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The week of May 20 brought thousands of people to Stevenson to celebrate and honor our graduates during our Baccalaureate, Nurses’ Pinning, and Commencement ceremonies. As I looked out across the crowds gathered to mark these milestones, there was pride, some tears, and certainly quite a few cheers and shouts. However, behind them all were thoughts and reflections on hard-won accomplishments and the memories of the people and the experiences that shaped a new generation of Stevenson graduates.

In this issue of Ventures, we take a closer look at some of the ways our university community supports our students’ success and creates pathways to their achievement. One powerful example is the experience of our Mock Trial team. Our feature article gives you a detailed look at their successful rise that now positions them for national-level competition. Growing out of our Legal Studies program, Mock Trial brings the curricular and the co-curricular together in a truly exceptional way. The tireless dedication of faculty mentors and the spirit of teamwork are key, and our students are now competing against some of the best Mock Trial teams in the nation—and honing their legal skills in the process.

We also acknowledge the incredible successes of our alumni, faculty, and student-athletes in this summer issue of Ventures. We have an alumnus working for the nation’s tech giants to envision the way technology will transform our daily lives; faculty whose research and scholarship are adding to our students’ understanding of the world; and an NCAA All-Time Record Holder on the men’s volleyball team.

As we close out one academic year, salute our newest alumni, and look forward to welcoming the Class of 2023 this fall, I wish you a safe and enjoyable summer.

It truly is a great day to be a Mustang.

Elliot L. Hirshman, Ph.D.
The spring 2019 semester saw the arrival of new leaders as well as the retirement of several university and academic administrators at Stevenson.

Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Tim Campbell will retire in August after serving Stevenson for the past 21 years. The Philadelphia native—known for his late-90s flip-phone and love of football—joined Villa Julie College in May 1998 after serving as Vice President at UNC Aviation Services in California and Annapolis, Md.

He recalls being interviewed by President Carolyn Manuszak, Dean Rose Dawson, and dog Cora. Soon afterward, President Manuszak offered him the job and asked him to show up the next day. “I was afraid not to take the job,” he said. He recalls reporting for work on May 18, one day before Spring Commencement, with the expectation that he would walk in the procession, something far from his experience at that time. Even then, he notes, Villa Julie was beginning to imagine its future as a larger residential college, and with the arrival of President Kevin Manning, the trajectory of Campbell’s career became clearer—helping to manage the planning and execution of the real estate acquisitions and construction that would create the future Stevenson University.

From building a residential campus and collegiate stadium and athletic complex on what was the former site of the Colts and Ravens NFL training facility to renovating a former pharmaceutical company site for state-of-the-art academic facilities for the sciences, nursing, and design—these are just some of the accomplishments for which Campbell will be known. Not to forget negotiating the acquisition of the Rosewood site for future use by Stevenson.

Campbell’s connections to Stevenson run deep. Two of his children, Erin and Tim, graduated from Stevenson, and in 2012 he was honored with the President’s Medal for his tireless dedication to the university. His work to grow Mustang athletics earned him an induction into the Dick Watts Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2018.

Now, with two campuses, 290 acres, and 1.4 million square feet of buildings under his belt, Campbell is still awed by the progress. “Absolutely, I never thought we would get so far so fast.” Campbell says “just being part of it” has been the highlight of his career. The former college football player in him clearly comes through—it’s not about him, it’s about all the players. “I am proud of being part of a team; everybody has pulled together to create this university.”

 Alan Carswell, Ph.D., has been named the Interim Dean of the Brown School of Business and Leadership effective July 1, succeeding Aris Mellissaratos, who has lead the Brown School since 2014. Carswell has served as the Geckle Professor and Chair of the Information Systems Department at Stevenson since 2015. He earned his bachelor’s degree in Engineering from Northwestern, an MBA from Harvard, and a Ph.D. in Information Systems from the University of Maryland College Park, and previously served as the Vice Dean of the Cybersecurity and Information Assurance Department in the Graduate School of Management and Technology at the University of Maryland University College.
Melissaratos—who has had a distinguished five-decade-long career in technology, business, and economic development—raised the visibility of the Brown School by networking with his extensive corporate and government contacts in the Baltimore-Washington region. He also brought the region’s thought, economic, and political leaders to Stevenson through two Maryland Rising conferences held on the Owings Mills campus. This visibility has meant more internship and career opportunities for SU students. Under his leadership, the Brown School added a bachelor’s program in Cybersecurity and Digital Forensics and was named an Educational Member of the International Accreditation Council for Business Education (IACBE), affirming the School’s commitment to excellence in business education.

This spring and summer, Stevenson welcomed two new vice presidents. In January, David C. Jordan joined the university as the new Vice President of Human Resources and Title IX Coordinator. Jordan had previously served as the Associate Vice President of Human Resources at Howard Community College, and Director of Human Resources at University of Maryland, Baltimore County. He succeeds Pamela L. A. Barkett, former Vice President of Human Resources, who retired in January 2019 after three years of service to the university. Barkett brought 25 years of managerial and supervisory experience to her position, including extensive work in higher education human resources for Johns Hopkins University, University of North Carolina, and Furman University. Barkett’s lengthy career in human resources and extensive experience in Title IX compliance and diversity and inclusion were invaluable to the institution.

Michael Stanton, CPA, has been appointed Vice President of Finance and Administration and Chief Financial Officer, and will be joining Stevenson for the start of the fall 2019 semester. Most recently, he served as Executive Vice President for Administration and CFO for Nichols College in Dudley, Mass. He previously served as the Controller for the University of Massachusetts Medical School and Director of Accounting for the Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority, providing financial operations oversight for this nonprofit college savings and loans operation.
Wake Up and Smell the Coffee

Following the opening of the Garrison Student Activities Commons and Reading Room last fall, another transformation has come to Garrison Hall—the new Garrison Coffee House celebrated its grand opening on April 17. There’s nothing like the smell of coffee greeting you on the way to the Academic Link or Office of Student Success. Better yet, the Garrison Coffee House is proudly serving Starbucks, so there is a variety of coffee, tea, and other refreshments to satisfy all tastes.

Watch the Coffee House opening here at stevenson.edu/coffee
Passing of the Gavel

On May 9, the Stevenson Board of Trustees elected T. Scott Pugatch as Chair of the Board. He succeeds James B. Stradtner, CFA, Managing Partner at Century Private Investments and the Chairman of Baltimore Capital Management, who has served on the Board since 2002 and was appointed Chair in 2005. Stradtner not only provided leadership through a time of presidential transition but was a standard-bearer for the advancement of good governance. Under his guidance, the Board established a Governance Committee responsible for, among other items, Board recruitment and Board evaluation. For his outstanding commitment to Stevenson’s success, he was honored with the President’s Medal during the May Commencement ceremonies.

Pugatch is a second-generation Trustee, and his father, the late Melvyn Pugatch, served on the Board for 20 years. First elected to the Board in 2000, Pugatch has served as Vice Chair of the Board and Chair of the Audit, Finance, and Property Committee since 2016. In addition, he served as chair of the Trustee component of the Inspiring Students, Building Careers campaign. He is president of Greenhill Properties, Inc., a diversified real estate development, investment, management and consultation organization; and president of Convalescent Homes, Inc., owner and operator of health care facilities.

Stevenson and Ner Israel Partner for Pre-Med

Stevenson University has partnered with Baltimore’s Ner Israel Rabbinical College to create a two-year program—designed specifically for Ner Israel students—that allows them to complete a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies with a Pre-Med focus and a minor in Medical Humanities, while accommodating their studies at Ner Israel.

“This is an innovative partnership that lets Ner Israel students take advantage of the best of what both of our institutions offer,” said President Elliot Hirshman. “The students will earn a B.A. in Talmudic Studies from Ner Israel and a B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies from Stevenson. The students will also benefit from our pre-health advising, faculty mentoring, career preparation focus, and internships that will set the stage for graduate education.”

Ner Israel Rabbinical College is a world-renowned 85-year-old Yeshiva based in Pikesville, Md., that trains Talmudic scholars who become rabbis and educators as well as pursue careers in other professions.
Faculty Kudos

Inna Alesina, M.F.A., Assistant Professor of Graphic Design, has been recognized by Good Design for her Corcl boat design. Alesina’s Corcl design was among the 2018 winners in the sports and recreation category. Good Design is “the oldest and the most prestigious Global Awards Program for Design Excellence and Design Innovation.”

Rivka L. Glaser, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences, was one of 18 researchers and educators accepted for an invited session on genetics education at the 2019 American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG) Annual Meeting, the world’s largest gathering of human genetics professionals.

Jamie Goodall, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of History, was selected for the International Visiting Fellows Scheme at the University of Essex for summer 2019.

Stevenson’s Public History program received a $10,000 grant from the Council for Independent Colleges Humanities Research for the Public Good program to support student research in the humanities. The funded project, “Frozen in Time: A Survey of Washington City’s Indigent from 1847,” will be undertaken in partnership with the Stevenson Library, and students will practice hands-on archival research in Washington, DC, and Baltimore.

Anna Kayes, Ed.D., Professor of Management, and Ryan Clark, M.F.A., Program Coordinator and Assistant Professor of Theatre, had their manuscript “Building Leadership Storytelling Skills: A Collaboration between Management and Theater Students,” accepted for publication by SAGA Journals.

Christopher Metzger, M.F.A., Assistant Professor of Graphic Design, published an essay in Public Art Dialogue on “Public Art as Political Action.” The essay is accompanied by his photo work, including the front and back covers for the journal.
Christine Moran, Ph.D., Assistant Vice President of Student Success, was selected by the IMPACT Conference as the John Sarvey Administrator of the Year for her work with service-learning, civic engagement, and student success.

Monibo Sam, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Sociology, published the article “Maintaining links with the homeland through marriage and naming: An exploratory study among Nigerian immigrants in the US” in *African Diaspora*, an international peer-reviewed journal.

Kim Tucker, Ph.D., Director of the Center for Environmental Stewardship and Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, was awarded the Chesapeake Bay Trust’s Educator of the Year Award. The award includes a $2,500 grant and honors a Maryland educator who has shown outstanding commitment to environmental education, conducts outdoor field experiences, motivates and inspires students on environmental awareness, and serves as a respected resource to colleagues and community leaders. She also received a $24,860 grant as part from the Lyme Disease Research Foundation. The grant will provide funding for student research on Lyme and other tick-borne diseases found in Maryland.

Congratulations to Maria Wong, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology, and Vivi-Anne Griffey, MLS(ASCP)CM, Program Coordinator and Adjunct Professor of Medical Laboratory Science, who are the 2019 recipients of the Rose Dawson Excellence in Teaching Award. The awards are presented annually to recognize two exceptional Stevenson faculty members, one full-time and one part-time, who exemplify the art of teaching as mentors and as scholars. The awards were presented on May 28.
The Stevenson community is saddened to announce the passing of Christine Noya, former Assistant Professor of Business Communication, on March 7. A few months prior, in September 2018, family, friends, and colleagues celebrated her retirement after 33 years of dedication to Villa Julie College and Stevenson.

“Chris’ big heart is what we will miss the most,” said her longtime friend and colleague, Chip Rouse, Associate Professor of Business Communication. “She loved people, loved to listen to their stories, loved to advocate for them, and rejoice in their success. She was proud of being honored with the President’s Medal, but she was equally proud of having been the coach of the cheer team in those early Villa Julie days.”

There were few parts of the university where Noya had not served in one capacity or another during her lengthy career here. From her first position as a special assistant to Dean Rose Dawson and later directing career services and experiential learning, to helping new students transition to college through the Faculty in the Halls program, it was clear that Stevenson students were her number one priority.

“She loved Stevenson and would go to any lengths to help a student succeed,” said Claire Moore, retired Vice President of Student Affairs, who worked together with Noya throughout her 33-year career at Villa Julie and SU. “She has made a loving impact on Stevenson and its students that will forever be part of our history and culture.”

Dyer Bilgrave, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology, was honored with the title of Professor Emeritus this May during Stevenson’s 66th Commencement. Professor Emeritus is a distinctive honor, conferred by Stevenson’s Administration and Board of Trustees upon a retired faculty member who has demonstrated a distinguished professional career and made significant contributions to the university. Bilgrave is retiring from full-time service after a 32-year career at Villa Julie and Stevenson. He led the development and implementation of the Psychology degree program and served as the Psychology Department Chair from 2002 to 2005. In 2004, he received the Rose Dawson Award for Excellence in Teaching.
New Bachelor’s Program in Biomedical Engineering Launching Fall 2019

After approval from the Maryland Higher Education Commission in January, Stevenson’s bachelor of science program in Biomedical Engineering will welcome its first students this fall. The biomedical engineering field has grown swiftly in recent years, fueled by breakthroughs in medical research and engineering technologies. It has become an integral part of efforts to deliver more effective and efficient medical care through enhanced diagnostic and therapeutic techniques, and the development of new medical technology and devices.

“Our program emphasizes critical and creative thinking in addition to developing students’ technical skills and knowledge,” said Meredith Durmowicz, Ph.D., Dean of the Beverly K. Fine School of the Sciences. “A strong foundation in basic sciences and math—including biology, chemistry, physics, and data analysis—coupled with specific biomedical engineering coursework will give our students a broad interdisciplinary background.”

The demand for biomedical engineers is expected to grow as the pace of technological innovation increases, new medical technologies and devices are brought to market, and the aging population expands. Stevenson’s program is configured to prepare students to fulfill this demand across a wide spectrum of industries such as rehabilitation engineering, medical and bioinformatics, biomaterials, and tissue engineering. In addition, the program can offer a springboard for students who want to pursue graduate studies in applied or basic research and graduate health professions such as medicine, physical therapy, and pharmacy.
Mustang Sports Winter/Spring 2019 Recap

The Stevenson Mustangs had a phenomenal spring, with five teams capturing their respective conference championships. The men’s tennis team won the MAC Commonwealth championship for the first time in program history by besting Messiah 5-1, and then posted a 5-0 win over Clarks Summit in its NCAA debut. Evan Clifton was selected as Coach of the Year.

Both golf teams captured their respective conference championships. The Mustang women won their first MAC title since 2016 and third overall, defeating second-place Alvernia by 19 strokes. Junior Julia Kline and freshman Amanda Perez tied for the top spot, with Kline winning conference Player of the Year honors in a playoff. The Mustang men edged Lebanon Valley by one stroke in a nail-biting finish to win their fourth straight MAC Commonwealth crown.

In lacrosse, the Mustang men overcame a slow start to win their seventh consecutive MAC Commonwealth title with a convincing 23-4 win against Lycoming, then rallied for a 12-9 win against Franklin & Marshall in their NCAA opener. They made it to the third round of the NCAA tourney, falling to Tufts. The Mustang women won their first conference regular season title since 2013, going 8-0 with a group comprised mostly of freshmen. They won 12 in a row before being stopped in the MAC Commonwealth championship game by Lebanon Valley.

The men’s track and field program captured both the MAC indoor and outdoor championships for the second straight season. Dave Berdan was named Coach of the Year in both seasons, and during the indoor season, three student-athletes—sophomores Ritchie Case and Dereck Davis for the men and junior Kimberly Hammond for the women—qualified for NCAA nationals.

Men’s volleyball won a program-record 30 matches and ranked as high as No. 3 in the country while capturing a share of the MAC regular season title. Landon Shorts, senior Business Administration major, became the all-time leader across all NCAA divisions in career service aces (see page 11). The Mustangs were edged 3-2 in the conference championship match and based on other results around the country, missed out on a second straight trip to the NCAAs.

The women’s tennis team qualified for conference tournament play for the first time since 2013, posting an overall record of 8-7 and a 4-2 MAC Commonwealth record.

Men’s basketball pulled out to a 7-1 start and qualified for the MAC Commonwealth Championship for the first time since 2016. Both the Mustang men and women’s basketball teams qualified for the ECAC Championship, with the women making their sixth straight postseason trip, while the men were in it for the first time since 2015.

John Stuhltrager was named the MAC Coach of the Year in women’s swimming for the second time in three seasons after guiding the Mustangs to a sixth-place finish.

Baseball and both the men and women’s ice hockey teams were in contention for conference playoff spots until the final weekend of regular season play. In women’s ice hockey, Kellen Wittman ’20M was named MAC Offensive Player of the Year, while freshman Nikki Kendrick earned Rookie of the Year accolades.
The Ace of Aces

This spring, men’s volleyball player Landon Shorts ’19 set a historical record for himself and his team when he became the all-time NCAA leader in all divisions for career service aces. He registered his 256th career ace against Widener University on March 1, surpassing the record of 255 held by UC Santa Barbara’s Evan Patak, who played from 2004 to 2007. It’s not the first honor for the senior Business Administration major from York, Pa. In 2018, Shorts was named the MAC Player of the Year, to the MAC All-Conference First Team, and to the MAC All-Conference Academic Team. “I’m excited and honored to have put Stevenson’s men’s volleyball team in the record books,” he said. “Stevenson has provided me with the opportunity to play the game that I love at a very high competitive level.”

Watch Landon’s interview at stevenson.edu/ace
Oftentimes, the extraordinary academic and co-curricular experiences that shape the lives and aspirations of Stevenson students are achieved through collaboration. The collaboration that has grown between Stevenson’s Nursing and Theatre and Media Performance programs exemplifies the power of this approach. Together, faculty and students this spring created something for stage that had never been done before—the history and drama of nursing.

Beginning in fall 2017, SU Theatre students portrayed patients and families in end-of-life care simulations to help train Nursing students. From those beginnings, Ryan Clark, M.F.A., Program Coordinator and Assistant Professor of Theatre, and Laurel Moody, RN, Assistant Professor of Nursing, began a collaboration on a larger project.

Clark created *Finding Florence*, a play that took the audience through the history of nursing from the time of Florence Nightingale, through the World Wars, and even to today’s various nursing units. Stevenson student actors gathered information, researched, and interviewed nurses for real-life accounts and histories.

“Our students were on the ground with this,” Clark said, adding that he and Laura Holland, Assistant to the Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, who served as dramaturge, created the narrative from there. “We served as editors, collaging together all this material.”

Student Scarlet Dare ’20 chose to research nurses during the HIV/AIDS crisis. The production had special meaning for Dare, who is majoring in Nursing with a minor in Theatre.

“I didn’t think that the two worlds would collide,” she said. “Last spring, when the show was announced, my jaw dropped.”

Dare played multiple roles, including a nurse caring for HIV/AIDS patients, a World War II cadet...
“They were outstanding in their portrayals, not only of the struggles of nursing, but also the joys.”

nurse, and a student nurse. She also performed a monologue based on an interview with Moody.

“It wasn’t so much acting because I connected so easily with the roles,” said Dare, who at the time of production had some clinical nursing experience under her belt. “It really just felt like me, even though they were stories of other people.”

She was not the only Nursing student to have a hand in the production.

Moody asked her senior Nursing students to write down phrases they often heard or said while working. Those phrases—such as “What is your pain level?” or “I will be your nurse today.”—served as transitions between the play’s vignettes from the history of nursing.

Moody arranged a trip for the Theatre students to the University of Maryland’s Living History Museum, dedicated to nursing. She appreciated the opportunity to work with the Theatre students in another capacity and attended rehearsals to give practical suggestions to help them develop their roles.

“They were outstanding in their portrayals, not only of the struggles of nursing, but also the joys,” Moody said.

It was a great opportunity, also, for her Nursing students to attend the play, especially the seniors who were part of the 25th graduating class of Stevenson’s Baccalaureate Nursing program in May.

“We exceeded all of our box office expectations,” Clark said, assessing the impact of the play. “I think our audience and our students left with a much deeper and fuller appreciation for what nurses experience and the impact that they have on people’s lives.”
Imagine a world where autonomous cars have moved to the next level. Rather than just being used for commuting, the “cars” double as hotel rooms that pick you up and transport you to your destination while you sleep. You wake up and your hotel room has parked itself at the beach with a wonderful ocean view.

This is just one idea running through the mind of alumnus Parker Kuncl ’03, who has his eyes—and designs—firmly focused on the future.

Kuncl, an interactive designer, says autonomous vehicles are one of the next big areas for innovation. He believes that they will be the next living room—or any room. Imagine a mobile Starbucks where you can grab a ride home and an afternoon cup of coffee simultaneously.

The ideas that change the way people work, how they relate, and how they move—these have been Kuncl’s focus over his career, working as a designer for companies such as T-Mobile, Samsung, PayPal and, most recently, Uber. He just recently accepted a position as Director of Design at Oracle’s Seattle office.

He was working on wearable technology before it became a trend, has created innovative apps, and has filed more than 20 patents. However, when he first entered college in Rhode Island, he planned to study oceanology. A Photoshop class sparked his interest in design, and he transferred into the Visual Communication Design program at Villa Julie College.
“I found out I was a designer the whole time—I just didn’t know it.” The design program, he said, was the perfect launch pad to further his education and career.

“Every class I’ve ever taken—every type of design or photography or art class—I have applied across many projects,” he said. “What I got out of the program was a foundational design education.”

After graduation, Kuncl went to graduate school at the ArtCenter College of Design in Pasadena, Calif. It was the West Coast that introduced him to interactive design. The iPhone was being unveiled at the time, and the need for interactive designers was exploding.

Being a designer in the technology field, Kuncl explained, requires not only generating ideas, but also designing, prototyping, and forecasting the futures of apps, products, and technologies that could become lucrative ventures.

This means Kuncl is always looking at the horizon. “We were charged with looking toward the future,” Kuncl said of working at T-Mobile and Samsung. “We were inventing what was coming out three years from now.”

At Uber, Kuncl focused on developing user experiences, especially at large places and events, such as airports, the Olympics, and Coachella.

“Design has become a huge business need,” Kuncl said. “Design is what can put your product over the edge. That’s what sets you apart from your competitor.”

He is now helping others to put this design thinking into practice and taking ideas from concept to reality. He is a co-founder of Prototyping Superhero Workshop, which teaches inventors of all backgrounds how to get ideas out of one’s head, off paper, and into a hands-on model.

“Sometimes, people confuse design and art,” Kuncl said. “Design is not just what it looks like, but how it works ... and the best design is something that barely looks like it was designed at all.”
Kuncl co-founded the Prototyping Superhero Workshop in 2015 to teach and promote design thinking. Workshops take participants beyond paper to “making,” creating actual physical and digital mock-ups to experience, interact with, and test.
ON THE RISE:
Stevenson Mock Trial Triumphs

The spirit of competition and close-knit camaraderie are driving Stevenson’s Mock Trial Team to new heights.

BY CHERYL A. WILSON, Ph.D.
MARCH 8, 2019: “TEAM 1441 DRAWS TEAM 1700.”

The announcement didn’t mean much to most of the teams in the room—just another unequal pairing of Mock Trial teams at a major tournament. A university that regularly competed at the national level would play an unknown team at their first major competition. It was expected to be an easy pass for Team 1700 and bad luck for Team 1441.

The Opening Round Championship Series (ORCS) of the American Mock Trial Association (AMTA) competition is the second of three levels of competition: Regionals, ORCS, and Nationals. Any team can attend Regionals, but only the top teams from each region qualify for ORCS, and the top finishers there go on to Nationals. At ORCS, each team is randomly paired during the draw at the start of competition and then competes in four trials. The subsequent draws are determined, in part, by performance in the first round. As the pairings are announced, hundreds of competitors from dozens of universities wait to learn which team they will play. The teams have studied each other, know each other’s rankings, and have best-case and worst-case scenarios in mind—especially for that pivotal first pairing.

Once pairings are announced, the team captains meet and learn which witnesses will be chosen and which evidence will be used. Then, teams have 30 minutes to hone their strategy and prepare for competition. The competition comprises the literal “mock trial,” which includes opening statements, direct and cross-examination of three witnesses for the prosecution/plaintiff and three witnesses for the defense, and closing statements. Each trial lasts three hours. One minute longer and everyone is disqualified. Nobody wants that.

Some teams might have been disheartened to face such a competitive team in the opening round of their first ORCS appearance. They might have become flustered, doubted themselves, or performed poorly.

Team 1441 did none of those things. Team 1441 won. They received a higher score from both presiding judges, and while they didn’t make it to Nationals (this year!), they received an Honorable Mention for the “Spirit of AMTA Award,” which is voted on by the participating teams and recognizes the team that exhibits outstanding professionalism, civility, decorum, and character. In addition, junior Norman Greenwell received one of nine Outstanding Witness awards. Not bad for a team that was perceived as easy to beat.

Who was Team 1441? Stevenson University.

MOCK TRIAL AT STEVENSON

Stevenson University’s Mock Trial program grew out of the Legal Studies program, which included a Mock Trial experience in its capstone course. Students were so excited about Mock Trial—and some had competition experience from high school—that they asked Melanie K. Snyder, Esq., Professor of Law, to start a team. For the first year, the team didn’t compete. Then in 2013, they embarked upon their first competition season. Snyder acknowledges that, in the initial years, she was “learning along with the students.”

Mock Trial is a unique competition with a very specific set of rules and protocols. For instance, witness testimony needs to match the affidavit exactly; actions require “permission to proceed”; participants must stand each time the judge enters the room (even if she or he has just stepped out briefly); and attorneys must request “permission to move about the well,” which refers to making use of the space between the judge and the attorneys.

As the team learned more, they got better, and student interest grew. Snyder held tryouts, and participation increased from one ten-member team to two teams, “A” and “B.” The addition of a second team allowed more students to participate and provided opportunities for students to join the Mock Trial program as freshmen and have several years to develop and hone their skills. The 2019 B team includes six freshmen, two of whom, Marriah Boyd and Eric Williams, won top awards this season. Although the A team travels to more competitions, both teams compete at Regionals, and the camaraderie between the teams is essential for the Mock Trial program’s success.

A partnership with the Mock Trial program at University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) emerged in 2016, and in 2016 and 2017, the two universities co-hosted the
Charm City Invitational Tournament, bringing 16 teams from universities including Johns Hopkins, Princeton, Haverford, and American, to Stevenson to compete.

The quality of the Charm City Invitational impressed officials from the American Mock Trial Association. When the Mid-Atlantic Regionals needed a new home, the choice was obvious. In 2018, Stevenson University and UMBC co-hosted the AMTA Regionals on Stevenson’s campus. The tournament was such a success that SU was offered the 2019 hosting slot and will be hosting again in 2020. Stevenson’s facilities—the jewel of which is the Francis X. Pugh Courtroom—supportive campus community, and hospitality have been consistently cited as reasons that coming to Stevenson’s tournament is a such a positive experience for participating teams.

Regionals typically draw about 28 teams, and recent competitors at Stevenson have included Columbia, Fordham, Wesleyan, Temple, Villanova, and Rutgers. Hosting AMTA Regionals helped Stevenson grow its reputation in the Mock Trial community, and in 2019 the team made it to the “big leagues” by qualifying for ORCS.

**RULES OF ENGAGEMENT**

What takes a Mock Trial team from good to great? Practice and knowing the rules. During the competition season, the teams practice as a group at least twice per week and have individual or small-group practice sessions daily. First comes reading the case file: 157 pages of detail about events, witnesses, and evidence. This is the playbook for the trial.

“Anything and everything is fair game,” says Legal Studies major Norman Greenwell. “Paying attention to and learning the small details can often make the difference in winning a case.”

Stevenson’s team works together to analyze the case file and create their strategy. Dozens of combinations of witnesses can be produced, and myriad lines of inquiry and argument can be made. Team members must be prepared for anything.

The ability to read, analyze, listen, and act are at the core of a successful Mock Trial performance. And, it certainly is a performance. Timing, hand gestures, and use of the space are all important. “Everything you’re doing in the courtroom is purposeful,” says coach Miranda R.
ON THE RISE
Baxendale, Adjunct Instructor of Law, and a former Mock Trial competitor for Johns Hopkins who also teaches math at Patterson Park Public Charter School.

The polish and poise of the attorneys and witnesses is often what makes the difference between a win and a loss. Memorizing arguments and lines of questioning are essential. In addition to strong communication and presentation skills, critical thinking, creativity, and analytical abilities are all in play through the Mock Trial experience.

Judging in Mock Trial has an element of subjectivity. Scores are not tallied until after the round is complete, so participants don’t know how they are doing until the round is over. Maintaining composure and projecting confidence during the trial are key, notes student Jaden Thornton, who won an Outstanding Attorney award the 2019 Regional tournament. “If you know the case inside and out—and know the rules—it builds confidence when you are arguing a point.”

THE HEART OF THE TEAM

The strong commitment and community that characterizes Stevenson’s Mock Trial program is clear after spending just a few minutes with any member of the team or with one of their coaches.

Snyder has taught Legal Studies at Stevenson since 2000, and Mock Trial has become her passion. Trainings, competitions, and, most important, the students themselves are close to Snyder’s heart, and the students know it. During the height of competition season, it is not unusual for her to be practicing with students via video chat in the evenings or on weekends. In 2017, she found a kindred spirit in Baxendale. With an established competition record, Baxendale is now the second coach of the Stevenson team.

All of the time, energy, and passion that the coaches pour into Mock Trial is returned to them tenfold. In a meeting with the team, words like “community” and “family” flow easily as the students discuss their experiences. Students come to Mock Trial from a range of academic and personal backgrounds, and this diversity is part of what makes Stevenson’s team so strong. “Working with a lot of different types of people and learning their strengths improves both the whole team and each team member,” said student Alexis Holloway.

“Students join Mock Trial expecting to build their legal experience,” adds Snyder. “That definitely happens, but when you ask our students to reflect on their experience, the biggest thing that jumps out is the sense of community they’ve established. They recognize that a team is only as strong as the weakest link, and they are here to support each other both in and out of the courtroom. The season starts very quickly, and students who might not have been friends, let alone know each other, suddenly become a family.”

REACHING THE NEXT LEVEL: NATIONALS

Stevenson University’s Mock Trial program is on the move. Qualifying for ORCS in 2019 helped the team make a big leap into the next level of competition. They will now have a national ranking and will be invited to compete more frequently and participate in bigger tournaments. These experiences will challenge the students and help the team improve. Competing in more tournaments will also help the team expand their reputation, and the coaches are confident that both Stevenson’s A and B teams will be going to ORCS before too long. The students and coaches are extremely grateful to their sponsors who are making this travel and participation possible, including the Murthy Law Firm, Mr. and Mrs. Randolph Brinton, and RBC Wealth Management, as well as additional gifts from Miles & Stockbridge P.C., DLA Piper LLP, and the many friends of the Mock Trial program.

The case file for the 2019-2020 competition season will drop on August 15, 2019, and Stevenson’s Mock Trial teams will not miss a beat. The students and their coaches will begin reading, researching, and planning, looking ahead to the first competition of a season that will hopefully see them competing at the national level. Regardless of any future wins—and losses sometimes—Stevenson’s Mock Trial team is creating bonds, lifetime career skills, and legacies that will endure long after the final closing argument is delivered.

“Our team doesn’t settle,” says Snyder. “They consistently strive to improve and perform successfully at higher and higher levels. They take much more than a win-loss record from a tournament. They are using these experiences to help them refine their oral communication and analytical skills, and that makes them ready to compete at a national level or, one day, in a courtroom for clients.”

Cheryl A. Wilson, Ph.D., is Dean of Stevenson’s School of Humanities and Social Sciences and Professor of English. Her enthusiasm for the works of Jane Austen and 19th century British culture might only be surpassed by her growing love for Mock Trial.
Stevenson University has made great strides in providing state-of-the-art facilities, innovative student programs, and expanded resources over the years. Our focus is to provide an exceptional student experience in academics, career preparation, and campus life. We are honored that others recognize the value of our mission and strength of our future and have chosen to invest in the university and, most importantly, its students. Highlighted here are some recent generous gifts in support of Stevenson. We offer our sincere gratitude to these and all of our donors.

Former Stevenson University Board Chair Kevin Byrnes pledged an additional $75,000 to his existing scholarship endowments. This increase will benefit future recipients of the Maureen Knerr Byrnes Endowed Scholarship for Teacher Education, named in honor of his late wife, and the Helen Fitzgerald Byrnes Endowed Scholarship for Visual Communication Design, named in honor of his late mother.

Jack Dunn IV has been a generous supporter of the Stevenson Fund, with an unrestricted $100,000 gift toward any area of need. Most recently he has chosen to support SU’s new Biomedical Engineering program with a gift of $80,000 to help with startup costs. Dunn is the parent of a current student.

The Hackerman Foundation has included Stevenson in its philanthropic mission by establishing The Hackerman Foundation Endowed Scholarship Fund. This fund provides tuition assistance to academically talented and financially needy female students from underrepresented populations.

Stevenson’s Leadership Scholars program has received support from M&T Bank through a pledge of $40,000 to assist students selected to participate in the program.

The Middendorf Foundation made a gift of $50,000 to increase their existing endowed scholarship fund, The Middendorf Foundation Endowed Scholarship in Nursing, which supports Nursing students.
Creating A Legacy: Why One Alumna Chooses to Give Back
Carolee Martelle ’63 ’89 ’97 believes in the power of education and the potential of Stevenson’s students. In 2016 she created an endowed scholarship fund that will assist deserving students in perpetuity. To further ensure her impact into the future, she joined the Great Oaks Society by making provision for the university in her estate planning, strengthening her legacy of giving. Here, Martelle shares her reasons for this dedication.

“I am proud of what Stevenson University has become. It has grown from a two-year, all girls commuter college to a four-year university with a diverse student body, offering a multitude of degree programs. In my opinion, sustaining this growth is critical to the university and taking it to the next level. As a result, contributions will play a significant role.

“As a student, I developed a deep appreciation for Stevenson University. The education I received at SU played a major role in my life. As a result, I wanted to share some of my personal success with the university and as they say, ‘pay it forward.’

“Due to the high cost of education, it is becoming prohibitive for some students to pursue their dream of a higher education. Even with help from grants and scholarships, student debt is at an all-time high, making some people question, ‘is it worth it?’ This not only has a direct impact on an individual but also our society. Without young people obtaining a higher education, where will the next innovators, scientists, contributors to society, and leaders come from that are so important? Anyone who has the desire to pursue a higher education should be able to do so without a lifetime of student debt. In essence, it shouldn’t be free, but needs to be affordable.

“I have always believed people should be charitable where they can. In my case, I feel I am helping young people, in some small way, achieve their goals. At the same time, given the opportunity, I would like to think that they will do the same for those who come after them.

“At various Stevenson events, I had the opportunity to talk to many students. While I always found these conversations to be enjoyable and interesting, there were two consistent messages. One, they were very happy to be attending Stevenson and two, they were extremely grateful for the financial assistance they received. In my mind, it was quite clear these students would not be able to pursue a degree or, more importantly, obtain one without financial support.

Philanthropy not only helps the students but also the university in its basic needs. As alumni we should all be willing to give something back to our university. There is no contribution too small.”

For information about the Great Oaks Society and planned giving options, contact Chris Vaughan, Vice President for University Advancement, at cvaughan@stevenson.edu or 443-334-2624, or visit plannedgiving.stevenson.edu.
Mission: I’m Home
Building Communities, Building Memories
These numbers represent countless hours of service rebuilding homes, reviving communities, and offering hope. This year, Mission: I’m Home (MIH) celebrated its 10th anniversary as the university’s only alternative break program on its March 2019 trip to New Orleans. Co-founded by Stevenson staff member Morgan Somerville ’14M and faculty members Art Fifer and Romas Laskauskas, MIH launched its first trip in 2009 and now runs four trips each year to a variety of locations that have been severely impacted by extreme storm events, including Baton Rouge, La.; Staten Island, N.Y.; Monmouth County, N.J.; Houston, Texas; and the one that began it all—New Orleans.

This year, 10 alumni were proud to join students, faculty, staff, and friends of SU who worked on three homes, completing more than 1,000 hours of service. The dedicated group spent seven days living and working in communities that are still feeling the effects of Hurricane Katrina, nearly 14 years after the Category 5 storm made landfall along the Gulf Coast. They worked on site with SBP (formerly St. Bernard Project), their community partner of 10 years. SBP is a national nonprofit organization focused on shrinking the time between disaster and recovery. Volunteers worked on Opportunity Housing, new builds or rebuilds that are sold to the public at a reduced price with affordable financing options to help revitalize the New Orleans Housing Market post-Katrina.

Away from the job site, there was time to explore exhibits and locations marking the historic storm’s impact, and each day concluded with meaningful reflections lead by both student leaders and alumni. Lighter-hearted fun was also to be had with ice-breakers, an exciting St. Patrick’s Day parade, and a traditional crawfish boil that concluded the week, at which Aaron Milam ’13 ’18M and Danny Sloan ’13 were recognized with Outstanding Alumni Awards for their dedication to fostering relationships with current and future students within the organization. SBP also recognized Somerville with the Louisiana Volunteer Service Award.
MIH resonates with our community as well, and many of you have made gifts to support this worthwhile program. Each year donations have increased, thanks to grassroots fundraising, with students, alumni, and other participants sharing their passion with friends and family. With your help, we are touching lives across the country and we are making a difference in the world.

We asked some of our alumni participants to share their thoughts: Matt Piluk ’17 ’19M, Kj Renfroe ’17 ’19M, and Danny Sloan ’13.

SU: What does Mission: I’m Home mean to you?

MP: MIH is my Stevenson community. When I think back to my time as a student at Stevenson University, I first think of my experiences with the Mission: I’m Home organization and its members.

KR: Mission: I’m Home to me means family, togetherness, and support. This organization not only helps our community by volunteering, but we help each other grow, and ultimately become our best selves. Mission: I’m Home is simply the best thing that could ever happen to anyone.

DS: Mission: I’m Home to me is a chance for students, alumni, and faculty to be plunged into a world of compassion for others. There aren’t too many other instances in my life where I’ve been able to see first-hand, and make an impact on, the poverty and destruction that natural disasters cause. In many cases, we forget that once the chaos subsides, the lingering effects of a disaster are there for a decade to come. Yet the world seems only to rally behind the cause for so long. In short, it means compassion, family, love, and returning people to the places they call home.

SU: How has your experience as alumni changed because of MIH?

MP: MIH has given me an opportunity to stay involved with the students of Stevenson University and see just how the university has grown from my time as a student.

KR: It’s changed my perspective when going on these trips. Before, my main goal was to help our communities and make new friends. Now my view of these trips is centered around my personal growth, helping those in our MIH family grow and learn through meaningful conversations, inspirational words and quotes, and inspiring through my actions. I saw MIH as a club, but now I see that it’s more than a club, it’s my family. MIH is what kept me involved with the Stevenson community.
DS: Without MIH, I wouldn't be active as an alumnus at all, as much as I'd hate to admit it. I had a great four years at Stevenson, but without MIH I know I wouldn't have the same bond with the students and faculty, both past and present. Because of MIH, I have a strong emotional attachment with the school, and in turn that makes me want to be as involved as possible in all things SU.

SU: What do you think underclassmen learn from alumni participants?

MP: Through alumni participation, underclassmen can see how a Stevenson University education impacts a person’s career path, and they are given an opportunity to develop a nontraditional mentor-mentee relationship.

KR: I think underclassmen learn why we continue to come back for our 7th, 8th, and 9th trips. They are able to experience the love we have for MIH as a club, for our community, and for each other. They’re able to learn life lessons, and gain tips that we could’ve used or that we were given when we were underclassmen. Overall, I think that they are able to see the passion we have for helping others.

DS: Underclassmen without a doubt have the greatest benefit from MIH. They are able to find out about this amazing club early and get involved throughout their time at SU. They’re able to come on these trips with 30-40 strangers and acquaintances, and come back to campus with 30-40 close friends—friends that will solidify their love for the university and their involvement on campus. They also learn so many skills while rebuilding, that I think it’s safe to say anyone who has been on an MIH trip could be hired as a contractor’s assistant tomorrow!

For more information about Mission: I’m Home, contact Morgan Somerville, Director of Student Engagement, at msomerville@stevenson.edu or 443-352-4445. If you would like to make a gift, visit stevenson.edu/givingtomission.

140 Gifts from Faculty and Staff

187 Gifts from Parents

265 Gifts from Friends
Many of us hope to leave something meaningful behind when we’ve passed on. While some may be able to ensure that during their lifetime, others are remembered by family and friends who work to build a legacy on their behalf. Stephanie Leigh Giles Suit graduated from Stevenson University, formerly Villa Julie College, in 2005 with a Medical Laboratory Technology degree and later earned a master’s degree in Biotechnology from Johns Hopkins University. During her time at Villa Julie, Suit was a member of the women’s basketball team, competing in games during all four years of her college career. Following graduation, she put her degree to excellent use at Becton, Dickinson and Company in Sparks, Md. She was an extremely talented scientist and supported the launches of various molecular products in both the Quality Management and Research & Development groups.

In the fall of 2018, Suit tragically passed away. To honor her memory, the Stephanie Giles Suit ’05 Scholarship Fund was created and is being funded through gifts from family and friends along with members of the Stevenson community whose lives she touched during her time as a student. This annual scholarship will benefit students with financial need who are pursuing a degree within the Beverly K. Fine School of the Sciences, or a degree in Medical Laboratory Science under the Sandra R. Berman School of Nursing and Health Professions.

Suit was a beloved mother, wife, daughter, sister, friend, and colleague and will be remembered for her infectious laugh, kindness, intelligence, and willingness to do anything to help those around her. She was very proud of her education and would be thrilled to be a part of furthering the education of a student with her same passion for the sciences.

If you would like to contribute to the Stephanie Giles Suit ’05 Scholarship Fund, visit stevenson.edu/givetoSU.
1962
Our condolences to Jo-anna Salemi Conrey ’62 ’86 ’92 on the passing of her husband, John, on March 27.

1967
Our condolences to Frances “Fran” Flannery Gunshol on the passing of her husband, Lou, on Nov. 19, 2018.

1974
Shirley Will Matlock and her husband, Gary, enjoyed a two week safari in Kenya and Tanzania, seeing beautiful landscapes and a variety of wild animals.

1989
Our condolences to Michele Hopkins on the passing of her father, John, on Jan. 27.

1994
Tim Richardson was promoted to Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations for The Johns Hopkins Whiting School of Engineering in Dec. 2018. He’s been at JHU for more than five years, spending the last three at the Whiting School as the associate director for corporate and foundation relations. His efforts have been central in Hopkins Engineering creating partnerships with the likes of Amazon, Lockheed Martin, and Johnson & Johnson.

1998
Our condolences to Ricky Sanchez on the passing of his father, Dr. Joseph Manuel Sanchez, on Oct. 26, 2018.

2000
Angela Meola Lippy is in her third year of teaching at Liberty Christian Academy in Richlands, N.C. She began her career as a pre-K teacher and is now teaching fifth grade. At the end of January, after being nominated by a parent, she was named “Teacher of the Week” by local television station WITN.

2001
Congratulations to the following alumni who were inducted into the Dick Watts Athletics Hall of Fame for 2018: Jamie Hershner Elwood ’01 for women’s lacrosse; Steve Montalvo ’02 for men’s soccer; David Velez ’03 for men’s lacrosse; Anthony DeFrancisco ’05 for baseball; Cara Hill ’07 ’10M for women’s basketball; and Tonya Cristino Ramsef ’08 ’10M for women’s soccer and basketball. Jeb Barber ’02 was inducted as a contributor, and the 2006 women’s soccer team was recognized as a Team of Tradition.

2002
Blake Ulam was recently promoted to Partner and Chief Operating Officer at Weyrich, Cronin and Sorra, a local accounting firm. He has over 18 years of experience in public accounting, technology, and managing operations. Blake joined the firm in 2000 as an intern while studying at SU and was hired full time in the spring of 2002 after graduation. He obtained his CPA license in June 2007.

2006
Renee Rubeor Cummings is working as a registered nurse at St. Charles Medical Center in Bend, Ore.

Ebony Hypolite has been honored by the Maryland Association of CPAs as one of Maryland’s “Women to Watch” for 2018. She received the award in the “Emerging Leader” category in September. She is a Senior Manager in SC&H’s Business Performance Management practice where she oversees the implementation of Oracle-Hyperion Enterprise Performance Management and Business Intelligence solutions for clients across all industries, including Fortune 1000 enterprises.

Stacey Klima joined Harford Mutual Insurance Company as a marketing communication specialist with a focus on employee relations and community outreach. She will oversee Harford Mutual’s community activities in support of its corporate social responsibility mission, as well as developing and fostering employee engagement and volunteer efforts for the company’s 160 employees. Prior to joining Harford Mutual, Stacey spent more than five years in marketing and event coordination roles for Baltimore area accounting firms.

Congratulations to Amy Hollomon Rogers ’06 and Ashley Nelson Raut ’13 who were both recognized as 2018 Daily Record Leading Women honorees. The Leading Women Award celebrates extremely accomplished successful women who are 40 years and younger for accomplishments they have made thus far in their career. They were judged on professional experience, community involvement and a commitment to inspiring change. Amy is employed as the Development Team Director at Havas Helia. Ashley is an associate in the Wealth Preservation Group at Pessin Katz Law.

2007
Marc Grossblatt recently traveled to Key West, Fla., and Havana, Cuba. He plans to apply for a service trip to return to Cuba this year and hopes to see more of Havana as well as Santiago de Cuba.

Christina Kramer is a Program Analyst at the Social Security Administration in Woodlawn, Md., where she has been employed for eleven years.

Andrew Levy ’07 ’18M and his wife Kelly Dukes Levy ’18M welcomed their second child in 2018, a son named Jax born on May 30, 2018. Andrew works at Ripken Baseball as the National Sales Manager for youth baseball programming between Aberdeen, Md., Myrtle Beach, S.C., and Pigeon Forge, Tenn. Kelly is a radiation therapist at The Kaufman Cancer Center at Upper Chesapeake Hospital.

Colleen Stafford was promoted in August 2018 to Director of Finance at Oak Crest, an Erickson Living retirement community. In her new role she is responsible for day to day supervision of strategic financial management and budgeting. Stafford joined Erickson Living as senior internal auditor in Nov. 2011 and transitioned to senior financial analyst in a regional role. Since 2017, she has served as Assistant Finance Director at Charlestown, a sister Erickson Living community. She previously worked for RSM (formerly McGladrey) as a financial statement auditor, specializing in the nonprofit and health care sectors, and is licensed as a certified public accountant by the State of Maryland.
**CLASS NOTES**

Chris Warren traveled with Steph Curry on the basketball superstar’s seven-day Under Armour tour of Asia, including stops in the Philippines, China, and Japan. Chris is an Under Armour employee and is part of the team that works to brand and market the Steph Curry name and line of apparel. He also works with other athletes such as Bryce Harper, Cam Newton, Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson, and Anthony Joshua.

**2008**

In January Robert Carter was promoted to partner at Herzbebach, an independent, full-service accounting firm. He joined the firm in 2007 and manages the Litigation, Forensic, and Valuation Department. His areas of expertise include business valuations, litigation consulting, forensic accounting, fraud investigation and exit planning.

Jessica Hoffman Murphy is working at The Johns Hopkins Hospital as a Pediatric Oncology/Bone Marrow Transplant Nurse Practitioner.

**2010**

Our condolences to Alix Sandler on the passing of her father, Dave, on March 14.

**2012**

Ronnie Lordi is making a name for himself in the world of stand-up comedy in New York City where he performs at clubs six or seven nights a week. For the past three years he has been producing and hosting “Live at the Barbershop,” an offbeat comedy club in the East Village. During the day it is a traditional site for a shave and haircut but is transformed into a small club for evening events. Ronnie usually performs a quick opening set before introducing five or six comics a night.

Lynn Walters and Justin Roberts ’12 are engaged and planning a June 29, 2019 wedding.

Kayla Wilson passed the Maryland bar exam after graduating from the Michigan State School of Law in May 2018, and was sworn in as an attorney on Dec. 12.

2013

Abbey Degitz and Adam Bosse ’12 are engaged and plan to be married on June 1, 2019.

School of Education alumnae Kelsie Rites ’13, Sally Dawson ’18, Becca Jenkins ’18 and Megan Madigan ’18 returned to campus recently to meet with current senior interns to provide job interviewing practice and advice.

Maura Kovalcik Winebrenner is the digital media specialist for the Girl Scouts of Central Maryland. She designed the graphics and content for an email marketing and social media campaign that earned an Award of Excellence from the Public Relations Society of America, Maryland Chapter. The campaign supported the 25th anniversary of the Girl Scouts Beyond Bars program.

**2014**

Linda Goodman is the co-founder of RealLifeSim, a small women-owned business that was named a 2018 Top 10 Healthcare Simulation Solution Provider by Healthcare Tech Outlook. The company’s products provide safe, repeated skills practice on a live person, allowing the learner to interact as they would in a real life situation, creating a “train the way you treat” learning experience.

Morgan Leapa began a new job at the Community College of Baltimore County as Marketing Coordinator, Enrollment Communications. Previously she served as Acquisitions Creative Manager at NewMarket Group, an Agora company. Morgan is engaged to Brian Hushour ’14 and the couple is planning to marry on Nov. 9.

Joseph Leif Lott is working as an MDS Coordinator in Seattle. MDS Coordinators, also known as nurse assessment coordinators, use results from the Minimum Data Set as a key tool in assessing the functional capabilities of residents of certified nursing facilities to formulate and implement individual care plans for residents.

Ricky Ruszin has completed his second novel entitled Showtime, a suspense thriller available on inkshakes.com.

Dan Scotten is the Director of Museum Education at the National Electronics Museum in Linthicum, Md. He is also enrolled in the Master’s in Public History program at the University of Maryland Baltimore County.

2015

Chris Ambrose is a residential life professional at The Johns Hopkins University, and in November he was honored as the Outstanding New Student Affairs Professional of the Year. He is the President-Elect for the Maryland College Personnel Association, which brings together student affairs professionals from across the state.

Andrew McGregor ’15 ’16M recently collaborated on an article published in the Journal of Forensic Science International: Synergy. The article was a result of his thesis work under Dr. David Rivers of Loyola University Maryland.

Kathryn Merrick married longtime boyfriend Casey Jendras on Sept. 1, 2018. She also completed her doctorate of physical therapy degree at the University of Maryland at Baltimore and is now practicing physical therapist at Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital. She has also served on alumni panels for Stevenson Future Scholars Day.

In July 2018 Gail V. Tucker was appointed Executive Director of the Maryland Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors for the Maryland Department of Health. In addition to ensuring high quality standards and best practices in the death care industry for Maryland consumers, Gail is also in the final phase of writing a book.

2016

Safietou Monic Dao is a pharmacy technician at a CVS Pharmacy in Baltimore. She writes that she misses being at SU and wishes she could come back as a freshman.
**Megan Donovan** and **Patrick Curtis ’17** got engaged in Aug. 2018 and are planning an Oct. 2020 wedding. Megan teaches third grade at West Towson Elementary School and is in her second year of a master’s program majoring in instructional technology with a focus on library media science. Patrick is a firefighter and EMT for the Baltimore County Fire Department.

**Nora Long** was accepted into the Film and TV MFA Program at the Savannah College of Art and Design with an honors scholarship.

Our condolences to **Matthew Myers** on the passing of his mother, Teresa, on Jan. 30.

**Emily Rosenthal** is engaged to Braedon Alster and the couple is planning an October wedding.

**Rojesh Shrestha** was accepted into the Biological and Biomedical Science Program in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Harvard University and will begin studies in the fall of 2019.

**2017**

**John Backert ’17 ’18M** is a forensic services technician for the Baltimore County Police Department.

**Chris Daley ’17M** made the move to start his own company, Whirlaway, LLC, after more than 12 years at Maroon PR. His new communications agency offers companies and individuals customized public relations and marketing services to grow their brands. Chris is also an adjunct instructor in the SU Business Communication Program.

**Kris Dejesus** was ranked as #49 in *The Dodgeball Tribune’s* Top 50 male players overall in the United States. Kris helped to establish a dodgeball club at Stevenson during his time as an undergraduate, and has played against the best players in the United States during Team USA tryouts and the Elite Nationals.

**Kim Hahr** works at the Maryland Center for Construction Education and Innovation (MCCEI), and in a podcast through LinkedIn, she recently discussed the efforts of the organization to encourage students to enter the construction industry. She is the strategic partnerships manager and affiliate director of the ACE Mentor Program of Baltimore.

**Kaitlin “Kait” Kirkwood** accepted a full time position at Discovery Inc. as the Global Talent Management and Operations Coordinator. She moved to the company’s new operations headquarters in Knoxville, Tenn., to support the team that manages all of Discovery’s on-air talent. Kait will mentor network on-camera talent, troubleshoot talent issues and focus on the business of talent branding, as well as facilitate communications, operations, and logistics across many projects for global on-camera talent.

**Brendan Reynolds** made a career change at WDVM-TV in Hagerstown, Md., moving from web producer to reporter. While a student at Stevenson, he was an editor-in-chief of *The Villager* and a member of the Anime Club.

**Stephanie Schwarz** welcomed a daughter, Adrianna May Taylor, on July 30, 2019. Steph is a Toddler Teacher at Advent Child Development Center in Forest Hill, Md.

**Jamie Barthol** had her work showcased in September at the Creative Alliance at the Patterson as part of the 6th Annual Best of Baltimore Student Film Festival.

**Imani Chaney** is working as a legal assistant in the Mecklenburg County District Attorney’s Office in Charlotte, N.C.

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**SAVE THE DATE**

STEVENSON UNIVERSITY
HOMECOMING + FAMILY WEEKEND
OCTOBER 18 + 19, 2019

Don’t miss it!
Anita DiCarlo plans to begin studies in August at the University of Baltimore School of Law.

Devon Hightower is preparing for training camp with the Jersey Flight, a professional indoor football team based in Trenton, N.J., and a member of the American Arena League.

Krystine Hill is pursuing a Ph.D. at the University of Pittsburgh with a major in chemistry.

Caroline Izzi works for Tenable, Inc., and was sent to Houston to coordinate social media at the Grace Hopper Celebration, the world’s largest gathering of women technologists. She writes that she has been given wonderful hands-on opportunities over the past months at Tenable, and she designed the giveaway tee shirts for the Houston event.

Angelica Lackey attended the 6th Global Symposium on Ketogenic Therapies for Neurological Disorders in Jeju, Korea, where she presented the independent research that she did during her senior year at SU in collaboration with The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. She learned about the individualization of ketogenic therapies and was inspired by the eager and gracious collaboration between diet centers and among countries. She plans to continue to pursue this field and believes that her success in large part comes from the education and support she received at SU.

Kendra Lyle is working as a Program Coordinator for the Urban Alliance in Baltimore.

Jahlivia Moore was accepted into the NYC Hospitality Industries Studies Master’s Program.

Delaney Patterson is pursuing a Ph.D. at the University of Maryland College Park with a major in organic chemistry.

Stacey Wardenfelt is pursuing a Ph.D. at The Ohio State University with a major in chemistry and a focus in biology.

Kourtney Wells is working at Oriris Therapeutics as a manufacturing operator, helping in the manufacture of products made from donated placental tissue.

Ashley Wolfe is working as a Material Control Specialist at Northrop Grumman.

In Memoriam

Patricia Ann Emerson ’55 on Dec. 1, 2018

Catherine “Kay” McMullen ’56 on Nov. 20, 2018

Mary Henry Jacox ’59 on Oct. 15, 2018

Eileen Tawney Nichols ’64 on Feb. 26, 2019

Martha “Marty” Tezak ’64 on Oct. 18, 2018

Shirley Caple Wrightson ’70 on Nov. 8, 2018

Margaret Anne Byrnes ’73 on Feb. 20, 2018

Suzanne Dugan Style ’75 on Oct. 15, 2018

Dianne Griffin Stewart ’79 on March 5, 2019

Marlene Goodman Greenebaum ’83 on Dec. 23, 2018

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; or submit them online at stevenson.edu/ventures.
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