our past, celebrate our present, and look toward our future. This year, alumni were invited to test their historical knowledge of the university by participating in our Founders Day Trivia Contest. Over 80 alumni joined in the fun and six winners with the highest score were mailed a Stevenson-themed prize.

## VIRTUAL HOMECOMING + FAMILY WEEK



Stevenson University hosted its first-ever Virtual Homecoming Celebration during the week of October 19-24. Homecoming is a time to strengthen your Stevenson connection and show your Mustang Pride. This year's virtual celebration was a chance to keep the Stevenson Spirit alive from afar!

Members of the SU community were encouraged to participate in our Mustang Pride Campaign by submitting photos and memories that were shared via email and through social media during the week. Alumni, students, parents, and friends were invited to sport Stevenson gear, enjoy performances

of the SU Fight Song and Alma Mater, attend virtual events, and share memories of Homecomings past.

We can't wait to welcome our SU community back to campus when it is safe for us to do so. We extend our gratitude to the dedicated members of our community who continue to support the university during this time.

## COFFEE HOUSE: LGBTQ+ AND STEVENSON PRIDE EDITION



On Thursday, October 22, Stevenson alumni were invited to tune in for a Virtual Homecoming Coffee House presented by the Center for Diversity & Inclusion (CDI) and Arts Alive! In honor of LGBTQ+ History Month and our SU Homecoming festivities, the theme for October's performances were PRIDE.

Stevenson's monthly Coffee House events stream live from the CDI Instagram account (@MustangCDI) and feature performances in alignment with National History and Heritage Month celebrations. Following each live event, a video recording is posted to the SU YouTube Channel.

## SCHOLARSHIP CELEBRATION

On Sunday, November 8, President Elliot Hirshman and members of the Stevenson University community shared messages of gratitude with scholarship donors and student recipients in a Scholarship Celebration video.

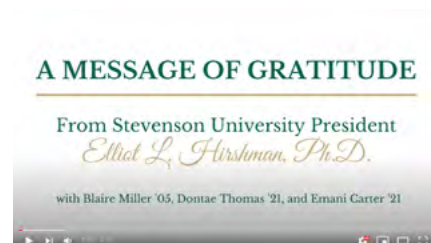
While this virtual celebration could not compare to our annual event on campus connecting students and their scholarship donors, the university aimed to extend



an important message of thanks to those individuals who invest in our students through scholarship support each year. It is because of their ongoing commitment that many students are able to continue their journey at Stevenson University.

Donors and students received a link to view the video at 10 a.m. on November 8 and the video remained live for each to enjoy at their convenience.

## A CELEBRATION OF LEADERSHIP, LOYALTY, AND LEGACY



On Thursday, December 3, President Hirshman shared a video message with Stevenson's leadership donors who provided generous philanthropic support to the University and our students during the 2019-2020 academic year. The celebration honored members of the Nick Mueller Society, whose generous support allows the university to provide resources to students, faculty, and staff when they are most urgently needed. Additionally, members of The 1947 Club for Consecutive Giving and members of the Great Oaks Society for Planned Giving were honored.

Learn more about Leadership, Loyalty, and Legacy Giving at Stevenson University: [www.stevenson.edu/alumni-giving/giving/recognition-societies/](http://www.stevenson.edu/alumni-giving/giving/recognition-societies/)

## 1971

Our condolences to **Bonnie Caslow Allan** on the passing of her mother, Eileen, on Feb. 17, 2020.

## 1979

Our condolences to **Carolyn “Sue” Ziegler** on the passing of her mother, Evelyn, on Oct. 11, 2020.

## 1987

**Laura Growskowski Carr** '87 '89 has joined WMS Partners as Principal and Chief Advisory Officer. In this role she will lead the firm's financial advisory team of 30 professionals and also join the firm's operating committee. Prior to joining WMS, Laura was with PNC Wealth Management where she was Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer.

## 1988

**Kelly Koermer** '88 '90 was elected to the foundation Board of Directors of The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region. She is the Dean of Community Education, Business and Applied Technology for Harford Community College. In her role, Kelly leads credit and non-credit programming for various academic fields of study.

## 1989

Our condolences to **Victoria “Vicki” Young** '89 '92 on the passing of her father, John, on July 18, 2020.

## 1997

**Kellee Fitzsimmons** was named the Tax Director at Ambu Inc., a rapidly growing medical device maker. She will lead the company's efforts to ensure compliance with state, federal and international tax law, monitor current and impending changes to tax regulation and make the appropriate updates to policies and strategies. She will also watch legislative and regulatory tax law developments and provide guidance to company leadership on the potential impact on business operations and decision making.

## 1999

**Jennifer “Jenny” Peddicord Klonin** received the Master of Arts degree in Contemporary Communications from Notre Dame of Maryland University.

Last May **Brian Schilpp** was appointed the science, technology, engineering

and mathematics supervisor for Garrett County Public Schools. He has been employed by the school system since 2014. For the past year, he has served as an administrator in residence. Before coming to Garrett County, he was an educator at the Western School of Technology and at Eastern Technical High School in Baltimore County. Brian and his wife **Ali Silbert Schilpp** '00 have a son who is a current student at SU.

## 2000

**Heather McGonigle King** was promoted to Special Counsel at the law firm of Duane Morris in Baltimore. She practices in the area of corporate and securities law, representing clients in connection with complex financings, mergers and acquisitions, venture capital and private securities offerings. She regularly advises management teams and board of directors regarding corporate governance and matters relating to company operations. Heather has extensive experience advising clients in a variety of industries, including corporate clients in the technology, financial services, consumer products and healthcare industries. She joined Duane Morris in 2008.

## 2002

**Tom Poe** was named Vice President/ Director of Marketing and Business Intelligence with Tower Federal Credit Union. He will develop and implement Tower's marketing and business development strategy, as well as enhance the credit union's data and analytics capabilities.

## 2003

Duckpin, a marketing and advertising agency run by **Chad Birenbaum** '03, Creative Director and Managing Partner, and **Andrew Woods** '10, CEO and Co-founder, was recognized as number 22 out of 4,600 agencies worldwide on Agency Spotter's annual “Top Digital Agencies” list.

Congratulations to the following alumni who were inducted into the Dick Watts Athletics Hall of Fame for 2019: **Annie Ernst Covington** '03 for women's soccer and lacrosse; **Jason Cohen** '07 for men's tennis; **Lauren Humphries** '08 for women's tennis; **Nic Bevacqua** '09 and **Greg Furchman** '09, both for men's lacrosse; **Wade Keenan** '09 for baseball; **Tricia Kauffman Woodford** '09 for women's lacrosse; and **Katie**

**Decker Reilly** '10 '12M for women's soccer. The 2009 men's lacrosse team was recognized as the Team of Tradition.

## 2004

**Kimberly Burton-Regulski** '04 '09M, mathematics department chair at Eastern Technical High School, was named the 2020 Maryland Outstanding Educator by the Maryland Society for Education Technology. She has taught mathematics and computer science at Eastern Tech for 21 years and was instrumental in building the computer science program there. She is also the innovation coordinator for Eastern Tech's comprehensive Makerspace and a College Board consultant. In 2009, Kimberly was awarded the Presidential Award for Mathematics and Science Teaching. Her other honors include being named Teacher of the Month by Code.org, Microsoft Innovative Educator, and the NCWIT Aspirations in Computing Educator. She sponsors a Girls in STEM club and the Maverick Coding Club and also teaches a Teaching Computer Science in the Secondary Schools course for Towson University.

## 2005

Our condolences to **Tali Mindek** on the passing of her mother, Laurie, on Sept. 23, 2020. Laurie was a former adjunct professor at VJC/SU teaching nursing clinical skills.

**Angie Davis Pallozzi** is the Corporate Legal Counsel at the Sinclair Broadcasting Group in Hunt Valley Md. Previously she spent more than seven years as an attorney with Offit Kurman.

## 2006

**Lori Adamo** was named the Council of Schools for the Blind 2019 Outstanding Paraprofessional for Students with Visual Impairments. She has been on the staff at Maryland School for the Blind since 2006, serving as a Paraeducator in the early learning program, working with both disabled and non-disabled children from 3-5 years of age.

**Victoria Jones Gabbai** '06 '13M and husband, **Marco Gabbai** '12, welcomed a daughter, Elliana, on Aug. 30, 2019.

**Renee Heatwole Dunkerly** and her husband, Kevin, welcomed a son, William Patrick, on Feb. 21, 2020.

**Courtney North Sagal** was promoted to deputy director of Irvine Nature Center, a 45 year-old environmental education organization. Having risen through the ranks over the past 12 years, Courtney has honed her operational management skills and is ready to help the organization execute its newly approved strategic plan.

## 2007

**Stacy Spangler Barry**, a resource teacher in the Baltimore County Public School (BCPS) Office of Innovation and Digital Safety, was named 2020 Maryland Outstanding Leader Using Technology by the Maryland Society for Education Technology. She has been an educator in BCPS for 11 years, spending six years teaching Grades 2 and 3, as well as library media. In her current position, she supports elementary schools with innovative technology practices. She has been recognized as a Microsoft Innovative Educator, as well as a Tech4Learning Innovative Educator.

**Marc Grossblatt** completed the Anti-Defamation League Glass Leadership Institute leadership development program. He plans to write an article in a community publication about his experience with the hope of encouraging others to consider participating in a future program.

**Matt Orchowski** is the Director of Media for L37 Creative, a full service production company. His background is as a cinematographer and editor, and he leads a team of eight cinematographers and editors who produce content and live events worldwide for major brands across industries. Over the past 13 years he has traveled around the world working on feature length films, commercials, music videos, live concerts and documentaries.

## 2008

In early May, **Bridget Forney Deise** '08, **Allison Winer** '13 and **Grace Clark** '18 were featured in the Baltimore Business Journal in their "Career and Workplace" article. They shared photos of their home workplaces in the article that examined what it takes to make a home workplace successful while the social distancing guidelines remained in effect during the Covid 19 crisis. Allison and Grace serve as Account Executives and Bridget is Vice President for the local public relations firm, Profiles.

**Shantell Roberts** was selected as one of five winners of the second annual "Homecoming Heroes" awards which recognize exceptional community leaders working creatively to inspire and motivate change in Baltimore City, overcoming challenges and transforming lives. She is the founder and executive director of Touching Young Lives (TYL), a nonprofit focused on the well-being of infants and children. The group partners with hospitals to identify families who lack a safe sleeping space for their infants. TYL provides education on best practices and a portable alternative crib to protect infants - a simple box with a mattress that reduces the risk of sleep-related death. The group has given out more than 8,000 of the cribs throughout the state.

**Nick Scott** was promoted to Director at SC&H Group, an audit, tax and consulting firm. As the new Director of Data Analytics, Nick will work with businesses to help them turn their data into interactive reports. He is an Oracle-Hyperion certified professional, and has been tapped as a regular presenter at industry and technology conferences.

**Lauren Mittleman Shapiro** was recognized by Baltimore Real Producers "30 in their Thirties Class of 2020." She was chosen as one of 30 most reputable, inspiring, productive, respected, collaborative, honorable, giving, service-focused and influential thirty-somethings in the local real estate industry.

## 2009

**Sabrina Molly Knott** is the Tax Director at Realterm, a real estate operator based in Annapolis.

**Ashley Ward Lawrence** was selected to the 2020 Maryland Rising Stars list. She was selected for this honor by the research team at Super Lawyers. Ashley is a litigation associate in the international domestic litigation firm Cordell & Cordell in their Baltimore City office.

## 2010

**Kelli Sandilands Natrin** '10 '12M was featured as a graduate success story as part of the American Bar Association celebration of 45 years of Paralegal Education. Kelli is currently working as Senior Immigration Paralegal at Cozen O'Connor. In addition to her role there she is a faculty member with SU Online, and is pursuing her law degree.

In 2017 a group of SU alumni began an annual golf trip. They travel around the tristate area and in 2019 they met in Ocean City, Md. and reported they had their best turnout and great weather. The majority of the group met freshman year playing lacrosse and have stayed close since graduation. They include **Chris Baldwin** '10; **Mike Gustowarow** '10; **Paul "Trip" Latta** '10; **Vince Delle Grotti** '11; **Kyle Moffitt** '11; **Jake Stocksdale** '11; and **Joe Valderas** '11.

**Megan O'Shea** recently advanced from a Licensed Graduate Professional Counselor to a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor, and is a primary therapist at the Maryland Addictions Recovery Center. She received an MS degree in mental health counseling from The Johns Hopkins University three years ago.

**Kristin Fleischmann Ponce** was promoted to Clinical Trials Manager for the Neuro Oncology Program at the Yale School of Medicine. She was married to Michael Ponce in Sept. 2019, and the couple resides in New Haven, Conn.

**Katie Wagner Vogel** was named one of the "Marketing Women to Watch" at the Traffic & Conversion Summit 2020 annual convention in San Diego held at the end of March. She is the Chief Marketing Officer for Agora Financial in Baltimore.

**Amanda Weber** is a realtor in the Bozeman, Mont. office of ERA Landmark Real Estate. She relocated to Bozeman to sustain an active lifestyle in the mountains.

## 2011

Nurse Practitioner **Christine Simms Ball** has joined the University of Maryland Shore Regional Health's Palliative Care Program, which works with a patient's primary care and specialists' team to relieve the stress and symptoms of serious or chronic illness. Previously she was a nurse practitioner at Bayleigh Chase in Easton, and has also held positions as a nurse practitioner in Peninsula Regional Medical Center's Neurology Department. She was the University of Maryland Medical Center's Comprehensive Stroke Center Coordinator in Baltimore, and moved up from staff nurse to clinical coordinator to neuroscience specialist with University of Maryland Shore Regional Health, where she worked for

more than 10 years. In 2012, she was recognized as the recipient of the UM SRH Outstanding Achievement in Professional Nursing Award.

**Julie Mastroianni Cioka** was recently promoted from Marketing Coordinator to Global Programs Project Coordinator at Ciena, a networking systems, services and software company.

In February, **Kimberly Fisher** was recognized by General Dynamics Mission Systems with the Modern Day Technology Leader Award presented at the 2020 Black Engineer of the Year Award STEM Conference. Kimberly has been with General Dynamics Mission Systems for more than four years at their facility in Seabrook, Md. She is a key member of the Space Operations Engineering team working on NASA's Earth Science Mission Operations project.

**Tracy Gallo** is a teacher in the Prince George's County Public School System.

**Kellan Newby-Matthews** has joined Stevenson University as Assistant Director of Donor Relations and Stewardship. Prior to joining SU she was an event specialist at the Kennedy Krieger Institute. Kellan and her husband, Javan, welcomed their first child, son Xerxes Elias, in September.

**Joe Valderas** has joined the Young Professionals Board with First Tee of Greater Baltimore. This program brings the game of golf to Baltimore area youth and provides a wonderful mentor opportunity.

## 2012

**Chris Bivins** is one of the youngest full time producers at Black Entertainment Television (BET). In high school he enrolled in a television class where he learned the basics of film production and he decided to pursue a major in film at SU. As a musician in college he capitalized on You Tube to create music videos where he caught the attention of BET and landed a job as a performing artist on the BET college tour. From there he created a Vlog to showcase what tour life was really like. BET took an interest in the blog and allowed him to turn it into an official web series which lead to another web series and then a freelance position. Chris was very lucky to fall into his dream job, but he reminds people that

it never could have happened if he wasn't prepared for the great opportunities that came his way. He studied film at SU, made countless connections in the industry by being a performer and all of his actions cumulatively led to where he really wanted to be in life.

## 2013

**Brad Crespo** is the associate public relations manager at Perfect World Entertainment.

Last February four alumni, **Janel Frazier '13**, **Alexandra "Alix" Weyforth '13**, **Amirah Russell '18**, and **Christina Endy '19**, presented the Keynote Ignite at the Association for Maryland Mathematics Teacher Educators at UMBC.

**Benjamin "Ben" Henry** is an associate attorney at Hyatt & Weber in Annapolis, Md.

In early February **Tamika Hope** departed the US to begin a new job teaching English in South Korea. Prior to this amazing opportunity, she was the membership coordinator at Orangetheory Fitness in Newark, De.

**Kelsey Rosen** recently joined UM Shore Medical Group-Surgery after four years at George Washington University Hospital in Washington, D.C., where she served in trauma and acute care surgery and also worked per diem as a nurse practitioner in the hospital's medical/surgical intensive care unit. After receiving the BS degree in nursing from SU, she completed her Master of Science in nursing and her nurse practitioner certification in adult gerontology acute care nursing from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. She then completed a one-year advanced practice provider residency at George Washington University Hospital that included rotations in trauma, general and orthopedic surgery; palliative medicine; neurotrauma, medical/surgical and cardiothoracic intensive care; and outpatient surgery. Kelsey holds multiple professional certifications and has presented and published on topics related to trauma nursing.

**Megan Stejbach** and her husband **Shawn Regulski '13** welcomed their first child, Dawson James, born on Nov. 13, 2019.

## 2014

**Craig Baldwin** has joined Stevenson University as the Assistant Director of Advancement. Prior to joining SU he was the Director of Alumni at Archbishop Curley High School.

**Amber Cook** published an online article entitled, "Designing Equitable Learning Environments" focusing on intentional instructional practice decisions in mathematics. She serves as a Math Resource Teacher in the Office of Mathematics for Baltimore County Public Schools.

**Kelly Hill-Ross** and her company, Rossisabelle Productions, was featured in the October issue of Greenspring Valley Magazine. Rossisabelle is a video production company that produces a social media talk show and often employs interns from Stevenson

**Morgan Mathis** received a Master of Science degree in Health Science Administration from Towson University, which will strengthen her work in marketing at MedStar Health.

Congratulations to **Samantha Perillo '14 '17M**, **Kristen Brooks Moler '17**, and **Lauren Weaver '18** who were named to the spring 25th Anniversary teams announced last May by the SU athletic department. All were beach volleyball players and comprise this first anniversary year team for the sport. In order to be eligible for the 25th Anniversary teams, student-athletes must have exhausted their eligibility prior to 2018-19, have graduated from VJC/SU, and left their program and the institution in good standing. Teams were selected with input from the head coach of each program, along with former coaches and players and a committee of Stevenson athletics staff.

**Michael Williams** was recently named to the position of Vice President, Commercial Relationship Manager, at Bryn Mawr Trust which is owned by Bryn Mawr Bank Corporation. He will focus on growing commercial lending relationships throughout the York, Harrisburg, Hershey, Lancaster, and Reading Pa. markets. Michael has more than ten years of experience working with the business community in both the financial and government contracting arenas, as well as

proudly serving in the United States Army with deployments in support of the Global War on Terrorism. Most recently, he was a Business Banking Relationship Manager for M&T Bank in York County, Pa.

## 2015

**Justin Dunn** was named Senior Vice President of Development of the Philadelphia team of Hilco Redevelopment Partners. He held similar positions at Hillwood Investment Properties, LLC and Tradepoint Atlantic. Justin is a member of the Sigma Beta Delta honor society for Business, Management, and Administration and is a LEED accredited professional.

**Alex Parker** is the Partnership Marketing Manager for the Baltimore Orioles, and in February she was named the Black History Month honoree by the networking group of Black Sports Professionals. She received a master's degree from Georgetown University where she is an adjunct capstone advisor in the Sports Industry Management Master's Program.

**Emma Pflingsten** is a Project Manager with Teneleven Interactive in San Diego, Calif. She and her team work with clients to help grow their businesses through social media, paid media and branding strategies.

**Courtney Dreisch Waters**, a first-grade teacher at Kempton Elementary School in Frederick County, was selected as the Charles E. Tressler Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) Distinguished Teacher Awardee. Participating in this virtual surprise were FCPS Superintendent Dr. Theresa Alban, FCPS board members and staff, Kempton Elementary principal Ms. Kathryn Golightly, co-workers and family.

**Jamal Williams** received a master's degree in Journalism from the Philip Merrill College of Journalism at the University of Maryland College Park.

## 2016

**Paul Daugherty, Jr.**, RN '16 '19M was recently announced as the new vice president of Strategy and Organizational Effectiveness at The Menninger Clinic, a nationally ranked psychiatric hospital in Houston, Tx. In this role he will oversee the implementation of the strategic plan and corresponding operating models while leading the Strategic Initiatives Department to support new opportunities.

Prior to joining Menninger, Paul worked at the Sheppard Pratt Health System in Towson, where he served in several clinical and administrative roles over the past 15 years. His professional service included serving as vice chair of the Residential Treatment Center Coalition for the State of Maryland and representing Sheppard Pratt Health System in the Maryland Association for Families and Youth.

**Megan Donovan '16 and Patrick Curtis '17** were married on Oct. 10, 2020 at Antrim 1844 in Taneytown, Md.

**Alicia Greene** graduated in May from Campbell University School of Osteopathic Medicine. The commencement celebration was held online. She will be completing her residency in general surgery at Penn State Hershey Medical Center in Hershey, PA.

In 2019 **Prince Gyamfi** received his white coat as part of the convocation ceremony at Morehouse School of Medicine, an event that marks the first official step in a student's medical education, and a symbol of the trust bestowed upon students as they carry on the traditions of medicine and science. Prince was also awarded the Presidential Scholar Merit Scholarship for exceptional scholastic ability.

**Laura Holland '16, Jordan Brown '19 and Jainaya Rice '20** took part in The Discourse Project, a production of Baltimore-based Quarry Theatre, which featured actors from across the United States performing prominent speeches and historical documents addressing calls for democracy, freedom, and equality. The project premiered on July 4<sup>th</sup> and ran through Election Day, and the video content was shared on social media platforms in hopes of evoking a community discourse about the future of our nation leading up to the presidential election.

**Sydney Marshall** is the Senior Special Events Coordinator at the Fund for Johns Hopkins Medicine. She previously served as an Events Coordinator there.

Congratulations to **Annie McCoach** who graduated with her class of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service, a long-held dream of hers.

**Connor Skeen** is a brokerage trading associate at T. Rowe Price.

**Alicia Snellings** has been crafting on Etsy for a while now, creating handmade 'nerdy' gifts, many of them Harry Potter themed items. She is now making and selling masks in various themes: florals, animals, sports teams and of course... Harry Potter. Since graduating SU, Alicia has worked at the Irvine Nature Center and as a hospital lab assistant. She is most recently working on her master's degree in Healthcare Management at University of Maryland Global Campus, while also working there as a financial aid officer.

**Chris Toth** graduated from the University of Toledo in Ohio with a Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences Physician Assistant.

## 2017

**Carli Castiglia Allison '17 '18M** and her husband **David Allison '15** welcomed a son, Roman Lee, on Feb. 18, 2020. Carli is an adjunct instructor in chemistry at SU.

In May 2019 **Melissa Catalano** graduated from the University of Delaware with a master's degree in School Psychology. She credits her experiences at SU with being selected to receive the Graduate Scholar Award at Delaware, which made her dream of attending graduate school a reality. Melissa's ultimate goal is to become a nationally certified school psychologist.

**Jackie Cooper** received a Master of Science degree in Marketing from the Kogod School of Business at American University. During her time in business school she worked as a freelance marketing consultant, and in August she officially launched her own business, Powerful Progression, with a new website.

**LaShae Felder** is the Program and Development Associate at Sisters Circle. She designs and facilitates after-school programs for middle school girls, leads the summer High School Readiness Program, and supports the Executive Director in fundraising efforts. LaShae is a former Baltimore County Public Schools language arts teacher.

**Corrin Harris** is the box office and program coordinator for The Freeman Stage in Selbyville, De. She is responsible for contract management with the artists booked each season. She oversees all box office and ticketing operations and assists

the marketing department with social media and graphic design.

**Shakara Head** received a Master of Science degree with Honors in Human Service Administration with a concentration in Family Counseling from the University of Baltimore.

**Adrianna Kamosa** is the marketing manager at Bien Merite, a bakery in Corpus Christi, Tx. Inspired by the bakery and the rolling hills of lavender in the French countryside, she created a magnificent mural for the establishment. Although she has been painting for a long time, this is her first large-scale mural. She was also excited to have her artwork displayed at a local Corpus Christi boutique in September.

**Elizabeth Mayer** is the Young Adult Associate at the Rising Sun Branch Library. She recently earned the Master of Library Science degree from Clarion University of Pennsylvania.

**Jasmin Ramirez** was accepted into the graduate program in biotechnology at the University of Maryland Baltimore County.

**Andrew Schmidt '17 '19M** and Courtney Nellies were married on August 15 at Sacred Heart Parish in Glyndon, Md. Due to COVID, it was a small wedding and reception with a brief getaway to Luray Caverns in Virginia. The couple is planning a larger vow renewal next year with a honeymoon in Bar Harbor, Maine.

**Janaya Slaughter** is attending the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine in Spartansburg, S.C. In 2019 she received her white coat in a special ceremony, officially marking the beginning of her journey as a medical student.

After graduating in May from Bluefield College/Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine with a master's degree in biomedical sciences, **Empryss Tolliver** is enrolled at the Kent State University College of Podiatric Medicine. She attributes her successful application to podiatry school to the strong academic foundation and training at SU.

**Kyle Weidemeyer '17** and **Allison Herr '18** were married in August 2020. Kyle is a budget analyst for Architect of the Capitol in Washington D.C. and Allison is a kindergarten teacher for Montgomery

County Public Schools in Silver Spring, Md.

## 2018

**Krystal Carpintieri** and James Cotriss were married on Aug. 1, 2020. Their wedding was originally scheduled for May but was delayed by three months due to COVID, but they made it work and had an amazing day. In April 2020, Krystal won two silver and two bronze Indigo Awards, which celebrates the best in digital and graphic design. She is a visual designer at Barcoding and is part of the team that won a GDUSA American Inhouse Design Award in August for their Enterprise Mobility Study & Report.

**Grace Clark** was promoted to account executive at Profiles, a marketing, communications and events firm. In this new role she develops and implements public relations campaigns for clients, and oversees media and influencer outreach efforts, coordinates community relations strategies, assists with social media content development and secures media coverage.

**Meghann Hefner** is working as a beverage application technician at McCormick Spice Company. Previously she worked elsewhere in the flavoring industry, but is excited to transition to McCormick. She hopes to pursue a master's degree in food science.

**Meghan Loveless** began a new job last September as a public relations and marketing coordinator at Adventist HealthCare in Gaithersburg, Md.

**Jaclyn May** is a marketing communication specialist at Kenneth Clark Company in Columbia, Md. She is responsible for promoting and marketing the company's role of handling all sizes of shipments from a single pallet to super loads.

**Curtis McInnis** is a second year medical student at the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine on the campus of Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va. In 2019 he received his white coat after completing his first block at medical school. Curtis was admitted to Edward Via after completing a master of arts in biomedical sciences at Bluefield College, and is planning on a research project in Alzheimer's disease.

**Kamica Price** is the PR coordinator at Vectorworks, where she interned while a student at SU.

In April 2019, **Dan Williams '18 '19M** joined the Super Bowl Champions Kansas City Chiefs as an offensive coaching intern working with the quarterbacks. In March 2020 he was promoted to a new role as assistant to the head coach. Dan was a three year starter for the SU Mustangs. He was a first team quarterback All-MAC selection in 2016 and 2017, and the MAC Offensive Player of the Year in 2017.

**Priscilla Williams** is a graphic designer with the Children's Literacy Initiative in Philadelphia.

## 2019

**Mina Altman** is enrolled in the Master of Arts in Teaching program at George Washington University. She was one of the first two SU students to graduate with a Professional Minor (Management & Organizational Leadership).

**Lanett Bagley** is a Circulation Clerk at the Hurllock Public Library in Dorchester County, Md. She was accepted to the Master of Library and Information Science program at the University of Maryland and began her studies there in the spring.

**Nahbila Bassah** was accepted to the Anne Arundel Community College/University of Maryland at Baltimore Collaborative Program, in which students complete a Master of Science in Health Science from UMB and a Certificate of Physician Assistant Studies from AACC. Her studies began in May. Nahbila is originally from Cameroon and has wanted to study medicine since she was very young.

**Allison Bishop** was accepted to several veterinary medicine programs and decided to attend VA-MD College of Veterinary Medicine in Blacksburg, VA. She began her studies there in the fall. While at SU she volunteered with the farm animals at Pearlstone Center and with the Baltimore Humane Society Spay and Neuter Clinic to gain veterinary experience. After graduation, she attended the Loop Abroad Thailand College Veterinary Program where she was able to experience veterinary medicine through a different culture and work with various species including elephants. She was a veterinary technician at Prince Frederick Animal



Hospital prior to starting her journey as a vet student.

**Erin Boggs** co-directed and styled a fashion film in Prague based around her senior collection. The film premiered at the International Digital Fashion Week.

**Alexandria “Alex” Button** was sworn into the U.S. Air Force in October as Airman First Class.

**Lauren Cancila** is studying social work at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. She was assigned to intern at a community outreach center in Baltimore City where she will be doing case management to clients aged 55 and older. Lauren’s goal is to become a case manager at a drug and alcohol treatment center and maybe establish her own halfway house.

**Rachel Crockett** is a teacher’s aide at St. Philip Neri School in Md.

**Demosthenes “Jack” Daniel** is a Paralegal Specialist in the Antitrust Division of the US Department of Justice.

**Jackson Gibb** is an Equity Research Associate at Stifel Financial Corp., a full-service securities brokerage and investment bank. He recently passed the FINRA Series 86 and Series 87 Research Analyst exams on his first try, and sat for Level 1 of the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) exams in June.

**Sarah Goranson** and Associate Professor Maria Wong co-authored the article, “The Influence of Cultural and Generational Differences on the Ministry Experience of Chinese American Church Leaders,” which appeared in the peer-reviewed journal Pastoral Psychology. Sarah is enrolled in an occupational therapy program in the United Kingdom.

**Norman Greenwell** started attending the University of Maryland School of Law in the fall. He was a member of the award-winning SU Mock Trial team and received numerous individual awards for “best attorney” over the course of the season.

**Cayla Hixon** is attending the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth School of Law where she was accepted into the public interest law fellowship program.

**Natalie Hopkins** is attending law school at Widener University in Delaware.

**Morgan LaMonica** is a Youth Services Program Coordinator at York County Libraries.

**Bin Le** won an award for student work in the Communication Arts 26th Annual Interactive Design 2020 competition. He designed and programmed an augmented reality experience as part of his capstone project, and was featured in the March/April issue of Communication Arts.

**William “Bill” Olsen** ’19M recently joined Arnall Golden Gregory LLP’s Washington D.C. office as Managing Director of Forensic Advisory Services. He specializes in investigations and consulting services with the firm’s Anti-Corruption, Government Investigations, and White-Collar Crime practices. Bill has more than 25 years of forensic advisory experience. Prior to AGG, he worked at Grant Thornton LLP in their Forensic Advisory practice and was also the national practice leader for Anti-Corruption and Investigation Services. He holds certifications as a fraud examiner and an internal auditor.

**Matt Patti** is a video production assistant at Sandler Training in Owings Mills. He is also writing film reviews for Film Festival Today.

**Jack Rizzo** was accepted to the MFA program in Theatre Management at Florida State University. He played the role of the emcee in the SU production of Cabaret.

**Stephen Schlegel** is a designer at Alpha Graphics where he produces print work for museums, colleges, hospitals, restaurants and artists, from fine art prints to entire interior displays and exhibits.

**Kayla Zuromski** is the in-house editor for Hartlove-Goodyear, a video production studio in Hampden.

## 2020

**Alzariyat Abdalla** is enrolled in the master’s degree counseling program at Towson University.

**Olivia Apicella** is enrolled at the University of Oregon in the Doctorate Program in Chemistry.

**Julia Boateng** is enrolled in the master’s program in communication studies at Stevenson University.

**Jewel Bowlding** has been accepted to the Howard University School of Social Work and will begin the MSW program.

**Kayla Brown** is attending the University of Delaware in the School Psychology Master’s program. Kayla also received a prestigious Graduate Scholar Award from UD.

**Tim Craig, Jr.** works in business development at Rocchi Construction. In this role his responsibilities include client research, lead generation and social media.

**Kelly Dunworth** is attending Towson University in the master’s program in Child Life, Family Collaboration, and Administration.

**Liliana Ferruffino** is attending James Madison University enrolled in the master’s program in School Psychology.

**Juliana Garriott** is attending the University of Maryland School of Social Work to pursue a master of social work degree.

**Rachel Grewette** is attending the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences at Wayne State University in Detroit, MI.

**Jazmine Higgins** is attending the University of Maryland, Baltimore to pursue the Master of Social Work degree.

**Joe Kittelberger** is attending the University of Maryland Pharmacy School.

**Cassandra “Casey” Kopasek** is a first grade teacher at Immaculate Conception School in Towson, Md.

**Kaitlyn “Katie” Leftridge** is enrolled in the master’s program in statistics at the University of Maryland Baltimore County.

**Alyssa Livesay** has been accepted to the George Mason University master of social work program and will begin working on her degree in fall 2021.

**Joseph Mauler** was accepted into the master’s program in counseling at

## Alumni, we want to hear what you've been doing!

Please send us your news and photos on personal and professional achievements, marriage, family, travel, and memories of your time at VJC/SU. Submit your news and photos via mail to Alumni Notes, Stevenson University, Attn: Carolyn Douglas, 1525 Greenspring Valley Rd., Stevenson, MD 21153-0641; via e-mail to [cdouglas@stevenson.edu](mailto:cdouglas@stevenson.edu); or submit them online at [stevenson.edu/ventures](http://stevenson.edu/ventures).

Messiah College in Mechanicsburg, Penn. The program is designed to help students become competent counselors who work with clients in a variety of settings.

**Scott Mitchell** is attending the University of Maryland School of Law.

**Kerryann Nedd** is an EAB Technician III at CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield in Owings Mills Md. She and her husband, Kirt, have four children, Keston, Keegan, Kelsey, and Krysten.

As **Julie Nightwine** was nearing the end of her senior year at SU, she was also working at the adult COVID-19 unit at Johns Hopkins University treating patients who tested positive for the virus. She first started working with Johns Hopkins in a part-time capacity in the pediatric ICU during the summer between her junior and senior years. But once the pandemic hit, she was converted to a COVID unit to treat patients. Julie took the NCLEX, a nursing exam, shortly after graduating from SU and in August she continued in a larger role in the pediatric ICU with Johns Hopkins.

**Bailey Rafter** is enrolled at Georgetown University in the master's program in public relations and communication.

**Sarah Roerty** is enrolled at the University of Maryland in the Doctorate in Physical Therapy Program.

Stevenson students who enroll in ROTC are members of the John Hopkins University Blue Jay Battalion. **Cole Simmons** was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant at a ceremony held last May in Baltimore. Cole was the current Cadet Battalion Commander and was awarded the George C. Marshall Award as the top Cadet in the Battalion academically. Through careful arrangements, the Commissioning was conducted in person, with his family and friends attending. Lt. Simmons entered artillery training in June, and joined his permanent unit, The 82nd Airborne, later in the year.

**Becky Staller** is attending The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health enrolled in the master's program in mental health.

**Akera Williams** is enrolled in the Experimental Psychology program at the University of Tennessee Chattanooga.

## *In Memoriam*

**Janie Dorsett Day '56**  
on Feb. 14, 2019

**Marsha Eklund Laurence '66**  
on Oct. 20, 2019

**Carolyn Burke Lister '67**  
on Sept. 26, 2019

**Suzanne Schultz Preis '67**  
on Feb. 13, 2019

**Kathleen Allgood Shimkaveg '68**  
on Jan. 12, 2020

**Maureen Ecker '69**  
on Oct. 30, 2018

**Janet Kehoe Winfield '70**  
on March 1, 2020

**Kathleen Horsey Jensen '71**  
on Feb. 26, 2020

**Deborah Idol Fennington '72**  
on April 20, 2020

**Virginia "Ginger" Curran Gilliss '72**  
on July 28, 2020

**Jill Laureen Armacost '80**  
on May 4, 2020

**Evelyn Michel '80**  
on April 16, 2020

**Kimberly Dunlap Silverwood '81**  
on Oct. 28, 2017

**Kimberly Collier Sheldon '88**  
on July 2, 2020

**Robert Centofanti '89 '91**  
on March 29, 2020

**Louis Mazzulli III '90 '91**  
on Nov. 29, 2019

**Robert Centofanti '89 '91**  
on March 29, 2020

**Tya Miche Smith '94**  
on March 18, 2020

**Robin Haines '95**  
on Aug. 22, 2020

**Kathi Hamilton '95**  
on July 24, 2019

**Cynthia Ann Warren '95**  
on Sept. 20, 2019

**Jeremy Ziegler '05**  
on Sept. 20, 2019

**Phillip Sieradzan '09**  
on Sept. 12, 2020

**Richard Buster '12**  
on Oct. 1, 2018

**John Thomas Gibbs '12**  
on Oct. 24, 2019

**Lauren Wiegmann '14 '15M**  
on Oct. 5, 2019

**Michelle Lynn Markiewicz '18**  
on Oct. 9, 2019



# Leave Your Mark on the *Future*

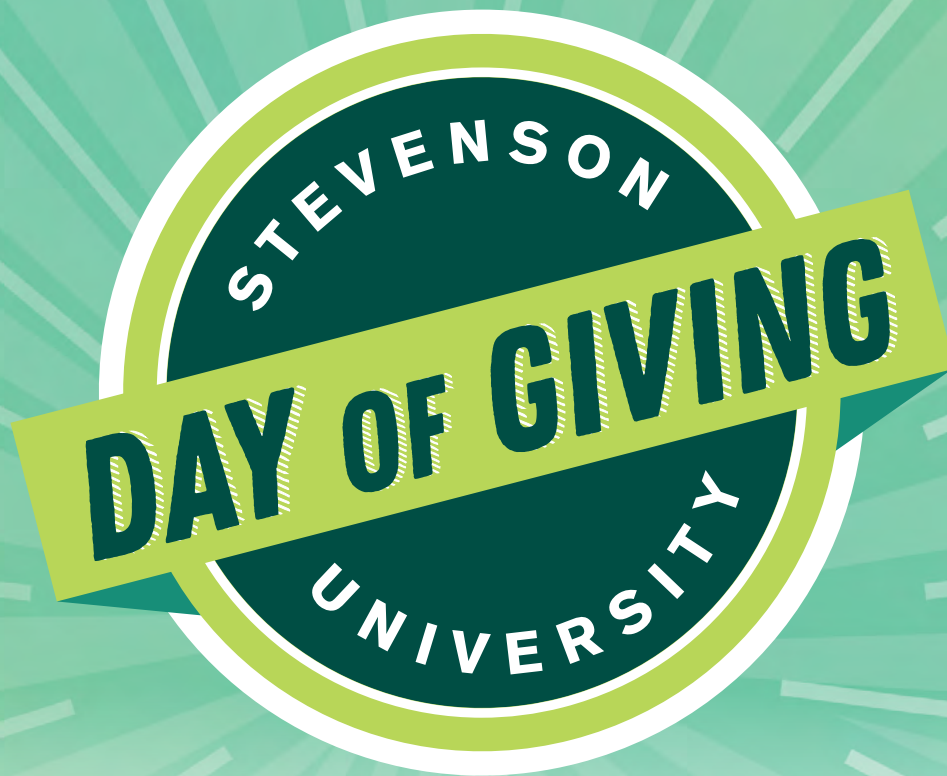
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Advancement at 443-334-2624 or [cvaughan@stevenson.edu](mailto:cvaughan@stevenson.edu).



# ***SAVE THE DATE***

***MARK YOUR CALENDAR TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN  
THE LIVES OF OUR STEVENSON STUDENTS!***

**Thursday, April 22 at Noon - Friday, April 23 at Noon**

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