

Stevenson University Vol. 40 | No. 2 | Winter 2019-20

# Ventures



## FROM GROUND FLOOR TO CHAMPIONSHIPS

Page 8

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).

**President**  
Elliot Hirshman, Ph.D.

**Chair, Board of Trustees**  
T. Scott Pugatch

**Vice President, University Advancement**  
Christopher R. Vaughan

**Vice President, Marketing and Digital Communications and Publisher**  
John A. Buettner

**Editors**  
John A. Buettner  
Alison Cuomo

**Design**  
Atsuko Biars  
Tiffany Reese

**Contributors**  
Chip Burke, Steve Jones, Samantha Brooke Murray '13, Greg Royce, Brandon Seidl '06, Dan Walker, Cheryl A. Wilson, Ph.D.

**Advancing the Mission Contributors**  
Office of University Advancement

**Photography**  
Maximilian Franz, Aaron Harris, Sabina Moran, Aika San Diego '20, Dan Siebenhaar, Office of University Advancement

**Questions or comments about this issue?**  
**Please contact:**  
John A. Buettner, Vice President,  
Marketing and Digital Communications  
Stevenson University  
100 Campus Circle  
Owings Mills, Maryland 21117  
443-352-4494  
[jbuettner@stevenson.edu](mailto:jbuettner@stevenson.edu)

Please visit [stevenson.edu](http://stevenson.edu) for the latest news about the university. No part of this publication may be reproduced in print or digital form without prior permission from the publisher.

# Ventures

News for alumni and friends of Stevenson University Vol. 40 | No. 2 | Winter 2019-20

## FEATURES

8 **From Ground Floor to Championships**  
A look back on the humble beginnings, hard work, and huge successes that have defined the path of the VJC/SU Mustangs for the past quarter century.

16 **SUstainable Traditions**  
Green is more than an SU color. It's part of Stevenson's culture and a growing commitment to teaching and living sustainability.

## IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 President's Perspective
- 2 Around the Quad
- 5 Student Success
- 7 Excelling On and Off the Field
- 22 Advancing the Mission
- 29 Class Notes

Starting in late summer and continuing through fall, Stevenson has been engaged in collecting input from our community for the university's next Strategic Plan. Through discussions and with this valuable input, we have been developing the broad goals for the university as well as specific initiatives that will help us reach each of these goals over the next decade.

Framing this work on the Strategic Plan has been an overarching theme of "Continuity and Change." First, we need to plan for and embrace changes that can make the university stronger. We also want to maintain a continuity with the established strengths, values, and experiences that have defined Stevenson for the past 72 years.

You can clearly see the theme in this issue of *Ventures*. This year, we celebrate the first quarter century of VJC/SU NCAA athletics in the article "From Ground Floor to Championships." No one can deny the tremendous changes and growth of Stevenson athletics nor its close-knit spirit and drive for excellence over the past 25 years. Continuity and change are clearly at work in the history of Mustang athletics.

The article "Sustainable Traditions" also captures this theme. Environmental sustainability and stewardship are perennial topics in our world that have found unique expressions at Stevenson, from our academic programs and Center for Environmental Stewardship to our community gardens. Running through all these things is our enduring commitment to teaching excellence and discovering new ways to enhance our students' learning experiences. The next time bees buzz by you on our campus, remember they are not only pollinating plants—they are also teaching our students about animal behavior.

As we close out 2019, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge Stevenson's many alumni, parents, and friends whose generosity is making the future of our university and our students ever stronger. The entire Stevenson community joins me in thanking you for your continued support and wishing you all the best in the new year.



Elliot L. Hirshman, Ph.D.





## Stevenson Named a “Best Value School” in the 2020 *U.S. News* Best Colleges Rankings

For the second year in a row, Stevenson University has been named among the “Best Value Schools” by *U.S. News and World Report*. The 2020 Best Colleges rankings, released September 9, also ranked Stevenson among the “Best Colleges for Veterans” and “Best Regional Universities-North.”

To receive the “Best Value” designation, *U. S. News* evaluates a university’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.

# University Breaking Ground on New Library and Theater



In early 2020, Stevenson will break ground and begin site development on a new Library and Theater complex on the Owings Mills campus. The 55,000-square-foot facility will be located at Owings Mills North, complementing the university's 200,000-square-foot Manning Academic Center and School of Design also located there.

In addition to a library, the complex will include a black box theater accompanied by additional spaces for rehearsals, a green room, and costume and scene shops; a faculty commons with offices; and a variety of gathering spaces for academic, social, and cultural functions. This building will enhance Stevenson's student experience on the Owings Mills campus by expanding study and social spaces as well as foster collaborations between academic departments. Look for updates in the coming year.

# Faculty Kudos



**Inna Alesina, M.F.A., Assistant Professor of Graphic Design**, delivered her paper, “Nature as a Framework for Teaching Design,” at the International Conference for Design Education Researchers in Turkey in July. She also has another patent to her name. Her latest invention, the WGWAG ([corcl.com/the-wgwag](http://corcl.com/the-wgwag)), received its official U.S. patent last month.

**Heather E. Harris, Ph.D., Professor of Communication**, co-edited *Michelle Obama and the FLOTUS Effect: Platform, Presence, and Agency (Race, Representation, and American Political Institutions)*, released in Nov. 2019, and edited *Neo-race Realities in the Obama Era*, published in May 2019.



**Bobby Jackson, Stevenson alumnus and Adjunct Professor, Stevenson University Online**, was named the Science Teacher Specialist and CDC Science Ambassador for Anne Arundel County Public Schools. In his new role, he is responsible for developing and implementing science curriculum for all schools K-12 within the school system and providing professional development and support for teachers.

**Anna Kayes, Ed.D., Professor of Management**, presented her paper, “Learning to Practice Decision Making and Judgment,” at the Research in Management Learning and Education conference held at the University of Dubrovnik in Croatia.



**Amanda Licastro, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of English**, has been invited to join a small group of scholars to serve on the Oxford English Dictionary Researchers Advisory Board to help develop and test new digital tools that will aide researchers who wish to utilize the Oxford English Dictionary in their scholarship and teaching. She will be sharing the ways she uses the OED through a series of blog posts and webinars. The Oxford English Dictionary is the definitive record of the English language, featuring 600,000 words, 3 million quotations, and more than 1,000 years of English.

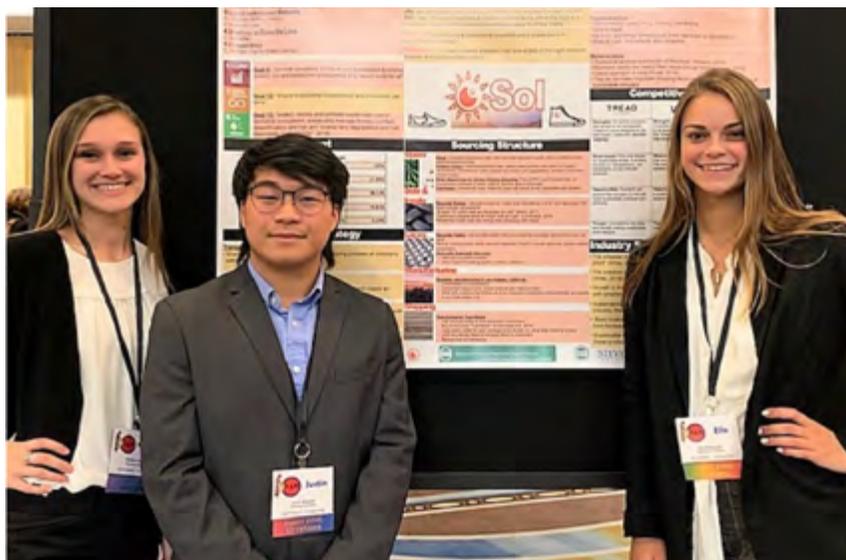
**Lisa Moyer, Ph.D., Program Coordinator and Assistant Professor of Graduate Education**, traveled to Cairo, Egypt, in March and August to facilitate workshops. The project, funded by USAID, partners STEM education professors and leaders from several U.S. universities with deans and professors from four Egyptian universities to develop a secondary STEM teacher education program designed to serve the growing need for educators in STEM fields throughout Egypt. During this five-year project, Moyer will continue to collaborate with U.S. and Egyptian faculty and leaders through travel to Cairo and Philadelphia.



**Kim Pause Tucker, Ph.D., Director of the Center for Environmental Sustainability**, and **Joe Matanoski, Ph.D., Professor of Biology**, were awarded \$4,000 from the BGE Green Grants program to fund Eco reps and for Native Plant Garden work.

**Christopher Llewellyn Reed, M.F.A., Chair and Professor, Film and Moving Image**, has been asked to serve as the documentary programmer of the Columbia, Md.-based Lakefront Film Festival in its upcoming second year. The festival will run July 23-26, 2020.

## Fashion Merchandising Students Win Competition



In October, Fashion Merchandising majors Meghan Roberts, Justin Baluyot, and Elle Bialozynski won third place/Honorable Mention in the Educators for Socially Responsible Apparel Practices Business Plan competition for their project, Sol. The students developed the business plan in their Merchandise Sourcing and Logistics course for a socially and environmentally responsible shoe line, focusing on using recycled materials, domestic production, and full product lifecycle sustainability. The award was presented at the closing luncheon of the International Textile and Apparel Association's Annual Meeting in Las Vegas.



## SU Teachers of Promise

Eight Stevenson 2019 graduates—Autumn Horrell, Bella Fowler, Emily Janssen, De'Asia Winder, Jazmyn Delano, Rachel Sindicic, and Molly Baker from the School of Education, and Derrick Brewer from Stevenson University Online's MAT program—were named 2019 Maryland Teachers of Promise. These teacher candidates were recognized as among the most promising and gifted pre-service educators who plan to teach in Maryland.

## Biochem Major Scores Research Position



Senior Biochemistry major Kristen Snitchler completed a summer internship at Kennedy Krieger in the Behavioral Psychology Department, specifically within the Child and Family Therapy Clinic. Snitchler worked alongside post-doctoral fellows and psychologists in order to score patient measures and create assessment reports for patients at the clinic. Additionally, she was able to observe counseling sessions, group sessions, and individual sessions run by the clinicians. Snitchler is interested in pursuing a career in medical research and has already a fair amount of independent research experience under her belt.

After graduation this December, she will join the Structural Biophysics Laboratory (SBL) at the National Institutes of Health as part of the Postbaccalaureate Intramural Research Training Program. The SBL focuses on solution structural biology and biophysics aimed at understanding and regulating the mechanism of action of proteins and nucleic acids. Congratulations, Kristen!



## Nursing Student Receives Scholarship for International Study

Sophomore Desiree Miller has been named the recipient of the Judith Waranch Scholarship for International Study. In spring 2020, she will participate in the SU in Spain (ISA) program and take courses in health sciences and humanities at the Universidad Católica de Valencia.



**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.



**TOP:** The women's volleyball team won its eighth consecutive MAC Commonwealth championship and made its ninth straight NCAA appearance.

**BOTTOM LEFT:** Senior Patrick Watson became the first Mustang to win a MAC individual cross country championship as he led the Mustangs to a second place finish.

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** Senior DR Medtart was one of three men's soccer players named to the CoSIDA Academic All-District Team.

# MUSTANGS FALL SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

The Mustangs had a phenomenal fall. Football finished second in the Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) and reached the postseason for the sixth straight season, hosting a game in the Centennial-MAC Bowl Series.

Women's volleyball won its eighth straight MAC Commonwealth championship and made its ninth straight NCAA appearance.

Senior Patrick Watson was the Middle Atlantic Conference individual champion in men's cross country as the Mustangs had three of the top finishers en route to a second place finish.

Women's cross country had its best finish at the MAC Championship (3rd), with junior Emily Gates finishing second overall.

Men's soccer had three student-athletes, senior DR Medtart, junior Tariq Lee, and sophomore Matt Stellitano named to the CoSIDA Academic All-District Team.

Men's soccer earned the top overall seed in the ECAC Division III Men's Soccer Championship.



# FROM GROUND CHAMPIONS

BY STEVE JONES



# OFF FLOOR TO IPS: *The 25-Year Growth of Stevenson Athletics*

# THE YEAR WAS 1993. AT A TIME WHEN THE TORONTO BLUE JAYS, DALLAS COWBOYS, AND CHICAGO BULLS WERE THE ESTABLISHED POWERS IN PROFESSIONAL SPORTS, VILLA JULIE WAS JUST BEGINNING THE PROCESS OF STARTING A COMPREHENSIVE ATHLETIC PROGRAM.

In the mid-1990s, there were no state-of-the-art athletic facilities. The Villa Julie athletic department operated solely on the small campus located in the Greenspring Valley. The transformative additions of the Owings Mills Gymnasium and Mustang Stadium wouldn't happen for more than 15 years.

Since the beginning of the school's NCAA era in 1994-1995, the teams from Villa Julie/Stevenson have won 46 conference championships, made 43 NCAA Tournament appearances, and won an NCAA championship in men's lacrosse. Who could have imagined that level of achievement 25 years ago?

## STEPPING UP

The first step towards the 27-sport program that the school operates today was gaining admission to the NCAA at the Division III level. On the field, Villa Julie wasn't starting from scratch. The school already had several teams that played independent schedules, despite a lack of NCAA affiliation.

"The NCAA required you to have eight sports, four men's and four women's, and a men's and women's sport in each season," said Brett Adams, who was hired as the school's first full-time Athletic Director in 1994. "Our application got accepted, but one of the requirements was that we needed to have a full-time person in athletics."

Carol Zimmerman, a coach and athletic administrator at Villa Julie, delivered the school's presentation at the 1994 NCAA Convention in San Antonio, Texas.

"In our presentation, we stressed that we had the support of the school and that we already had some teams in place," recalled Zimmerman, who coached track and field, cross country, and also served as the Associate Athletic Director during her 26 years at the school. "We only had about five minutes to present on the last day of the convention. We were standing in the hallway, and within a half-hour they came out and told us."

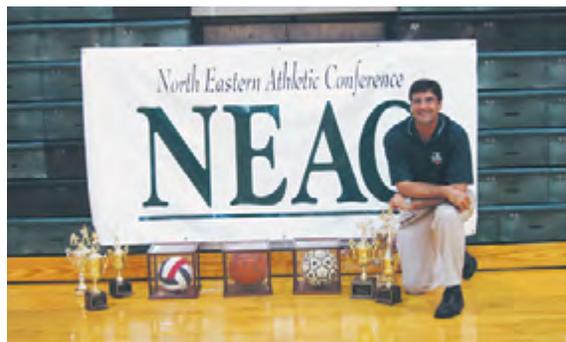
Villa Julie left the 1994 NCAA convention with the membership in hand. Adams was now tasked to build an NCAA Division III athletic program. The next step would require an even higher level of dedication, patience, and perseverance.

"When I got here, it was all new and exciting," Adams said. "I was confident that we could build a pretty great athletic program. But it wasn't easy."



**ABOVE:** Women's soccer alumni gather on the front field at Greenspring, shared by five teams in the early days of Mustang athletics.

**TOP RIGHT:** Carol Zimmerman, who served as Associate Athletic Director for 26 years, took VJC's case to the 1994 NCAA Convention.



Brett Adams was instrumental in the creation of the North East Athletic Conference (NEAC), a 12-school conference that VJC came to dominate.





**RIGHT:** Dick Watts brought his experience building athletic programs and was instrumental in growing Stevenson's athletics program and mentoring staff and coaches.



## BUILDING THE PROGRAM

In addition to developing a multi-sport athletic program, Adams also served as the school's first men's basketball head coach and the head men's and women's tennis coach. The graduate of York (Pa.) College knew that he couldn't do it all by himself, so he relied on the assistance of the college's long-time (since 1988) athletic consultant Dick Watts. Watts was a former athletic director and coach who had built an entire collegiate athletic program. Nearly 30 years earlier, Dick Watts had taken the reins of a fledgling athletic operation at the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC). Watts was also the first head men's lacrosse coach at UMBC, heading the Retriever program for 26 years.

Adams and Watts placed a great emphasis on the basics of the building process.

"Dick's favorite phrase was 'you have to crawl before you walk, and walk before you run,'" said Adams. "His philosophy was to take the right steps at the right time. He was a great mentor for me.

"The other two people who kept me together day-to-day were Carol Zimmerman and administrative assistant Fran Fidler. They were the even keel for me, because I was going in a hundred directions. Scott Duncan, who worked as our assistant facilities person, assistant men's basketball coach, head men's and women's tennis coach, and sports information director, was also very important."

## LIFT-OFF

As the 1994-1995 academic year began, Villa Julie made its first appearance as an NCAA Division III institution. The Mustang program included six men's and five women's teams. On the men's side, Stevenson fielded teams in basketball, cross country, golf, lacrosse, soccer, and tennis. The Mustang women competed in field hockey, lacrosse, soccer, tennis, and indoor track and field. Women's basketball came on board for the 1995-1996 campaign.

"We started a program with five players," said Chris Ramer, the school's women's basketball coach from 1995 to 2011. "We had no (on-campus) place for the kids to stay, so my recruiting base was players who could commute. But small steps breed success, and we did what we had to do to be successful."

But the existing facilities at the Greenspring campus were limited. With no gymnasium on campus, the men's and women's basketball teams had to utilize middle school and high school facilities until an on-campus gym was constructed in 1999. The outdoor sports were also affected. The field hockey, men's and women's soccer, and men's and women's lacrosse teams had to share the same grass field.

"There was one field for every field sport," said MC McFadden, who came to Villa Julie in 1996 to coach the women's lacrosse team and is now an Assistant Athletic Director and Head Strength and Conditioning Coach at Stevenson. "Can you imagine that in this day and age? The half-field line (for men's and women's lacrosse) isn't even in the same place, and I can remember yelling at the guys to stay off my end of the field."

With no gymnasium yet on the campus, teams couldn't even go inside to practice.

“Those ladies that played lacrosse for me in that first year still remember when it was snowing and I just told them to keep running,” McFadden recalled. “We had nowhere else to go.”

The facilities still needed improvement after Paul Cantabene became the head men’s lacrosse coach in 2005.

“It was quite an eye-opener, comparing what we had to where I came from,” said Cantabene, who arrived at Villa Julie after stints as an assistant coach at Johns Hopkins, Towson, and Maryland. “The practice field was slanted with a bunch of rocks in it.”

But the athletic department was showing steady growth, on and off the field. By the 1999-2000 school year, three more sports were added: women’s volleyball, baseball, and softball. However, the young Villa Julie athletic program was still looking

“Everyone in a conference would play you early, but wouldn’t play you late,” Adams said. “It was difficult to schedule soccer and field hockey games in October and basketball games in February.”

The solution was membership in the North East Athletic Conference, a new 12-school conference launched in 2004-2005 that Villa Julie and Adams helped to form. The Mustangs dominated the conference, earning the President’s Cup for overall athletic excellence for three straight years. The men’s basketball team, coached by Adams, earned an NCAA Tournament at-large bid in 2005-2006 and followed up with Villa Julie’s first conference title and a second consecutive NCAA appearance the next year. The men’s lacrosse team became the first squad in school history to receive a national Top 20 ranking in the spring of 2007.



**ABOVE:** The 2000 women's soccer team became the first VJC team to earn an NCAA berth, qualifying as an at-large selection. The Mustangs reached the second round. **TOP RIGHT:** The 2005-06 and 2006-07 men's basketball teams made back-to-back NCAA appearances, with the 06-07 squad (pictured) winning the NEAC championship. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Women's ice hockey, in year four as a varsity program, won the inaugural Colonial Hockey Conference championship in 2016.

for its first NCAA Tournament berth. The 2000 women’s soccer team finally broke through, earning an at-large berth and advancing to the third round.

“That was a milestone,” Adams said. “We’d gotten some Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) bids, but that wasn’t the same kind of recognition as the NCAA.”

Villa Julie finally won its first championship of any kind in 2003, when the men’s lacrosse team claimed the ECAC South title.

## THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

While the athletic program was making significant progress, it was difficult for Villa Julie to continue playing independent schedules.

Shortly thereafter, Villa Julie transitioned to the Capital Athletic Conference for the 2007-2008 year. A move to Stevenson’s current home, the Middle Atlantic Conference, happened prior to the 2012-2013 academic year.

## A NEW ERA

The school’s name change from Villa Julie College to Stevenson University in 2008 signaled a new era for an institution whose enrollment and athletic program were steadily growing. The university’s leadership had a larger vision for the next phase of Stevenson’s athletic future. Kevin Manning, Ph.D., the school’s President, and Tim Campbell, Stevenson’s Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, recognized the opportunity for Stevenson to become a DIII power.

“We wanted to be a national leader in Division III athletics,” said Manning, who led Stevenson from 2000 until his 2016 retirement. “And, we understood that we had to establish a higher level of awareness of Stevenson for parents and students.”

The greater name recognition would lead to more interest in Stevenson as a collegiate destination.

“We knew what the popularity of sports could mean, in terms of recruitment and enrollment,” Manning said. “Colleges that hadn’t previously focused their attention on athletics were starting to add teams.”



Kathy Railey and the 2014 women’s lacrosse team won the Commonwealth Conference championship, rallying past Messiah for a 13-12 win, and made the program’s first NCAA appearance.



A former football player at Lafayette College and Temple University, Campbell was equally committed to this vision.

“Growing up in Philadelphia, I played sports from the time I could walk,” said Campbell, who retired in August 2019 after 22 years at the school. “I always thought that a big part of the college experience was the pride and school spirit that you felt for your teams.”

## THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE

For many years, the current headquarters of Stevenson’s athletic department was home to two NFL franchises and a CFL team. In 1980, the Baltimore Colts opened the facility that is now known as the Caves Athletics Complex. After the Colts’ franchise left for Indianapolis in 1984, the CFL’s Baltimore Stallions occupied the complex from 1994 to 1996, when the NFL’s Cleveland Browns moved to Baltimore and became the Ravens. Eight years later, the site was vacated again when the Ravens built their own modern facility.

However, the complex didn’t sit idle for long. Villa Julie was growing, and the school realized the possibilities of a second campus that included student housing. The expanding Owings Mills area was chosen as the site, and in 2006 the school acquired the former Colts-Stallions-Ravens facility and established the Caves Athletics Complex.

The restored athletic complex complemented the vision of a comprehensive residential college campus in Owings Mills.

“Those moves were key to the athletic success,” Adams said. “We were able to recruit out-of-region, we had instant recognition with the Ravens, and it spurred the interest in starting football.”

## AN UPDATED LOOK

Stevenson now had the space to expand its athletic program. The first step in the expansion was the construction of the Owings Mills Gymnasium, a 1,400-seat arena that opened in 2010 and provides a home for four Stevenson teams: men’s and women’s basketball and men’s and women’s volleyball.



**FIRST WIN:** In 2011, SU unveiled its new stadium, which hosted football’s inaugural home opener on Sept. 10. The Mustangs won, 46-43, over Christopher Newport University in double overtime.

Now home to Mustang Stadium, the Owings Mills Gymnasium, and the Hall of Fame, Stevenson's athletics complex had roots as the former practice facility of the NFL Colts and Ravens.



The addition of football, which began competing in 2011, heralded the beginning of a new era in the university's athletic history and a new conference affiliation. It also spurred the building of Mustang Stadium, a 3,500-seat facility that opened in the fall of 2011 and houses the men's and women's lacrosse, men's and women's soccer, and field hockey teams in addition to football.

"The decision to add football was made prior to the stadium planning," Campbell said. "The Ravens' facility already had practice fields, but the only other football-related item was the lockers that the team used."

The addition of football also influenced Stevenson's decision to change conferences.

"The Capital Athletic Conference wouldn't recognize football, so we joined the MAC partly because we needed a home for football, which is an important piece of our program," said Adams, who stepped down as men's basketball coach after the 2010-2011 season and was succeeded by current coach Gary Stewart. "They also had automatic qualifiers for so many of our other sports."

During the first two seasons, head football coach Ed Hottle saw signs of progress. He regarded a 2013 game at Widener as a turning point in the program's history.

"That game was two heavyweights slugging it out," recalled Hottle, now in his ninth year at the Mustang helm. "We lost, but we stood toe-

to-toe for four quarters for the first time. We'd gone through the rough part, and knew that we could match the physicality of one of the best teams in the league. We had grown up."

## THE WIDE WORLD OF MUSTANG SPORTS

Football wasn't the only new game in town. Over the last 10 years, Stevenson added five additional programs to its athletic inventory. Women's ice hockey debuted in 2012-2013, and men's and women's swimming started two years later. Women's beach volleyball began playing in the spring of 2016, and men's ice hockey debuted that fall.

But 2013 will no doubt go down as a pivotal year in Stevenson's NCAA history. The men's lacrosse team had been building toward a championship for several years, reaching the NCAA semifinals in 2009, 2010, and 2012. The 2013 team, featuring significant talent and depth at every position, completed the run by winning Stevenson's first national championship in any sport.

"The 2009 team all believed that they could win, and they played with this awesome edge," said Cantabene, who also serves as the school's Associate Athletic Director and has led the Mustangs to 11 consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances, nine conference



titles, and the 2013 national championship. “That was the first team that was able to get over the hump and win that big game. Those guys set the tone for the 2010-2012 teams that were really talented, and it all came together with the 2013 team.”

The men’s lacrosse program has had plenty of successful company. Under the direction of Dave Trumbo, the women’s volleyball team has also been a model of excellence, receiving an at-large bid to the 2011 NCAA Tournament and earning eight consecutive MAC titles since entering the conference in the fall of 2012. Stevenson’s run of NCAA appearances has stretched to nine straight years.

“It’s been built on belief and chemistry,” said head coach Dave Trumbo. “First, you’ve got to recruit the best players. We’ve had great leadership, and kids who just didn’t want to lose. The coaches have worked really hard to give the players a game plan that they can execute, and the fact that we’re so prepared gives confidence to the players.”

In 2014, coach Kathy Railey guided the women’s lacrosse team to a MAC title and NCAA Tournament berth, and coach Graeme Millar’s women’s soccer team reached those same heights. The women’s basketball team, coached by Jackie

Boswell, used an experienced lineup and a sophomore All-American in Sarah Tarbert to win the program’s first conference title and reach the second round of the 2014-2015 NCAA Tournament. In its fourth season, the Mustang women’s ice hockey team won the 2015-2016 Colonial Hockey Conference championship.

The men’s and women’s golf teams, coached by Chris Ramer, have also become a consistent player on the national scene. The men’s squad has made four consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances after earning MAC titles from 2016 to 2019, while the women’s team won MAC titles and earned NCAA berths in 2015, 2016, and 2019.

The men’s volleyball program, under the direction of Olympic gold medalist Aldis Berzins, earned NCAA Tournament berths in two of the last four seasons, and under the direction of alumnus Steve Grossnickle, the team advanced to the Final Four in 2016. The men’s tennis team won a MAC title and reached the NCAA Tournament in the spring of 2019, while the men’s indoor and outdoor track and field teams have each won their last two MAC championships.

It didn’t take long for the Stevenson football program to set a high standard either. The Mustangs are on a run of six consecutive postseason appearances that began in 2014. In its sixth season of existence, Stevenson won the Middle Atlantic Conference football title and reached the NCAA Tournament for the first time.

“It was pretty evident to me that all of the pieces were here to build football quickly and efficiently,” Hottle said. “Since 2014, we’ve gone 48-18. I don’t think it’s by accident that we’ve had that kind of success.”

## HONORING THE BUILDERS

The last 25 years have provided many memorable achievements for a Villa Julie/Stevenson athletic program that is still developing. While the pursuit of more championships for its current 27-sport lineup provides hope for Stevenson’s athletic future, the school has taken steps to remember and honor its past.

The Dick Watts Athletics Hall of Fame, which inducted its first class in 2014, now has 47 members. The centerpiece of the 25th anniversary celebration will be the unveiling of all-time teams for each Stevenson sport, which will contain the names of many current Hall of Famers.

On October 18, Adams was among the sixth class of Hall of Fame inductees, joining a shrine that was named for the man who helped him to begin the school’s sports legacy.

“Any time you build a great organization, it’s about the kids and their experience,” Adams said. “I’m proud of the impact that we have made on our student-athletes.” **SU**

**Steve Jones**—now in his ninth year as the “Voice of the Mustangs”—has served as the public address announcer for Stevenson football, men’s and women’s volleyball, men’s and women’s basketball, and men’s and women’s lacrosse. During his 16-year journalism career, he has written about sports, education, and politics for the *Baltimore Sun*, *Press Box*, the *Carroll Eagle*, and the *Towson Times*. This story is the first that he has written for *Ventures*.





# SUSTAINABLE TRADITIONS

FROM PAST TO PRESENT, GREEN IS PART OF STEVENSON'S SPIRIT

BY CHERYL A. WILSON, Ph.D.

## A WALK ACROSS THE DELL FAMILY PATHWAY FROM THE CAVES SPORTS AND WELLNESS CENTER BRINGS STEVENSON UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF OVER THE GWYNNNS FALLS—WHICH BURBLES (HEERFULLY BELOW—

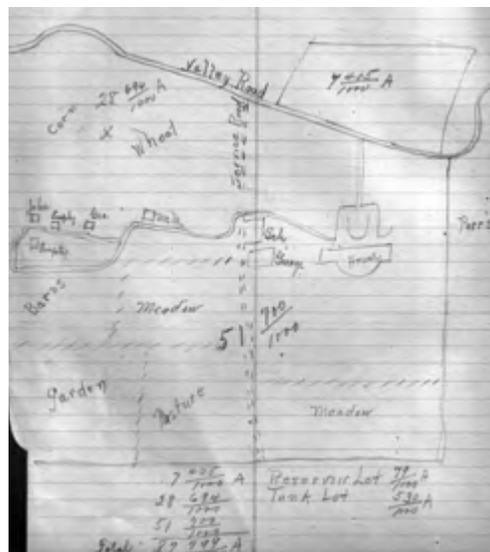
and through a protected wetland that is home to a variety of local flora and fauna. At the top of the pathway on the Owings Mills North section of campus, walkers pass Stevenson University’s Native Plant Garden. The garden features more than 25 species of native plants and trees, including Black-Eyed Susans and Coneflowers, Dogwood and Red Bud Trees, and Spice Bush. A Certified Wildlife Habitat, the Native Plant Garden is also home to bats, birds, snapping turtles, and numerous insects. Prior to 2017, this 6,600-square-foot space was a sloping hillside of grass, rocks, and dirt. Now, it is a beautiful and useful feature of Stevenson’s campus. How did the Native Plant Garden transform from dirt and rocks to birds and flowers? With a little grit, a lot of sweat, support from some friends, and characteristic SU community spirit.

Sustainability and stewardship are not new concepts for Stevenson. According to University Archivist and Chair of History and Humanities, Glenn Johnston, Ph.D., in 1947, when the sisters of Notre Dame de Namur purchased the estate that would become Villa Julie College, the property was

primarily used for farming and agriculture. The front lawn was planted with corn; the property around the Cuvilly Exchange was home to livestock, including pigs, cows, and sheep; and the tennis courts were an open meadow. Much of the farm was kept intact and integrated with the activities of the new school. For instance, the annual fashion show, for which students made and modeled their own creations, was held on catwalks built outside the barns, and the sisters generated income from the sale of eggs and other farm produce. Indeed, the monthly receipts from these sales—on average \$20 per month—appear in the institution’s accounting ledger through the middle of the 1950s. Since its days as Villa Julie College, Stevenson University has always had a strong connection to its environment, and that tradition continues today.

While the front lawn is no longer planted with corn, Stevenson does have two Community Gardens—one on Greenspring and one on Owings Mills North. The Community Gardens began in 2012 as an initiative to support a healthy campus environment by promoting

**LEFT:** In August 1947, the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur drew this rough map of their new acquisition to help in launching Villa Julie, their new educational enterprise.



**RIGHT:** Villa Julie’s administrators kept careful account of expenses. Here they recorded the original setting up expense of “Farm” on August 15, 1947, for \$270.00

Villa Julie	
Exp. out on Purchase July 23, 1947	102,000
Balance of Purchase at August 15, 1947	25,000
Tools, etc.	6,000
Lawyer's fee, etc.	1,000
<b>Complete Purchase Price</b>	<b>134,000</b>
<b>Setting Up Expenses</b>	
Expenses	3,000
Repairs	2,000
Supplies	2,100
Chapel Furnishings	1,600
Books	2,000
Medicine	500
Farm	2,700
Laundry Equipment and Supplies	3,000
School Equipment and Supplies	2,500
Transport	1,000
Advertising	1,000
Salaries	2,000
Telephone	1,000
Provisions and Misc.	2,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>67,800</b>
<b>Complete Purchase Price</b>	<b>134,000.00</b>
<b>Setting Up Expenses</b>	<b>67,800.00</b>
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>201,800.00</b>



The Stevenson University Native Plant Garden was completed and dedicated on April 20, 2018 at the hillside above the Gwynns Falls.

outdoor exercise, healthy eating, and community engagement. Alex Boulton, Ph.D., retired Professor of History, was one of the first champions of the Community Garden, and he collaborated with staff in the Office of Human Resources to realize this project. The Greenspring Community Garden is now under the purview of Natasha Miller, Ph.D., Director of Assessment, who recounts the pleasure that she and fellow gardeners take in contributing to campus beautification by growing flowers and sharing garden produce with their families and colleagues. In years of surplus, the produce is donated to a local food bank. Throughout the spring and summer, Stevenson's Community Gardens hum with activity.

Contributing to that hum at the Owings Mills Community Garden are the campus honeybees—all 150,000 of them. Joe Matanoski, Ph.D., Professor of Biology, has kept beehives in the Community Garden since 2013, and their residents are thriving. In addition to providing crucial pollination for the campus gardens and other green spaces, the bees are also the subject of study for students who learn about animal behavior and social insects in courses such as BIO 115: Ecology and Evolution and ENV 270: Animal Behavior. The Stevenson hives are registered with the Central Maryland Beekeepers Association and are regularly inspected to ensure the health of the bees. Matanoski's bees have even been spotted on the Owings Mills section of campus. Perhaps they, too, enjoy the view as they buzz across the Gwynns Falls.

With a culture marked by academic and community engagement with sustainability and stewardship, it is unsurprising that Stevenson was attracting students who shared these interests. Building on the strength of the Biology program, the university established the Environmental Science major in

2013. Meredith Durmowicz, Ph.D., Dean of the Beverly K. Fine School of the Sciences, explains that an Environmental Science program was a natural next step for SU and grew out of existing faculty expertise and increasing student interest in studying ecology and the environment. Stevenson's Environmental Science major was designed to provide students with the opportunity to make connections across disciplines. In addition to their science courses, students also take courses in ethics, social sciences, and environmental law; and they complete capstone and internship projects at sites such as Irvine Nature Center, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and Marshy Point Nature Center. Graduates of the program are working for organizations including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Baltimore Green Space, and the National Aquarium, among others.

Environmental Science senior Gillian Nutter completed her internship at Argonne National Laboratory in Lemont, Ill., where she analyzed the environmental and health effects of plastics and air pollutants. Of her experience, Nutter notes, "These projects allowed me to gain an insight into policy making and the funding of varying types of research. This summer also allowed me to research how drinking water standards and methods for cleanup of pollutants should be able to evolve as research and technologies evolve."

Senior Isaac Maxwell has combined a major in Environmental Science with a minor in History and interned at Lake Roland County Park in Baltimore County as a Park Ranger/Naturalist Intern. He worked on several projects aimed at educating park visitors, including creating a QR Tour in which visitors could access tour stop information right from their phones as they walk through the park. "Through this internship, I was



**ABOVE:** “Poetry for the Planet,” sponsored by the English Department in collaboration with the Center for Environmental Sustainability and School of Design, brought students from multiple majors together to create poetry that reflects their vision of the challenges and opportunities facing our environment. **RIGHT:** The Stevenson Reef Ball Project brought students and faculty together to make concrete reef balls that were placed in the Chesapeake Bay to create new habitat for oysters and other aquatic life.



able to learn about incorporating technology and research into interpretation and education, as well as shadow many elements of park management and maintenance,” he said.

Program alumna Bethany Liberto ’17 interned with the National Aquarium’s Animal Care Center, where she learned about the importance of zoos and aquariums in conservation work. Liberto is now building on her experience and pursuing graduate study at Frostburg State University.

Interest in sustainability and stewardship at SU is not limited to the sciences, however. Faculty and students across campus are working on projects that demonstrate how these topics can be addressed from a range of disciplinary perspectives. For instance, Assistant Professor of Graphic Design, Inna Alessina, M.F.A., was recently recognized with a 2019 Design Education Initiative Award from Core77 for her gallery installation *Overlooked*, which was hosted in Stevenson’s Greenspring Art Gallery. *Overlooked* incorporated biological materials to create interactive art pieces, educate viewers about these living materials, and deliver a message about the importance of symbiotic relationships. As a designer, Alessina recognizes the need “to think about impact of your designs in the world.” Students in her classes also have the opportunity to explore the intersections between sustainability and design; one class project involves SU students collaborating with Irvine Nature Center’s children’s programs to design a nature-based educational toy.

In the English Department, Senior Lecturer Ashley Kniss, Ph.D., is bringing together environmental studies and literature. Working in the emerging field of “eco horror,” Kniss studies how writers imagine the interactions between the human body and the natural world before, during, and after death. Her research examines the synergies between the living and the dead and the experience of the natural world. Like her counterparts in the sciences and design, Kniss has noted growing student interest in these areas and is excited to help the humanities contribute to the culture of sustainability

and stewardship at SU. She observes, “the power of the humanities is our ability to explore scientific narrative ... we can tell the story and parse the narratives of the data.”

In 2013, under the leadership of the previous Dean of the School of the Sciences and current University Provost, Susan Gorman, Ph.D., Stevenson formally established a central place for like-minded faculty, students, and staff to come together: the Center for Environmental Stewardship (CES). Directed by Kim Pause Tucker, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences, the CES aims “to cultivate an environmentally literate citizenry and support educational opportunities and programs in environmental science and sustainability.” Tucker explains that the CES takes service and education as its focus and encourages all members of the SU community to adopt personal responsibility for environmental stewardship. Community service and service-learning are central to the mission of the CES, which provides leadership for a number of campus initiatives including:

**LEAVE STEVE GREEN:** As students move out of the residence halls at the end of the year, they have the opportunity to donate clothing, household items, and food to local community partners via the CES. Last year, residents donated more than 6,000 pounds of clothing/household items and 1,000 pounds of unused non-perishable food.

**REDUCE YOUR HOOFPRIINT CHALLENGE:** In collaboration with students in the Graphic Design program, the CES created a year-long challenge, encouraging members of the SU community to take small steps to make a difference and reduce the carbon footprint (or, Mustang hoofprint) of the campus.

Faculty and students working with the CES have received several grants to support campus-wide projects. This support from organizations including BGE, the National Science Foundation MADE CLEAR Grant program, and Chesapeake Bay Trust has provided educational opportunities, supported student workers, and allowed for the purchase of equipment and supplies. One



Joe Matanoski, Ph.D., caught the beekeeping buzz in 2013 and brought the first hive to campus that same year. He now has three hives with approximately 150,000 European honeybees.



Kim Pause Tucker, Ph.D., uses the Gwynns Falls watershed running through the Owings Mills campus as a natural laboratory for environmental education.

of the most visible products of the grants are the water bottle filling stations that were installed through the combined efforts of Tucker and Matanoski. There are two stations in the Manning Academic Center and one in Mustang Stadium, and they serve as a reminder to students, faculty, and staff to reduce their reliance on disposable plastics and BYOB (bottle, that is).

In describing her work with Stevenson's Community Garden, Miller explains, "you get what you put into it." This is, indeed, an apt characterization not just of the garden, but of sustainability and stewardship at Stevenson as a whole. The university has been fortunate to have supporters from the community as well as from among the faculty and staff. Community partnerships are essential to the success of these initiatives, and SU works to give back to the community, too. For instance, the campus is home to a chapter of the Food Recovery Network, a national network of college students who pick up unused food from the dining halls and bring it to hunger fighting partners in



#### How you can help the Environment?

##### Advice from the CES Students:

- Bring your own bag to the store
  - Carpool
  - Eat ugly produce
  - Skip the straw
  - Unplug electronic energy vampires
- Follow Stevenson's Center for Environmental Stewardship on social media @stevensonces.

the community. In coordination with Sodexo, Stevenson's Dining Services, and advised by Tucker, this program is now in its third year. The SU facilities team, too, has prioritized sustainability, implementing creative and eco-friendly strategies across campus. The examples are many and include the switch to fluorescent bulbs; installation of motion sensors on lights; and the use of sand, instead of salt, on the Dell Family Pathway to ensure that chemicals do not melt into the Gwynns Falls below. In addition, under the leadership of now-retired Director of Facilities, Jon Wells, Stevenson became the first university in Baltimore County to have composting on campus.

Gorman, under whose aegis many of these initiatives have flourished, is distinctly proud of SU's growth.

"The collective efforts of many people have resulted in numerous tangible campus manifestations of our attention to environmental sustainability and stewardship," she says. "Add to that the less visible, but perhaps more important, actions taken to promote civic engagement and volunteerism, to Leave Steve Green, to clean up our streams, to save the Bay one reef ball at a time, to foster partnerships and networks that support the environment, to deliver environmental education, and you have a university that is truly contributing to serving the greater good by embracing environmental sustainability and stewardship as a way of living."

Sustainability has no endpoint—it's an ever-evolving commitment through which communities explore new ways to promote the health of the environment. In the tradition of the sisters of Notre Dame de Namur selling eggs to support their fledgling institution, the Stevenson University community knows how to make things work. Each campus initiative—whether large or small—provides an opportunity. As Durmowicz affirmed in characterizing sustainability efforts at SU: "We do a lot of small things that add up." 

---

*Cheryl A. Wilson, Ph.D., is Dean of Stevenson's School of Humanities and Social Sciences and Professor of English.*



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, 2018 through June 30, 2019, nearly 1,600 donors gave a total of \$2,584,454 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.**



## Inaugural Day of Giving is a Resounding Success!



Great things happen when we come together for a common cause, and for one day last April, the SU community did just that with spectacular results. For SU’s very first Day of Giving, we issued a 24-hour challenge to meet a \$25,000 goal. With students, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends helping to build enthusiasm and spread the word via social media and our Day of Giving page, we met our goal within a few short hours. The momentum continued and by the end of the event, nearly \$47,000 was raised, with contributions from across the entire SU community and across the country.

**WATCH FOR DETAILS** about Day of Giving 2020 from noon on April 23 to noon on April 24.

# Biomedical Program Attracts Generous Support



The Kahlert Foundation committed \$200,000 to assist with the program's capital costs, including equipment, materials, and staffing. A portion of the Kahlert Foundation's contribution will also provide scholarships to Biomedical Engineering students. In addition, Jack Dunn, the parent of a Stevenson student and a member of Stevenson's President's Advisory Council, made a gift of more than \$80,000 in support of the program.

"Starting a new academic program is a significant undertaking in terms of time, effort, human, and financial resources," says Meredith Durmowicz Ph.D., Dean of the Beverly K. Fine School of the Sciences. "STEM programs in particular tend to require a lot of specialized expertise and resources. The philanthropic support we have received for our Biomedical Engineering program has enabled us to attract an extremely talented program coordinator who has over 30 years of experience in the biomedical engineering industry as well as several years of experience as a faculty member and administrator in higher education. We will also be able to purchase and provide all of the tools, equipment, and laboratory supplies our students will need to learn and practice the technical engineering skills, apply their scientific knowledge, and engage in the kind of problem-solving that is the hallmark of engineering programs."

Stevenson University's Biomedical Engineering program seeks to prepare students to solve important human health-related scientific problems through the application of engineering principles, ideas, methods, and inventions. Housed within the Beverly K. Fine School of the Sciences, the program emphasizes critical and creative thinking in addition to technical skills and knowledge and provides students with opportunities to apply these skills and knowledge to the solution of real-world problems.

"With the talent and passion of the faculty and staff we have been able to bring on board, and the physical resources in place thanks to the support of our donors, the Biomedical Engineering program is laying a strong foundation for success," says Durmowicz.

## Scholarship Program Success

Donors continue to provide much-needed scholarship funding to Stevenson University students. Approximately 230 students will receive \$971,474 in scholarship funding during the 2019-2020 academic year. The amount of scholarship funds provided to Stevenson's students represents a 10% increase from the amount of scholarship funds donors contributed during the 2018-2019 academic year.

Last year, the following annual scholarship funds were established:

- **The Alumni Association Scholarship Fund**
- **Beigel Waller Annual Scholarship**
- **Stephanie Giles Suit '05 Scholarship**

In addition, donors established several endowed scholarship funds last year. These include:

- **The Hackerman Foundation Endowed Scholarship**
- **The Judith A. Feustle, ScD, RN Scholarship**
- **The Vincent O. Versace Endowed Scholarship**

Scholarships are one of Stevenson University's top philanthropic needs. You can help provide the financial assistance many Stevenson students need by making your gift at [stevenson.edu/GivetoSU](https://stevenson.edu/GivetoSU).

# Strengthening the Alumni Connection

## Matt Glace '03 '06M

*“Stevenson Night at Camden Yards is a great night out to catch up with friends we graduated with as well as meet new alumni. This year was particularly special for me and Cynthia as we used it as an opportunity to reveal that we are expecting a daughter, Madeline Paige, in October.”*

**Matt and Cynthia welcomed Baby Madeline this fall.**

## Caroline Izzi '18

*“SU Night at Camden Yards was my first alumni event. Fresh off of graduation, the ballpark was a great setting to reconnect with friends and SU community members. We had a pregame party in the Bullpen Picnic Area with food and drinks. Our crew sat together to watch the game while sporting the giveaway item—a free Stevenson hat!”*



## Lauren Novsak '19

*“As a student, move-in day was always one of my favorite days of the year. The energy of the day is contagious. You can tell that the students, faculty, and staff are excited for these new Mustangs to start their next chapter. Now that I am an alumna, I could not imagine missing the day—why wouldn't I want to welcome new students to a place I called home?!”*

## Marcie Wood '93 '97

*“I like to volunteer on move-in day because of the excitement that the volunteers bring to welcome the new students, including happy music, loud clapping, and cheering for the students and the actual movers. Seeing the students on day one and knowing they will enjoy all that's involved in their Stevenson experience rocks!”*

# Homecoming + Family Weekend

## Stevenson University Golf Open

On October 18, alumni, parents, students, and friends of the university kicked off Homecoming + Family Weekend at the Stevenson University Golf Open, sponsored by Ruff Roofers. Piney Branch Golf Club, home course to the current Stevenson golf teams, served as the location of this year's tournament. Over \$20,000 was raised in support of student-athletes at Stevenson. President Elliot Hirshman and players from the current golf teams connected with participants on the course and during the luncheon, while coaches caught up with alumni and friends of SU.

## Dick Watts Stevenson University Athletics Hall of Fame

The 2019 class of the Dick Watts Stevenson University Athletics Hall of Fame was formally inducted on October 18 at the annual Hall of Fame Banquet.

Founded in 2014, the Hall of Fame consists of 47 individuals and seven Teams of Tradition. Nominees for this year's class included those who graduated from Stevenson (formerly Villa Julie College) in 2010 or earlier. Nic Bevacqua '09 (men's lacrosse), Jason Cohen '07 (men's tennis), Katie (Decker) Reilly '10 '12M (women's soccer), Annie Ernst '03 (women's soccer and lacrosse), Greg Furshman '09 (men's lacrosse), Lauren Humphries '08 (women's tennis), Tricia Kauffman '09 (women's lacrosse) and Wade Keenan '09 (baseball) were inducted. Current Director of Athletics and former men's basketball head coach Brett Adams was inducted in the contributor category. In addition, the 2009 men's lacrosse team was recognized as a Team of Tradition.

## Tailgate, Football, and Crab Feast

On Saturday, October 19, members of the Stevenson community came together to show their Mustang Pride. The day began with the annual Homecoming Tailgate on the north side of the Owings Mills campus. The Stevenson University Marching Band rallied the tailgate crowd with an exceptional performance and led the group across the Dell Family Pathway to Mustang Stadium where they cheered our SU football team to a 55-7 victory over Albright College. Cheerleading alumni returned to perform during the half time show and the 2019 Hall of Fame Class was honored at midfield. Alumni and families closed out the fun-filled day with the annual Crab Feast.



# Outstanding Alumni Honored at Baccalaureate



## *Distinguished Alumnus Award*

The Distinguished Alumnus Award is presented to a graduate who has achieved a high level of success in his professional career, has made outstanding contributions to his community, and has made his alma mater a philanthropic priority.

### MARC BUNTING '91

Marc Bunting studied Business Administration during his time at Villa Julie College and was a member of the men's lacrosse team. Beyond graduation, he cofounded the Alpine Bagel Company, which currently operates restaurants on the campuses of Massachusetts Institute of Technology and University of North Carolina.

Marc is involved in various civic organizations, including but not limited to Civic Works, the National Aquarium, Catholic Charities, the Kennedy Krieger Institute, and St. Agnes Hospital. Along with his siblings, father, and aunt, Marc is a Director of the Bunting Family Foundation.

Marc served as a member of the Stevenson University Board of Trustees from 2007 to 2017, working alongside university leadership to advance his alma mater. In 2016, Marc championed a campaign to encourage fellow alumni to support the annual fund. His steadfast and transformative support of our students over the years has had a positive impact on the entire campus community.



Young Alumna Award winner Marisa Bender '10 '11M at the Cliffs of Moher in Ireland.

## Loyal Alumna Award

The Loyal Alumna Award is presented to a graduate who consistently demonstrates loyalty and commitment to the university, is directly involved in advancing the Stevenson community, and provides consistent philanthropic support to her alma mater.

### DONNA KAHOE '99

Donna Kahoe earned her degree in Paralegal Studies and went on to become a Legal Analyst at T. Rowe Price, a role she held for 22 years prior to her retirement in August of 2018.

Donna served on Stevenson's Alumni Association Board from 2012-2018 and played an active role, working to engage fellow alumni in the life of the university beyond graduation. Upon completing her final term on the Alumni Board, Donna was invited to join the Board of Trustees. She has fully embraced this role and currently serves on the Governance Committee and Student Affairs Committee, helping to guide the student experience at Stevenson.

Each year Donna enjoys volunteering on new student move-in day, welcoming incoming students and their families to campus. Over the years, Donna has made Stevenson a philanthropic priority through her annual contributions and her recent endowment of a scholarship that will forever impact the lives of student recipients.

## Young Alumna Award

The Young Alumna Award is presented to a graduate of the past 10 years who has achieved extraordinary professional success, has a personal commitment to civic or humanitarian efforts, and has remained engaged with her alma mater.

### MARISA BENDER '10 '11M

Marisa received her bachelor's in Chemistry in 2010 and her master's in Forensic Science in 2011 and was a member of the women's volleyball team. During her time at Stevenson, she was involved in various research projects and rotations with crime laboratories. These opportunities provided her with the experience necessary to succeed in her career. The internship she held during her final year at Stevenson enabled Marisa to secure her current position as a forensic examiner for the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C.

Beyond graduation, Marisa has returned to campus to assist with events planned by faculty from the Fine School of the Sciences. She supports Stevenson's instrument lab on a monthly basis in an effort to provide current and future students with the same opportunities that she was afforded during her time on campus.

## Alumni Day at Boordy



Alumni, parents, families, and friends gathered in Hydes, Md. for Stevenson Day at Boordy Vineyards, on October 5. There was something for everyone with live music, food vendors, winemaking demonstrations, and wine tastings. Special guests of Stevenson received SU branded silicone wine tumblers and reusable shopping bags as mementos. A special "thank you" to all of the alumni attendees who submitted photos from the event!



# ***OUR FIERCE ATHLETES NEED YOUR FIERCE SUPPORT***

***WILL YOU HELP TAKE  
STEVENSON ATHLETICS TO THE***

***NEXT LEVEL?***

In its inaugural year, the Mustang Club unified supporters of Stevenson University Athletics with one common goal: to strengthen the student-athlete experience. Thanks to the generosity of Mustang fans globally, our student-athletes were provided countless opportunities to enhance their performance in the classroom and in the athletic arena.

For 25 years, our athletic alumni, coaches, parents, and staff have worked hard to build the reputation and legacy upon which our current student-athletes thrive today. In order to sustain this tremendous growth, they need your help.

Show your Stevenson pride by joining the Mustang Club today at [stevenson.edu/MustangClub](http://stevenson.edu/MustangClub).



## 1963

**Carolee Martelle '63 '89 '97** and Jim Rallo traveled to Antarctica in Dec. 2018 with National Geographic. After sailing from the southern tip of Argentina through the Drake Passage, they stopped at numerous locations in Antarctica traveling all the way to the Antarctic Circle. They saw different species of penguins, humpback and orca killer whales, various seals and birds. While there, they observed the impact of climate change on the continent. They also visited Port Lockroy, a British research center, established in 1944, which is also a museum and the only post office and gift shop on the continent.

## 1977

**Robyne Resnick Hock** married Thomas Vincent Matusiak in May 2019. She has been with LifeBridge Health for 11 years as Executive Assistant/Corporate Business Office Coordinator to the Chief Revenue Officer/Senior Vice President and Tom is a Loss Prevention Engineer with AEGIS.

## 1996

Congratulations to **Angela Chaney '96, Marcia McMullin '00, JoAnn Parr '04 '17M, Kristina Crumby Barrick '12, Patricia Grimes '15 '18M, Kristin Trawinski '17M, and Kimber Abel M'18**, who were among the nurses honored in Baltimore Magazine's fifth annual "Excellence in Nursing" issue for their extraordinary contributions to healthcare. The honorees were featured in the magazine's May issue and celebrated at the annual dinner and awards reception at the Belvedere Hotel on May 1.

## 1998

Our condolences to **Michael Ginski** on the passing of his mother, Catherine, on May 6, 2019.

## 1999

**Patchaya Banks** is creative director at marketing agency Media Star Promotions, and has been named creative director of Senior Sleuths, an immersive group experience for senior communities that focuses on using interactive storytelling to challenge and ignite problem-solving, recall, dexterity and fine motor skills.

Congratulations to **Donna Thompson Kahoe** who won a seat on the Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners in the recent election held in November. In fact, she was the top vote getter in a field of nine candidates.

## 2002

**Casey Davis** and his team won the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce's Carroll Biz Challenge in August, chosen as the grand prize winner out of a pool of 47 entries. The challenge offered local entrepreneurs the opportunity to pitch their new business ideas and win over \$21,000 in cash and prizes. His project, KnowMe (getknowme.com), is a patent-pending electronic medical ID that allows a person to have their accurate and up-to-date personal health record with them at all times and allows doctors and first responders to know them anytime, anywhere and in any situation. Casey is a nationally board-certified physician assistant and was the featured speaker at the Beverly K. Fine School of the Sciences Annual Dell Scholarship Lecture held last March at Stevenson.

## 2003

**Kevin Wisniewski** has joined the staff of the American Antiquarian Society (AAS) in Worcester, Mass. as the Director of Book History and Digital Initiatives. He manages the Program in the History of the Book in American Culture and coordinates efforts to create and maintain digital access to collections and to foster partnerships with the larger academic community. He develops new workshops and programs in the Society's new interactive long-distance Learning Lab. Kevin previously taught in the English Department at the University of Maryland. He holds M.A. degrees from the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Baltimore and a Ph.D. from UMBC.

## 2004

**Jason Dittrich** has joined Baltimore-based Mueller Associates as director of business development and marketing. He will oversee strategic marketing initiatives, communications, and client outreach to support the organization's mechanical, electrical and plumbing engineering services. Jason has 15 years of industry experience having worked with major design and construction firms in Maryland and D.C.

## 2005

**Angela Davis Pallozzi** was selected for the Maryland Daily Record's Leadership in Law Award which recognizes legal professionals whose dedication to their occupation and to their communities is outstanding. Angie serves as co-chair of the Young Lawyers' Division of the Bar Association of Baltimore City's Health and Wellness Committee. She also is a blogger for The Daily Record's Generation J.D. column.

## 2006

**Matt Musgrove** is the CEO of the Padonia Park Club, where he had his first job working part time at age 15. His family owned Windy Valley Farms, on property that is now part of Green Spring Station on Falls Road in Lutherville. Matt brought Windy Valley back when a new location opened at the Padonia Park Club during the summer. He plans to open another location in the future in the Falls Road corridor.

## 2007

**Marc Grossblatt** was selected as a cohort for the 2018-2019 Leadership Development Program through the Baltimore Jewish Council and graduated in July 2019. He was also one of 15 applicants selected to participate in the 2019-20 Anti-Defamation League Glass Leadership Institute, a nationally recognized leadership development program.

**Mila Ortiz** began a new job as vice president at the Zenon Group in New York City. Previously she worked in Sydney, Australia as a senior PR freelance consultant for GTI Tourism.

## 2008

**Lauren Humphries** was named the Senior Manager of Community Engagement for the LUNGEvity Foundation. Prior to that, she served as digital community manager for the Foundation.

## 2010

**Matt Bramble** was the featured speaker at the Susan Palmer Slattery Memorial Lecture held in September on the Owings Mills campus of SU. Dr. Bramble is currently a staff scientist in the Department of Genetic Medicine Research at Children's National Medical Center in Washington D.C.

**Emily Testerman Reely** is the Grants Manager at the National Aquarium in Baltimore.

**2011**

Congratulations to **Allison Humphries Cuneo** and husband, Donald “DJ”, on the birth of their first child, daughter Clare Evelyn, born on Nov. 24, 2018. Proud grandmother is Susan Fisher Humphries ’70.

**Caitlin Klimm** and Sean Kellner were married on May 5, 2018.

**Jessica Swing Valis** began entrepreneurial work as a branding consultant for her design company, Harford Designs, which focuses on graphic and web design and branding. She previously worked for Wells Fargo in graphic design, publishing and quality control.

**2012**

**Kayla Gunn** was promoted to Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admissions at SU. She began her work at Stevenson as an admissions counselor in June 2017 after working as a teacher’s assistant with the special education department in the Charles County public school system.

**2013**

**Captain Kayla Curry, D.O.** was married to Adam Rizzo in January 2019. In May, she graduated from the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine and in June she began working as a General Surgery Resident at William Beaumont Army Medical Center in El Paso, Texas. Kayla is an Active Duty Captain in the United States Army.

**Megan Kutchev** is a senior graphic designer with Alorica, Inc. in Irvine, Calif.

**Ashley Nelson-Raut** is teaming up with Kevin Bress, her colleague at Pessin Katz Law, to create a new podcast series called “Ultimate Planning” which delivers emerging estate planning issues through interviews with local and national experts in the field. The podcast is available on Spotify and iTunes. Both Ashley and Kevin have concentrated their practices in elder law, estate planning and decedent estates.

**Lauren Pollock ’13 ’15M** married Thomas Kurtzweil on July 6 at St. Casimir Church in Baltimore.

**Nick Ramsel ’13 ’14M** and his wife, **Tonia Cristino Ramsel ’08 ’10M** welcomed their first child, Reece William, on July 21, 2019.

**Tyler Reid** is the head varsity lacrosse coach at Mount Saint Joseph High School in Baltimore. While at SU, he helped win a Division III national championship as a player in 2013, earned a USILA All-American Honorable Mention twice, and was named Stevenson’s Most Outstanding Male Athlete. Tyler will also serve as a teacher in the DePaul Program for students with learning differences.

**Chelsea Sheckells** and **Nick Crossen ’14** became engaged on Easter 2019 and are planning to marry on Sept. 6, 2020. They recently opened a business called Duke Design Company. The couple resides in Parkville with their dogs, Ridley and Opie.

**2014**

**Joseph Giba** graduated in May from the Doctor of Nursing Practice, Nurse Anesthesia Program at the University of Maryland School of Nursing. At the end of July, after he passed boards and officially became a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist, he began his career as a CRNA at Upper Chesapeake Medical Center in Bel Air, Md.

**Erika Harden ’14 ’15M** is a crime scene technician II with the Evidence Collection Unit of the Anne Arundel County Police Department. Previously she worked for more than two years as a crime laboratory technician with the Baltimore City Police Department. She also serves as an adjunct instructor in SU’s Forensic Science Program.

**Jamie Hart** married Steven Brown on June 1 in Manchester, Md. The couple also celebrated one year in their first home in September. Jamie was recently promoted to Junior HR Generalist at the Perseus Operating Group based in Hunt Valley, Md.

**Michelle Larkin** is the Associate Director of Integrated Marketing for Rollins College in Winter Park, Fl. where she leads the marketing efforts for the admissions team and serves as the liaison between admissions and marketing.

**Morgan Somerville ’14M** was named to the 2019 Daily Record VIP List - Very Important Professionals Successful by 40. She was selected on the basis of professional accomplishments, community service

and the impact of her achievements. Morgan recently accepted a new role as the Inclusion, Equity and Associate Responsibility Analyst at CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield in Owings Mills, Md.

**Julia Tucker ’14, ’15M** was selected to sing backup for recording artist Josh Groban at his June 16 concert at Mohegan Sun Arena in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

**2015**

**Keeley Cook** graduated last May from Mary Baldwin University in Va. with a master of science degree in Physician Assistant.

**Ashley Shelton** is a service coordinator/counselor at Mosaic Community Services.

**2016**

Congratulations to **Ryan Callinan ’16** and **Emily Losquadro ’16** both of whom graduated from New York Law School this past spring. Emily is working as a prosecutor for the Brooklyn District Attorney’s Office and Ryan is practicing securities litigation with a firm in Manhattan.

**Megan Donahue** was promoted from Office Solutions Associate to Cash Management Analyst at Brown Advisory in Baltimore, Md.

**Tori Emoff** has joined the staff at Stevenson as the women’s ice hockey coach. As a member of the 2012-13 inaugural team, Tori was a first-team all-conference player, set school records, led the conference in stat categories and helped her team earn a conference title. She was the assistant coach at Division III Trine University (Ind.) the previous two seasons.

**Alicia Greene** and **Daniel Ebsworth ’16** became engaged in May and are planning a June 2020 wedding. Alicia is in her fourth year of medical school at Campbell University School of Medicine and plans to complete a residency in general surgery, and Daniel is a tax accountant for Aprio Cloud.

**Andrew “A.J.” Grimm** is the digital marketing assistant with the Reno Aces Baseball Club, the minor league Triple-A affiliate of the Arizona Diamondbacks. Previously he worked as an associate with the Providence Bruins, an American Hockey League franchise and the top affiliate of the NHL’s Boston Bruins.

**Hope Honigsberg** joined the University of Maryland Community Medical Group based in Easton, Md. Hope is an FNP (family nurse practitioner) and her specialties include disease prevention, diagnosis of acute and chronic illnesses and patient education.

**Ashley Mil** recently left her corporate job in public relations to pursue her passion in fitness, yoga, blogging and all things wellness. She had the opportunity to make a career decision, and decided to take a huge risk to create the life she has been dreaming of.

After graduating from SU, **Matthew Peiffer** worked with Maryland's Department of Natural Resources as a Ranger Naturalist and Historian. His heart was set on working with the National Park Service (NPS), and he kept applying knowing he would eventually get the opportunity. He is now a Ranger with the NPS working at Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Mo.

### 2017

**Destinie Burgan** is a manufacturing associate at Emergent Biosolutions in Gaithersburg, Md.

**Abigail Provost** was recently promoted from Media Associate for Events to Event Operations Coordinator at Access Intelligence in Rockville, Md.

**Fred Terry** has started a new position as an Executive Management Trainee at Genuine Parts Company in Dover, Del. Previously he was a recruiter for Aerotek.

### 2018

**Krystal Carpintieri** and James Cotriss became engaged on April 30 and are planning a May 2020 wedding. Krystal submitted pieces from her SU Capstone Project and won a silver award in the Website and Book Design category of the 2019 Indigo Awards, which celebrates the best in digital and graphic design. She is a visual designer at Barcoding, Inc. and is part of the team that won a bronze Indigo award in the Branding and Computer Animation category for Barcoding's brand refresh.

**Grace Clark** graduated a semester early and immediately began her career as a public relations and social media account coordinator at Profiles, a marketing, communications and events firm. Grace's photo now adorns the walls of SU's Office of Career Services as a "Mustang Success Story."

**Alyssa Dahle** is a senior communications specialist in the Office of Enrollment Management at Stevenson University.

**Alexandra Henry** is working with the US Fish & Wildlife Service stationed at the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) in Shepherdstown WV. Her position is in the NCTC's museum and archives transcribing audio recordings from the field. She interned

with the National Park Service at Monocacy National Battlefield during the summer of 2018.

**John Kimenhour** has joined the Chesterfield Va. police force following a family tradition. Being a police officer was always his goal since his father has served as an officer in the community for 20 years. And the old patrol car John was assigned to is pretty special because it was his dad's.

**Ian Liyayi** is pursuing a doctorate at the University of Virginia. Since graduation he has been completing a post baccalaureate research education program as an NIH Prep scholar at the University of Georgia. His research experiences began with an NSF funded REU (research experience for undergraduates) at the University of Michigan in the summer of 2017.

**Luke Mastrangeli** is pursuing a dual degree graduate program at The University of Massachusetts Amherst where he is a candidate for a M.Ed. in Higher Education Administration and a MPPA in Public Policy & Public Administration where he will focus on educational policy and its impact on students. During the summer, Luke was a Program Operations Manager at Brown University's Pre-College program.

## *Help Make More Moments like this Possible!*

Created by the Stevenson University Alumni Association Board last spring, the **Alumni Association Scholarship Fund** has raised nearly \$4,000 to date, providing financial support and encouragement to full-time, rising juniors who demonstrate financial need and are involved in clubs, organizations, and/or community service.

To support our students through this fund, visit [Stevenson.edu/givetosu](https://Stevenson.edu/givetosu) and include "Alumni Association Scholarship" as your gift designation.



## CLASS NOTES

**Katie McGuire '18 '19M** was promoted to the role of Quality Analyst with Mercy Medical Center. Katie was employed at Mercy while completing her Master's degree and transitioned into her new role after graduation.

### 2019

**Lauren Aversa** is a digital marketing assistant at CC&A Strategic Media in Perry Hall, Md.

**Jazmyn Delano** co-presented a workshop on Trauma Informed Care and Restorative Practices to counselors who were serving Baltimore City students at the Parks and People's SuperKids Summer Camp. She is teaching this fall at The Bryn Mawr School in Baltimore.

**Tyler Didra** completed the 4K for Cancer run across America this summer to raise money for cancer research through the Ulman 4K for Cancer initiative. Along with her team of about 30 runners, Tyler departed from San Francisco on June 16 and finished at Federal Hill in Baltimore on Aug. 3. Tyler is working as a fitness instructor at SU.

**Paul Farrell** is a management trainee at Enterprise Holdings.

**Destiny Hadel** is a senior photographer with Lifetouch Photography in Baltimore.

## 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).

**Ashley Hatz** is a kindergarten teacher in the Baltimore County Public School System.

**Emily Iannucci** is working as a Graduate Assistant in the School of the Sciences at Stevenson.

**Christine Longbottom** is a graduate assistant in the Office of Disability Services at Stevenson. She is studying at SU for the master of science degree, majoring in communication studies.

**Quinn Luethy** is a recruiter at Alderson Loop in Sykesville, Md.

**Lauren Novsak** is working for Business Volunteers Maryland as a nonprofit service coordinator.

**Nidia Diaz Prudencio** is working as an administrative assistant at WPM Real Estate Management in Owings Mills, Md.

**Kendall Rodier** is a behavioral data specialist at the Kennedy Krieger Institute.

**Claudia Tonti** is a marketing and public relations coordinator at the Modell Performing Arts Center at the Lyric.

## In Memoriam

**Mary Linda Schabdach Seifert '51**  
on April 6, 2019

**Eleanor "Ellie" Winship Malone '61**  
on May 15, 2019

**Carol Perrott McCulloch '61**  
on Sept. 16, 2019

**Dona Bartoli Lowrimore '62**  
on Jan. 29, 2019

**Sheila Lewis Moore '65**  
on March 11, 2017

**Kathryn Stapf Gaertner '70**  
on June 7, 2019

**Betty Lou Creager Lamon '78**  
on Sept. 9, 2019

**Lisa Urbancik Mele '89 '91**  
on March 2, 2018

**Suzanne Pohlhaus Benedetta '89**  
on June 1, 2018

**Rochelle Sewell Bynum '00**  
on May 22, 2018

**William Taylor IV '06**  
on Aug. 19, 2017

**Heather Spoon '07**  
on April 17, 2019

**Mary Jane Clark '08**  
on March 15, 2018

STEVENSON ALUMNI ASSOCIATION'S INAUGURAL TRAVEL PROGRAM:

# DISCOVER IRELAND

JULY 20-27, 2020

Contact SU tour host, Professor Romas Laskauskas, at [RLaskauskas@stevenson.edu](mailto:RLaskauskas@stevenson.edu) or at (203) 733-0168 for more information.



# DEGREES OF SUCCESS

designed to advance  
your career

**Today's** jobs demand more knowledge and specialized skills. Earn your master's in as little as 18 months through Stevenson University Online and gain the competitive advantage you need in today's market.

Our graduate areas of focus include:

***Business, Technology & Communication***

***CSI, Forensics & Cybersecurity***

***Leadership & Strategic Management***

***Nursing & Healthcare Management***

***STEM Teaching & Community-Based Education***

Plan your next career move with a university that you know will be your partner for professional success.

**STEVENSON**  
UNIVERSITY

ONLINE

Spring classes start Jan. 27, 2020 • [stevenson.edu/masters](https://stevenson.edu/masters)

# Leave Your Mark on the Future

Do you want to make a gift that will transform  
Stevenson University for years to come?

You can do it today, with a legacy gift through your will.

- Costs nothing during your lifetime
- Preserves your savings and cash flow
- Can be modified as needed
- Allows you to be far more generous than you ever thought possible
- Easy to arrange—a simple paragraph added to your will is all it takes

Please contact us for more information.  
We're here to help you every step of the way.

[plannedgiving.stevenson.edu](https://plannedgiving.stevenson.edu)

Christopher R. Vaughan  
Vice President for University Advancement  
443-334-2624  
[cvaughan@stevenson.edu](mailto:cvaughan@stevenson.edu)