

# The Point News



PHOTO BY KEVIN BAIER

## Spring Club Fair Photos, Page 4

## A Return of Campaign for Living Wages at St. Mary's

By: ANNA DAVIS  
Features Editor

Stemming from an The Point News article last semester about raises in administration wages and a freeze on College grounds, housekeeping, and maintenance staff wages, a campaign has started that is demanding a living wage for these College staff members.

In the campaign flyers, many of which were distributed during the Club Fair on campus on Friday, Feb. 20, a living wage is defined as "the minimum yearly salary required for a worker to meet basic needs for themselves and their families." Living wage in St. Mary's County is \$34,317 for a single-parent, one child home. Also according to the flyers, "the lowest paid College staff members make \$24,500 a year." Thus, many college staff are paid far below living wage and cannot afford basic necessities.

was stated that the students were "demanding that the college pay all workers a living wage, which they defined as \$32,000 annually, based on cost-of-living figures for a household of three or four living in a two-bedroom apartment in St. Mary's County and spending less than 30 percent of their income on shelter and utilities." During the sit-in, students missed class and extracurricular activities and received a lot of support from College staff members.

Though progress was made with the union (the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 3980), staff members did not receive a raise in salaries to the demanded figure.

In an email sent to all staff, faculty, and students on Jan. 18, President Joseph Urgo stated, "I am keenly aware of the ongoing anxiety that the state freeze [on wages] has created. We have taken advantage of whatever windows were available to make adjustments where possible, and will continue to do so when the opportunity is provided."

Meetings about the campaign occur on Mondays at 8:00 p.m. in Goodpaster 186. Email smcmsds@gmail.com with any questions.

This is not the first time students at St. Mary's have campaigned for a living wage. In September of 2006, students rallied and held a sit-in in former college President Maggie O'Brien's office for seven days. In an article in The Washington Post written by staff writer Michael Tunison on Sept. 24, 2006, it

## Sea Voyager Residents to Receive Compensation

By: JESSY SCHROEDER  
News Co-Editor

Starting on Jan. 15 all residents of Caroline (CD) and Prince George (PG) Halls were allowed to return to their previous dormitory rooms after having been displaced for the majority of the fall 2011 semester to various other residences on campus, hotels throughout St. Mary's County, and the Sea Voyager cruise ship docked in Historic St. Mary's City.

The first experiences of St. Mary's life for many first-year students were filled with unpacking, repacking, cramming into new rooms, traveling miles to and from campus, and trying to figure out what was going to happen next and how they would be compensated for it.

President Urgo stated in an all-student email at the beginning of this spring 2012 semester, "Throughout October, November, and December, daily acts of kindness and determination typified the campus and allowed our displaced students to endure upheaval and in the end, prevail over this period of disruption." Despite this positive view on the situation, many of the previously displaced students are still advocating for more compensation, saying that they have been unfairly treated.

Due to the large number of students on campus who have been affected in one way or another by this most recent outbreak of mold, which range from mostly first-years and sophomores but include even juniors and seniors, it soon became evident that it would be pointless to give every single affected student extra housing credits for next year. "It would eliminate the benefit being offered" and "the remaining 425+ students in CH

[Calvert Hall], DD [Dorchester Hall], and QA [Queen Anne Hall] would be unfairly disadvantaged because they were not assigned to a building with mold," said Director of Residence Life and Associate Dean of Students Joanne Goldwater in an all-student email sent out mid-November 2011.

Therefore it was originally planned that those students that were first affected (all of CD's First Left hallway, PG's First Right hallway, PG 224, and CD 112, 115, 116, 117, 118, and 211) would all receive 15 extra housing credits. For all others located in CD and PG it was decided that on Dec. 1 the seniors would be entered to win two non-alcoholic tickets to Senior Gala in May 2012, a townhouse would be raffled off to rising juniors and seniors (one townhouse being offered to CD residents and one to PG residents), and all other residents would earn a chance to win four Waring Commons (WC) suites (two available to CD residents and two to PG residents).

Various students complained about the compensation, pointing out that those who were displaced into forced triples and other on-campus residences were being financially compensated, while those placed on the Sea Voyager were not receiving anything, unless they won their respective raffle. Therefore, Student Government Association (SGA) President Mark Snyder, senior, sat down this past week with Assistant Director of Residence Life Kelly Smolinsky, Assistant Dean of Students Kelly Schroeder, Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Laura Bayless, Goldwater, and Interim Director of Campus Technology Support Services

(CTSS) Michael Gass in order to advocate for better compensation on behalf of the affected students.

"We want the people who moved onto the ship to feel like they got something. We don't want this to have a huge negative impact on everyone else," said Snyder. As a result, it was proposed by Residence Life at the Jan. 24 SGA meeting to give all students who had been displaced to the Sea Voyager would receive four extra housing credits for the room selection process which begins within a month.

He states that two credits felt like not enough compensation, while anything more than four would leave all those not affected by mold in Calvert, Dorchester, and QA an unfair disadvantage in the upcoming housing selection.

According to Snyder, a large portion of the credit for this new batch of compensation should go to Gass, as this new compensation would not have happened without his help and the help of his CTSS staff.

"Right now we are just trying to see how people feel about it,"

## Resident Assistant Applications Now Available

By: ANNA DAVIS  
Features Editor

Applications to apply to be a Resident Assistant (RA) for the 2012-2013 school year are now available. Applications are available online or from any RA interest meetings held by Assistant Director of Residence Life Derek Young. Applications are due to the Office of Residence Life by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 3.

Becoming an RA is a big responsibility. It is a full-time job and puts a student

said Snyder, who also stated that he has been having informal conversations with those affected and hopes to have some more formal conversations with others in order to "make sure that this is something everyone is cool with, not just people in PG and Caroline, but in Dorchester, Queen Anne, and Calvert."



PHOTO BY KATIE HENRY

A student in Prince George Hall moves back into her original dormitory room after being displaced in the Fall semester due to mold.

in charge of a large group of fellow peers. In the Resident Assistant position descrip-

**"I decided to become an RA because I had seen the relationships between the RAs and residents and I was inspired by it."**

*-Alexia Tanski, Resident Assistant in Prince George Hall*

tion, it is stated that, "RAs should possess a willingness

to commit time and energy to be effective peer advisers and to facilitate educational and social programming in the halls, suites, apartments and townhouses." Even when not on duty on a weeknight or over the weekend, an RA is still required to "confront and effectively resolve individual and group conflicts" among their resident students.

"I decided to become an RA because I had seen the relationships between the RAs and residents and I was

inspired by it," said sophomore Alexia Tanski, a new RA in Prince George Hall this semester. "I met many RAs my first year here and I wanted to help make a positive impact on others and I wanted to be able to interact with my peers and meet more people, and becoming an RA seemed to be the most efficient way to do so."

In the position description, it is stated that an RA has seven different jobs: student, community organizer; role

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# For Coke Lovers, an Exciting Change Comes to Campus

By: HANNAH GRABENSTEIN  
Deputy Editor-in-Chief

The debate is timeless, based entirely on personal preference, and never-ending. Yet St. Mary's students have come down decisively on one side: it's Coke, not Pepsi.

When the College's contract with Pepsi expired, Bon Appetit decided to make the switchback from serving Pepsi products to Coke products in the Great Room, at the Upper Deck, and at the Lewis Quad Grab and Go based largely on student feedback.

Joel Blice, Director of Operations for Bon Appetit, cited three main reasons for the switch back to Coke from Pepsi, which the college has served for the past couple of years. First, the Office of Residence Life had done a survey when the college was beginning the bidding process and the majority of the responses were in favor of Coke products. Student feedback in favor of Coke was large, Blice said, and "anytime we make a big change, [it's] always in response to student feedback [and] student requests."

Blice also said that beverages at The Pub contributed to Bon Appetit's change in the Great Room. When The Pub opened, Coke products were being served for use as mixers in drinks such as rum and Coke, and the response to that was extremely positive, Blice said.

Though The Pub no longer serves alcohol on a regular basis, students still reacted favorably to having Coke there. With such a positive response at The Pub, Bon Appetit decided to consider changing the drinks they served at the locations.

Finally, the decision to switch was solidified because Coke manufactures Minute Maid products which are a "high quality juice," Blice said.

With the decision, Blice said he's heard a lot of questions and comments, as well as feedback from Residence Life, and overall, the response has been favorable. The focus



PHOTO BY KEENE KELDERMAN

**Bon Appetit has recently changed over to serving Coke products only in the Great Room, at the Upper Deck, and at the Lewis Quad Grab and Go. Based off student feedback, the College decided to make the switch when the contract with Pepsi recently expired.**

groups earlier in the year preferred Coke, and as Blice said, "certainly it's in our best interest to ... please the students and faculty."

The only negative comments Blice has received regard Mountain Dew, which is manufactured by Pepsi. Coke's version of the product is Mello Yello which Blice said is identical to Mountain Dew; however he said people tend to be "hung up on the brand name."

Additionally, the response to serving Diet Coke and Coke Zero is overwhelmingly fa-

avorable, both at the Great Room and The Pub.

Since vendors sell the two major competing products to institutions, prices differences are almost negligible, according to both Blice and Patrick Hunt, Procurement Officer for the Business Office.

Hunt, who oversees but does not mandate where Bon Appetit makes their purchases, reiterated both that a number of students asked for Coke products in the Great Room and that "the response to having Coke at The Pub was very large; students liked it there."

Bon Appetit approached Hunt in the Fall with the option to change products and after research into student preferences decided to make the switch. Hunt had no objections, since the change "will not impact us negatively."

Blice is pleased with the decision: "When the switch, which is what the majority wanted, [also] would give us access to [Minute Maid]... this is great on both counts."

For the die-hard Pepsi devotees, the soft-drink can still be purchased at the Grind, though vending machines are all Coke.

## NEW RAs WANTED FOR 2012-2013

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

model, listener, peer advisor, and mediator; educator through programming, community standards agent, referral and resource person, and administrator.

An RA is first a student; academics are always a priority. But then, they are a coordinator for activities for their residents and a model and enforcer of college rules and regulations.

According to senior Andy VanDeusen, Residence Hall Coordinator (RHC) of Caroline Hall, the qualities that Residence Life looks for in an RA applicant are "leadership, compassion and understanding, quick thinking that leads to effective results, creativity, respect, and openness (not necessarily in that order)."

Even though RAs have a lot of responsibilities, the job can still be fun.

"I have gotten the opportunity to meet a bunch of intelligent, motivated, and classy people (other RAs)," said VanDeusen. He also noted, "I got to stay here for the summer for free."

"Being an RA has allowed me to put things into new perspectives," continued Tanski. "I feel as though I am able to reach out to more people now and even though I haven't been an RA for very long, I am very happy and humbled by being allowed this opportunity."

"Students should consider becoming RAs because the lessons they will learn as an RA will help them throughout their lives and careers," said VanDeusen. "Plus, if they get

it, they'll never have to worry about housing selection again." RAs get to live in single rooms while RHCs get their own apartments.

"Besides the obvious single room at a double room rate and being paid \$1,850 to \$1,900 per semester, RAs will gain lots of experience in responding to crisis situations, resolving conflicts, community building, and listening skills," said Young. "These transferable skills are also great resume builders and will benefit our students in their professional careers after they move on from St. Mary's."

On the RA Application, students are asked to demonstrate leadership experience, employment experience, and letters of recommendation. One letter must be from an RA, and one from a current St. Mary's faculty or staff member (outside the Of-

fice of Residence Life). Part of the application process involves a submission of an object of "personal expression," which can be anything that fits into a 8.5 by 11 inch envelope. There is also an interview by Residence Life professional staff and RHCs, at which time the object of personal expression can be explained.

"We are looking for passionate students for the RA position who care about the St. Mary's community and who are interested in working with a wide variety of students," Young said. "The Residence Hall Coordinators for the 2012/2013 academic year are excited about meeting potential new staff members and finding the candidates to make strong staff teams."

**"We are looking for passionate students for the RA position who care about the St. Mary's community and who are interested in working with a wide variety of students."**

**-Derek Young,  
Asst. Director of Res. Life**

### WAIT, CLASSES ARE GOING TO BE CANCELLED?

ON FEB. 22, CLASSES WILL BE CANCELLED FOR A ST. MARY'S GROUP DISCUSSION DAY. ORGANIZED BY DEAN OF FACULTY BETH RUSHING AND INVOLVING THE INTERPLAY OF SEVERAL CAMPUS CLUBS AND GROUPS, THAT WEDNESDAY WILL FEATURE DISCUSSIONS OF SEVERAL TOPICS, INCLUDING CAMPUS CIVILITY, RACISM, AND EVEN WHAT THE ST. MARY'S WAY MEANS TO THE COMMUNITY. SIMILAR TO CAMPUS DISCUSSION DAYS THAT MANY COLLEGE FACULTY MAY REMEMBER FROM THEIR OWN COLLEGE EXPERIENCES AND SMCM'S PAST, THIS DAY WILL BE A CHANCE TO ENGAGE IN PERSONAL- AND COLLEGE-IMPROVING CONVERSATION. ALL STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTRIBUTE THEIR VIEWS, TO MAKE THIS DAY A WORTHWHILE, COMMUNITY-BUILDING EXPERIENCE.

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## Zombie Apocalypse According to a Chemist, Psychologist, Science Major

By: TAYLOR SCHAFER  
News Co-Editor

Hollywood has tried to make our worst nightmares imaginable for years, but on Wednesday, Jan. 25, Assistant Professor of Chemistry Leah Eller, Assistant Professor of Psychology Scott Mirabile, and senior Chemistry and Biology double major Steven Rees all joined forces to tell the scenarios of a real life zombie apocalypse.

In the first Natural Science and Mathematics Colloquium (NS&M) of the semester, in which not an open seat was to be found, the three departments combined to discuss three main components of a zombie apocalypse and what it would mean for humans: biological plausibility, the chemistry of basic survival needs, and the psychological aspects of survival.

Rees opened the lecture discussing what exactly a zombie virus might biologically look like. Though Rees claimed that we actually have no idea what a zombie virus would look like, through looking back in history, scientists have come closer to finding possibilities.

Italian physician Girolamo Fracastoro first recorded a condition with zombie-like symptoms in 1594, which was rabies. Rees explained the two different types of the rabies virus: furious and paralytic. Furious rabies symptoms include fever, irritability, violence, and salivation while paralytic rabies symptoms include depression, confusion, hallucinations, and disorientation.

But though such symptoms like biting others people and foaming at the mouth, which all lead mostly to death, were recorded, the disease usually is only recorded in Africa, Asia, and South America. Also, human-to-human transmission is highly unlikely.

**"I don't have much hope for you all to make it [in a zombie apocalypse]."**

**- Assistant Professor of Psychology  
Scott Mirabile**

However, other viruses known to humans, like Ebola viruses could have an epidemic ability to significantly affect the human population. The Ebola virus can cause viral hemorrhagic fever and other serious symptoms. But Rees concluded the virus is not easily transmissible among humans and is mostly in low sanitation areas.

"But what if we were to combine the Ebola virus and furious rabies?" asked Rees. Taking the zombie-like symptoms of furious rabies and the often-fatal Ebola virus, the world could see a rapid third-world spread. However, Rees concluded that even this deadly combination might not exactly be a plausible model for a zombie endemic.

So is there any virus out there that we have to be worried about? The answer to that question, Rees explained, is scarier than one would think. Simple proteins in the brain, with which we are all born, could be the cause. Now these natural proteins aren't themselves the problem. Prions, or misfolded proteins, can infect our healthy proteins and lead to a serious brain disease called encephalopathy, which has never been survived by a human. The deadly phenomenon can be transmitted sporadically or through inheritance or acquisition. Fortunately, there is no history of an epidemic outbreak and it can take up to six to 18 months to kill its host.

So now that a zombie virus, or something close to it, is biologically possible, what would it take for humans to survive? Eller took the stage next to describe the chemistry of survival.

She started off with the basics: food, shelter, water, and sex. But Eller explained that the main concerns would be food and water once you've found shelter either fenced in in a rural setting or high above ground in an urban



PHOTO BY KEENE KELDERMAN

In the packed lecture hall, Eller, Mirabile, and Rees presented on the biological, chemical, and psychological plausibility of a zombie apocalypse, discussing topics like disease and sustainable survival strategies.

setting. Our main sources of drinkable water would be from an above ground water source, wells, buckets, rain barrels, and fog collectors. To survive, we would only need about two to four liters of water per day.

But once we have the water, Eller explained, we have to worry about its cleanliness. Fecal matter, inorganic and organic chemicals, and biological agents that can cause disease are all possibilities, and duplicating today's modern filtration system under such conditions may not be possible. Eller suggests camping strategies like boiling the water and iodine, as well as sand and gravel filtration and carbon filters, though even those strategies aren't 100 percent effective.

"So now we're not thirsty anymore, but we're still hungry," Eller said. In such strict living conditions, whether it is a rooftop or a fenced in rural setting, Eller explained the basic foods that can be grown and eaten to ensure survival: peanuts, soybeans, and potatoes, all of which have the necessary amino acids

needed by our bodies.

So after we find shelter, food, and water, we may consider ourselves lucky to have survived. However, Mirabile has little faith in human survival even after these basic needs have been met.

"I don't have much hope for you all to make it," he openly said. After research was done on the extreme conditions humans would face, and looking at anecdotal evidence, Mirabile explained the main consequences of being trapped in a relatively small space with little food and water, and the same people: depression, hostility, insomnia, fatigue, and anxiety.

Also, personality traits make a difference in psychological survival. Mirabile noted the three main categories of personalities that would gauge the chances of survival. The first, "the right stuff" is the category most ideal for survival, when a person is warm, sensitive, work-oriented, and independent. The second and third categories, "the wrong stuff" and "no

stuff" both categorize people with low chances of survival. Traits include competitiveness, arrogance, hostility, and verbal aggressiveness. However, none of these traits will necessarily translate over into isolated, confined, and extreme (ICE) conditions. Also, based on research, even if one is able to psychologically survive with "the right stuff," those would only last for about a 90-day time frame.

So what's the best possible survival scenario? Mirabile says a survivalist, who is prepared and has a predetermined group to live with, is the most prone to survival.

The jam-packed colloquium, with 152 students in attendance, was well received by the audience. First-years Hannah Hafey enjoyed Rees's portion of the presentation most. "Steve's was most interesting because it's crazy to think that they could come up with a disease that could cause a zombie apocalypse," said Hafey. "It's actually very frightening!"

## Close Quarters and Strong Cosmopolitans: Senior Cocktail Delivers

By: HANNAH GRABENSTEIN  
Deputy Editor-in-Chief

For graduating seniors, another milestone has passed. Though 100 days isn't until this Thursday, Feb. 2, senior cocktail is a thing of the past. The cocktail, which was held Friday, Jan. 20, was held at the Inn at Broome Howard and was limited to the first 70 seniors to buy tickets (which were \$15 for students under 21 and \$20 for those of legal drinking age).

Though the cocktail was close to empty when it began, shuttles leaving from Daugherty-Palmer Commons (DPC) brought crowds in droves and it quickly filled up. At the entrance, legal students were handed two drink tickets to use at the bar; after that, students could purchase drinks. The bar offered two beers on draft, an Irish

Stout and a Ruddy Duck Light, both of which are brewed at the Ruddy Duck, a restaurant located in Solomon's. For wine, students could choose either a dry white called Yellowlegs or a red called Red Drum. Both wines are from former St. Mary's President Maggie O'Brien's vineyard, from her line called Slack. The bar also offered cosmopolitans as the cocktail option.

As a disc jockey (DJ) played music, students mingled, danced, drank, and snacked on platters of cheese, bread, vegetables and dips. However, some students were disappointed that the cocktail was limited to 70 students and others were unhappy that the event was never advertised as first come, first serve.

"I just thought it was weird that we were never notified that there were a

limited amount of tickets available," said senior Adrienne Gordon. "I was able to get one, but none of my friends were, so I ended up selling my ticket to someone else. I really would have liked to have gone because I think it would have been a fun opportunity to dress up, spend some time with friends, and enjoy my night with the entire senior class."

Senior Emily Gershon, Vice President of the Class of 2012, explained that the cocktail was capped because it would be too cold to have the event outside without a tent and heater, and fire codes prohibited more than 70 people inside the Broome Howard. The tickets were on sale for a day and a half before the limit was reached.

Gershon noted that a lot of students were disappointed; "I feel really bad we couldn't sell more tickets," she said. But she also noted that last year, the senior cocktail did not sell many tickets at all. "We really didn't know what to expect," she said.

Senior Julie Frank said at first she was confused at why the event was so small, but after attending the crowded cocktail, she understood the reasoning. "I was really disappointed because a lot of my friends couldn't come, but there's no way they could [have] fit more than 70 people here."

Senior Camille Campanella agreed, saying, "Class participation in previous years has been relatively low... I think the fact that we capped out is extremely impressive."

Overall, the students who attended seemed to be pleased with the event. "I got to talk with a lot of seniors who I don't get to see very often," said senior Gabrielle Cantor. Senior Carmen Fuentes commented, "It's great hanging out with awesome friends and the cosmos are delicious."

## SPOTLIGHT: ANTHROPOLOGY CLUB

By: GIDEON SINGER  
Anthropology Club President

This semester yields a tremendous opportunity in which all of us anthropology students and enthusiasts can forge and crystallize our anthropology community. We, the leadership of the Anthropology Club, wish to provide forums for the fostering of positive interactions between all members of our community through establishing a reliable system of updates, discussions, and on and off campus outings. Many of us find

that courses such as Tool Kit and Research Methods require that we collaborate with each other. The Anthropology Club wishes to foster the continual growth of these collaborations and provide frameworks for discussion to provide a means for the sharing of ideas and projects.

Collaboration between all members of our community is vital to the mission of anthropologists alike. Whether your studies focus upon Cultural Anthropology, Linguistic Anthropology, Archaeology, or Bio-Anthropology, we will all be collaborating with other anthropologists, academic disciplines, and real-world communities. Our identity as an anthropologist begins here at St. Mary's College of Maryland where a number of resources already exist. Proximity to Historic St. Mary's City, museums and cultural experiences between St. Mary's County

and Washington, D.C., and access to a world of anthropological literature and research are all means through which the Anthropology Club wishes to bring students together and thus address the strengthening of our community.

As members of our community move forward in their academic journeys, it is important to remember our humble beginnings in Anthropology 101 and the inevitable first 300 level course we took as underclassmen. I propose to implement opportunities

**COLLABORATION BETWEEN ALL MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY IS VITAL TO THE MISSION OF ANTHROPOLOGISTS ALIKE.**

for a lateral mentorship. Classmates who have conducted their own research and share a

passion for particular aspects of anthropology should be given an informal way in which to inspire others. This will be accomplished through a series of informal meetings as well as structures already in place such as St. Mary's Project, Independent Study, and Directed Research presentations.

The Anthropology Club aims to help organize the voice of our student cohort in the department's search for a new full time professor. Candidates will be giving presentations starting Feb. 6 through Feb. 21. Two of the candidates include current visiting faculty members Giovanna Vitelli and Liza Gijanto. Our voice will help shape the future of our anthropology department and the already thriving relationship between its students and staff.

### Why do you Relay?



Sat. February 11—Sun February 12

Michael P. O'Brien Athletics & Recreation Center

## Club Fair, Spring 2012



PHOTOS BY KEVIN BAIER

Club executives and students gathered in the Campus Center on Friday, Jan. 20 for this semester's Club Fair. Students played music, displayed posters and answered student questions while tabling for their clubs. Some clubs gave out candy and other goodies to attract attention to their table. The hallway was crowded and bustling with students interested in joining a new club to get more involved around campus, explore new interests, or make new friends.

## Welcome Back Weekend for Students a Success

By: ANNA AGARUNOVA  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Welcome Back Weekend drew crowds of students to the three events organized by the Student Government Association (SGA) programs board. The events ran Jan. 20-22, and included the 2011 comedy-drama film "50/50" in Cole Cinema, Hypnotist Tom Deluca, and the return of the band Pearl and the Beard to the campus.

The film "50/50" was nominated for two awards at the 69th Golden Globe Awards, and featured two very well known actors, Joseph Gordon-Levitt as Adam Lerner, and Seth Rogan as his co-worker Kyle.

The film follows Adam as he discovers that he has a rare cancer and must undergo chemotherapy, finding that his chance of survival is 50 percent. Adam develops a strong relationship with his therapist Katherine, played by Anna Kendrick, and comically uses his illness to pick up women at the behest of Kyle. Through chemotherapy, Adam develops a new perspective on life through his interactions with other patients.

This emotionally driven film was well received by many students, according to SGA programs board member senior Anna Danz. The film had five showings throughout the weekend.

Welcome Back Weekend also featured Hypnotist Tom Deluca on Jan. 21 at 7:00 p.m. in St. Mary's Hall. According to the St. Mary's Website, Deluca earned a Master's Degree in Psychology from the University of Illinois and developed his hypnosis

show while working as a therapist, focusing on hypnosis as a stress and burnout prevention program.

Sophomore Anuli Duru, one of the students hypnotized on stage, recalled the experience as a surreal dream state.

"You felt awake but you felt like you were sleeping too," Duru said. "In the beginning he had asked us to make ourselves as comfortable as possible and think of happy thoughts. I thought about sipping smoothies on the beach next to my idol, Nicki Minaj. Then he told us to breathe in and out deeply, which made me very sleepy. I remember some things like my friends, Peter Robertson barking at the crowd and Pooja Taneja pretending to be Tinker Bell. Yet for the most part, I had to find out from my friends what else had happened. Turns out, he had at one point told us that we were in our underwear, and everyone hid, except Aimee and me. I guess we aren't shy."

Another student who was successfully hypnotized, senior Peter Robertson, said his experience was similar to Duru's.

"For me, when I first opened my eyes it was as though I were in some translucent bubble. Everything seemed fuzzy and muffled. I recall most everything he said and what I did; it's difficult to explain my actions. It felt as though I were just doing. I ended up vigorously squeezing milk from a cow, leading the school in cheering on the St. Mary's Locomotives, and taking on the guise of a spy attempting to assassinate the hypnotist. Afterwards, I didn't feel well rested, as the hypnotist had said

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS: WHAT'S GOING ON?

TUESDAY,  
JANUARY 31

8:30 p.m.

**Lecture by Dr. Angela Rajagopalan: Codex Aubin and 16th Century Printed Texts**

Library, Room 321

WEDNESDAY,  
FEBRUARY 1

4:40 p.m.

**Natural Science and Mathematics Colloquium: Topic to be Announced**

Schaefer Hall, 106

THURSDAY,  
FEBRUARY 2

7:00 p.m.

**Alumi College with Professor Chuck Holden "Are Professors the Enemy? Academic Freedom as a Public Trust"**

Alumni Office

MONDAY,  
FEBRUARY 6

7:00 p.m.

**Denis Kitchen, "Underground Comix: An Inside History"**

Auerbach Auditorium,  
St. Mary's Hall

8:15 p.m.

**Yun Suh, "City of Borders," Fifth Annual TFMS Film Series: Out of Bounds, Feminist Film and Filmmakers**

Cole Cinema,  
Campus Center

WEDNESDAY,  
FEBRUARY 8

2:00 p.m.

**AustraLearn, AsiaLearn, EuroLearn Information Session**

Glendening Annex

4:40 p.m.

**Natural Science and Mathematics Colloquium: Topic to be Announced**

Schaefer Hall, 106

7:00 p.m.

**Trivia Night at Regional Food and Drink (R.F.D.) for Alumni and Friends**

R.F.D. in Washington, D.C.

8:00 p.m.

**Lecture by Nitze Senior Fellow Sophie Delaunay, from Doctors Without Borders**

Auerbach Auditorium,  
St. Mary's Hall

THURSDAY,  
FEBRUARY 9

4:30 p.m.

**Making Study Abroad Work for You: Resume Writing Tips**

Glendening Annex

SATURDAY,  
FEBRUARY 11

6:00 p.m.

**The St. Mary's College Relay for Life**

MPO'BARC

we would. If anything, I felt sleepier. The entire experience was wicked grand fun."

Pearl and the Beard returned to St. Mary's for their third performance, and played before a large crowd of students in St. Mary's Hall Jan. 20.

"It was great, we had a good turn

out," Danz said. "There were some a capella things going on that night and senior cocktail, but we still almost had a full house in St. Mary's Hall. So considering that, I thought it was pretty good. They're really quirky. Students have been saying they wanted them back, so we brought

them back. When they left, they said that this was like their school, and they felt like the school's band."

"There wasn't much publicity for it, because it was right when we all came back," Danz added. "Still, I think it was a successful Welcome Back Weekend."

## Ballesteros Presents Bilingual Poetry

By: MARIA SMALDONE  
Assistant Editor

The first VOICES Reading of the spring semester featured the poetic works of José Ballesteros, a St. Mary's Associate Professor of Spanish.

A native of Quito, Ecuador, Ballesteros infused his poems with Ecuadorian and Latin cultural references and rich imagery, and dealt with themes such as youth, death, home life, and love.

Israel Ruiz, a colleague of Ballesteros in the International Languages and Cultures (ILC) Department, introduced Ballesteros as a "young poet with a strong voice." Ballesteros, he said, was "raised by Amazons: loving, crazy, powerful women" that shaped his poems' handling of gender themes. "[Ballesteros] talks about masculinity with intelligence, humor, and mockery, but never disrespect," Ruiz added.

Ballesteros began his reading by naming many people in the St. Mary's writing community, such as Lucille Clifton and Michael Glaser, as his poetic role models. Before reading his first poem, he joked "The theme [of my poems] is love. I'm pretty sure you all are experts on this by now."

In "Any Given Name," Ballesteros explored European imperialism in South America by describing slang used in Ecuador that is subtly different from the meaning of its English equivalent. His mother says he has the temper of a "chapa," or "cop," noting that the cops in Ecuador are more violent than most others.

The recklessness and vivacity of youth was described in other poems. "No amount of narcotics can quiet all the fuss-making," Ballesteros said in reference to parents drowning their worries about their children with drugs, and mocked the tendencies for young men to "talk about other women" and use reverse psychology to attract a girl's attention.

As a middle-aged man, Ballesteros turned his attention to

family life in "Stay-at-home Mythology," in which he describes the lulling rhythm of home-sounds such as the "swishing washing machine" and the annoyance of having his young son mess up his perfectly folded laundry. The birth of said son was immortalized in "It's a Boy," a rhyming song-like poem which describes all of the chaos—including gunshots—that occurs but is ignored in favor of facing an impending birth.

Sexuality came into play during many of Ballesteros' poems, such as in "Home Sounds," which paints a beach scene where "horny waves fondle any godmother willing to get her hair wet," and in "Work Trap," about "women who beguile love if only at the bottom of a document," which satirizes how women will contractualize relationships with lists and details of what men must do in order to keep their women.

Ballesteros ended the reading with "Lingua Profana," which he read in both English and Spanish. The poem's title means "the tongue of the profane" in Latin, detailed in small words and phrases like "political phenomenon" and "heresy" the taboos of society that lead people to "lick the feet of the devil."

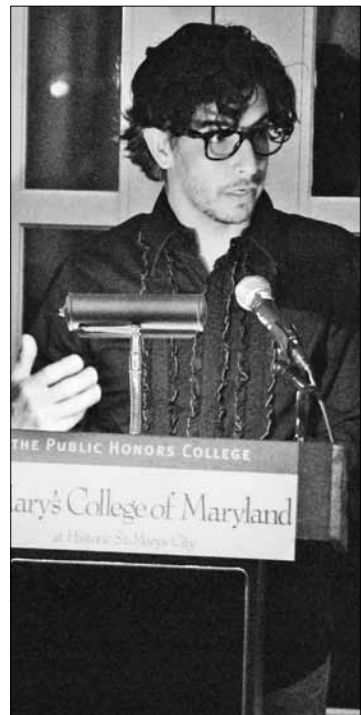


PHOTO BY KRISTIN SEYMOUR

Ballesteros spoke before students on Jan. 26.

During the question and answer session, Ballesteros explained the back story behind "Paint This, Guayasamín," a reference to Ecuadorian artist Oswaldo Guayasamín, who became famous for depicting social inequalities.

Ballesteros said he "was very blessed to have grandparents who lived incredibly long lives," and so he was unused to the deaths of loved ones.

Cecilia Carino, a sophomore, said "I identified with the things [Ballesteros] was saying, because I'm Mexican and can understand his references to Latino culture. This is the first time I've attended a VOICES reading, and I'm glad it was this one."

Julia Andrade-Rocha, a St. Mary's '11 alumna, agreed: "It was really awesome to see someone in the faculty grapple with bilingual poetry and dual identities like I have. It lets me know that I'm not the only one, and that even professors have these difficulties."

## SUSTAINABILITY: COMBINING ART WITH SCIENCE

By: DARYA BAUGH-RUS-CHMAN  
Contributing Writer

At a school like St. Mary's, sustainability is a concept that is emphasized in every sense of the word, from the green buildings to the recycling and composting bins put in place around campus.

In many cases, science (e.g., physics or engineering) is combined with art to create something that is not only going to help the environment, but that is also visually appealing.

Starting on Jan. 23, and continuing until March 2, in an exhibition aptly named Remediate/Re-Vision: Public Artists Engaging in the Environment, 14 artists—including such notable names as Patricia Johanson, Jackie Brookner, and Natalie Jeremijenko—will be displaying their work with the environment, from re-constructing and re-shaping wetlands to constructing floating islands.

The artists are trained in a va-

riety of fields, from basic drawing and painting to sculpture to architecture. A few artists are also trained in additional fields, including construction, environmental education, and theater.

Among the works presented are television screens, photographs, interviews, and, in a sense, short documentaries. In watching the interviews, any viewer can obtain a more in-depth sense of what the artists' intentions were when undertaking their respective projects.

Patricia Johanson, an artist trained in architecture and public art, used her knowledge of both science and art to design morning-glory-shaped wetlands to treat water by removing organic pollutants and dissolving metals.

They also contain water for no longer than 45 days after rainfall and clean runoff from the neighboring parking lot. In Johanson's view, science and art are parallel in the way they are explored, and one can be

incorporated with the other to create an "artistic" way of making the environment a healthier place. Several of the artists' works are very similar to Johanson's: creating something that will help with the water flow, in addition to looking artistic. An artist who was trained in theater, Lorna Jordan, created a large structure that has the form of a miniature watershed, as well as the vague form of a human torso.

The structure looks like a type of Amphitheatre and is called the "Terraced Cascade," in that the terraces direct water, improving the ecology for the desert plants.

Yet another artist, Natalie Jeremijenko, placed large red X's on sidewalks in New York City, building a new type of urban habitat.

The purpose of the X's is to allow storm water to enter the deep soil that is found under the sidewalks and recycle, replenishing soil for trees several

yards away. Many of the artists have collaborated with various corporations and environmental agencies along the way, and a few have collaborated with one another as well, creating joint projects.

On Monday, Jan. 30, from 4:45 to 6:00 p.m., and on Tuesday, Jan. 31, at 7:00 p.m., there will be presentations regarding the exhibition, given by art experts from Wave Hill, NY; and Allegheny College.

Jennifer McGregor, who will be presenting on Monday, is the director of arts at Wave Hill, NY; and Amara Geffen, also presenting on Monday, is an art professor at Allegheny College and the director of Allegheny's Arts and Environmental Initiative, as well as director of the college's Center for Economic and Environmental Development.

In addition to presenting on Monday, Professor Geffen will be presenting again on Tuesday.

## Garth Treasures "Silence" and Absurdity in Music

By: MARIA SMALDONE  
Assistant Editor

The evening of Jan. 19 marked a posthumous musical celebration of the milestone birthdays of two renowned pianists. St. Mary's music faculty member and pianist Eliza Garth hosted a recital in St. Mary's Hall to honor the lives and works of Claude Debussy and John Cage; in 2012, Debussy would have been 150 and Cage would have turned 100.

The recital, billed as "Let Us Begin with a Moment of Silence," began with the presentation of a video clip of the elderly Cage, a twentieth century American pianist, explaining his philosophy behind music. "When I talk about music," he said, "I talk about sound that doesn't mean anything more than what it is. I love sounds just as they are, and I have no need for them to be anything more psychologically. I don't want sounds to pretend to be a bucket, or be president, or be in love with another sound. I just want it to be a sound."

After the clip, Garth described the influence that Debussy and his friend Erik Satie, both French pianists, had on

each other. "Debussy wrote 'Claire de lune,' the first arabesque. What could be more romantic? And Satie got the ball rolling on many innovations," said Garth.

Henry Cowell, an American pianist and Cage's mentor, was as inspired by the works of Debussy and Satie as his pupil. The recitals sampled works from each of the four pianists who were instrumental in creating the music of the twentieth century.

"Cage's music sometimes stepped into Dada or the theater of the absurd," said Garth.

"He experimented with the nature of music and silence, and believed that music did not have emotion, but that the person listening to music had an emotion that he would project on to the music."

Garth also explained Cage's fascination of the relationship between sound and silence: "Silence is only a concept to Cage; he believed that there is always sound, but it ends in our heads when we turn our attention elsewhere."

The first two works of the recital were Cage's "In a Landscape" and two pieces from

Debussy's "Preludes, Book I." Cage's piece provided a fuzzy, dreamy, opening that grew into a more impassioned tone in Debussy that peacefully settled down by the end.

The "Moment of Silence" for Cage came when Garth played his famously absurdist work, "4'33"," so called because it is four minutes and thirty-three seconds of silence, exemplifying the importance of silence as a non-entity to Cage's works.

No music is played for its entirety. Garth sat at the piano with her hands on her lap,

smiling as if enjoying nothing but the quiet sounds of the audience. At intervals, she would gently and reverently uncover and cover the keys, and then pause in between with her hands idle. At other points during the piece, Garth would touch the page of music lovingly as it lay on the piano stand. When the piece was over, Garth bowed to hearty applause.

Cage's eccentric style was also evident in the next piece, "Suite for Toy Piano," in which a small toy piano and a small chair was brought to the stage. The incongruous image of the adult Garth sitting at the tiny piano showed that music could be made in the most unconventional places. Garth played the tinkling, chiming piece that gave off an air of maturity in spite of the sounds of the childish toy piano.

Two pieces from Henry Cowell, "Swaying" and "Tides of Maunanan," continued the unexpected musical features of the night by making heavy use of the throbbing low notes of the piano to create a feeling of the strong tides of the sea.

Garth then played Satie's "Les Trois Valses," a piece whose full title in English

means "Three Distinguished Waltzes of a Jaded Dandy," which was as jaunty and spirited as the title suggests. For the final piece of the night, Garth was joined by Music Department Chair David Fromm to play Debussy's "Six Épigrapes Antiques," a lengthy but beautiful masterpiece whose melodies can only be enjoyed by using four hands on one piano.

Sophomore Ben VanNest said "I came out of the concert viewing music slightly differently, namely from songs like Cage's ever-famous '4' 33'" and Erik Satie's 'Three Distinguished Waltzes of a Jaded Dandy.' I also never legitimately considered spending money on a toy piano. This is a strange feeling for me."

Sam Dodd, a sophomore, also enjoyed the recital. "Hearing Brian Ganz play is a once in a lifetime chance, however, at St. Mary's we are so spoiled," Dodd said. "His specialty is in composers of the romantic period, namely Chopin. Hearing the Twentieth Century represented, however weird the style may be, is a welcome event, and I would choose very few people above Eliza Garth to do so."

The Big Picture App?, will play at the Bruce Davis Theater from Mar. 29 to April 7.



Pianist Eliza Garth played a contemporary piece by John Cage on a small toy piano, exemplifying the composer's eccentric style.

# Seahawks Defense Suffocates Hood 64-46

By: KEVIN BAIER  
Online/Photography Editor

On Wednesday, Jan. 25, the St. Mary's men's basketball team defeated Hood College in an 18-point defensive battle. With a score of 64 to 46, the Seahawks dominated in Cole Arena with 25 defensive rebounds, 13 turnovers, 10 steals, and eight blocks (a season high).

Sophomore forward Christian MacAuley and junior guard Chris Hutchinson led the Seahawks offensive with MacAuley scoring 16 points with nine rebounds and Hutchinson scoring 13 points including going 2-of-2 on 3-pt. shots.

The Seahawks never trailed at any point throughout the game with the closest instance being a game-tying shot by Hood at 17:03 in the first half. Sophomore guard Brendan McFall anchored the Seahawks defense by leading the

team in defensive stats with five defensive rebounds, two steals, two blocks, and five turnovers.

Overall this season, the Seahawks are 14-5 (.737) with a conference record of 8 to 2 (.800). The victory over Hood College marks the third consecutive win by the Seahawks.

Junior captain and forward Jeff Haus said, "We have been fortunate enough to win a good amount of games this season and intend on winning a whole bunch more by the time it's all over."

As a captain, Haus understands the pressure on his team to succeed. "[I] need to be able to 'rally the troops' and get everyone working towards common goal," said Haus. Over the past two seasons, the Seahawks are two-time CAC champions and have advanced to the NCAA's "Sweet Sixteen" and "Elite Eight" tournament rounds respectively.

"We want to be perfect, and perfection in our eyes only comes when we win a championship. If we continue to play together, play hard, and have fun, we see no reason why we can't make a legit run in the post-season," said Haus.

The Seahawks defense has certainly been stifling this year. With an average of 70.9 points allowed per game, the 2011 - 2012 Seahawks defense is on pace to allow only 1773.7 points on the season (the lowest amount in the past five seasons).

Furthermore, the team's average defensive stats (defensive rebounds, steals, blocks, and turnovers) per game total is 54.6, its second highest in the past five seasons.

"Coach Harney has done a great job with this program thus far, and I believe St. Mary's will have a competitive team for years to come," said Haus.

The team's next game is against York College. SMCM won against York earlier this season 71-69.



PHOTO BY KEVIN BAIER

Jerome Tolson '15 dribbling the ball against Hood College.

## Club Spotlight: Equestrian Club

By: ANNA WEAVER  
Equestrian Club

Fashion riding boots are just catching on as the next big thing in cold-weather wear. But almost 30 SMCM students were sporting this footwear long before it was "cool." However the boots of SMCM Equestrian Club members are less likely to make a fashion statement and are more likely to be covered in mud from marching into soggy fields to catch stubborn ponies.

For over 15 years, the members of the equestrian club have been going out to A Moment in Time Farm to take lessons, learn about horses, and compete in local shows. The barn's generous owner, Bobby Lindsley, works hard to ensure every club member has a fun and productive experience on a horse. The variety of horses and instructors at A Moment in Time allow everyone from first time riders to advanced riders to participate in the equestrian club. Even our club advisor rides at A Moment in Time on his own horses. Since our club is so linked to the local riding community, we try to give

back by volunteering at the Melwood therapeutic riding center and hosting our own shows and activities for local riders.

Many of our members also compete inter-collegiately as a team under the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association. We have to practice hard because we don't just compete against other club teams, but also against varsity teams from schools with on-campus equestrian programs like those at University of Maryland and Goucher College. Last year, we found a promising coach who we had hoped would guide the SMCM team to great places. Unfortunately, it wasn't meant to be and her husband's new job required her to move. But who was there to pick up the reins? None other than SMCM graduate, Ashley Bailer. Thanks to her quick action, our team didn't miss a beat. With the help of our talented members, our supportive local riders, and our new coach, we are now in a good place to host an official inter-collegiate show - an important step to becoming one of the region's top teams.

## Women's Basketball Celebrates Wins On The Way To CAC Championships

By: MONIQUE THOMPSON  
Contributing Writer

The St. Mary's Women's basketball team has been through a lot of challenges this season but they have continuously managed to dust off and push themselves forward. While the season began with a rocky start, the Seahawks have vowed to finish strong with the help of the head coach, Crystal Gibson. With two consecutive wins under their belt, the Seahawks race through the Capital Athletic Conference (CAC) games.

On Jan. 14 the Seahawks defeated Frostburg State University (72-57), earning the team their fourth Capital Athletic Conference victory. The women's basketball team encountered a small setback on Jan. 18 against Salisbury (52-44) but bounced right back on the 21, earning a win against Stevenson (61-55). "We have a strong bench, and we work together as a whole unit, which is why we were able

to bounce back" says sophomore guard/forward Bridget Wilkins.

On Jan. 25 St. Mary's Seahawks dominated the court in a CAC home game victory against the Hood College Blazers (71-52). This was their second match against Hood after defeating them Dec. 10 (70-41) at their court.

The SMCM athletics website explains how "the Seahawk defense stifled Hood's offense, forcing the Blazers to commit 32 turnovers." St. Mary's players placed high numbers in the game, scoring new career and season bests. The team raised their overall standing and series score (8-11, 6-4 CAC) keeping them above Hood College (5-13, 1-9 CAC).

The Seahawks believe that their winning streak comes as a result of their ability to work as a team.

"After traveling to China together this past summer, we all grew a lot closer, which has definitely benefited us this season," explains

Wilkins. The bond formed among this group of women has resulted in a good season for the Seahawks. The team is supported by each of its members: "[E]very single player on the team has the ability to contribute," says Wilkins.

The St. Mary's women's basketball team looks forward to facing more challenges in the upcoming conference games. "We've had ups and downs this season, but we know we're capable of being consistent, so we're working on getting there," says junior guard and the team captain Jasmine Jones, who scored 15 points in the Jan. 25 victory against Hood.

The team's next game is a home game against York College on Wednesday Feb. 1. The game against York will be their third to last home game, and fifth to last conference game till the CAC championships.

The last time the team played York they lost 62-45.

## Swimming Excited For CAC Championships

By: TAYLOR SCHAFER  
News Co-Editor

Finishing up their best seasons in recent history, both men's and women's swimming are going into the Capital Athletic Conference (CAC) Championships with confidence. While the men's team ended their season 12-3 overall and 5-1 in the CAC, the women's team went 14-1 overall and 6-0 in the conference for the first time in the program's history.

Both of the teams came out on top of their conferences, with the men sharing the title in a three-way tie with University of Mary Washington, whom they surrendered their only loss to on Jan. 13, and York College of Pennsylvania. Both squads are coached by Andre Barbins, who is in his 13th season as head coach.

Junior Kelly Heyde, a captain of the women's team, was very proud of their season's success. "It's our best season since [the program] started. It's like an out of body experience. It's really cool," she said.

Though Heyde has been a front-runner of the team all season, earning CAC Athlete of the Week in December and winning multiple key individual events throughout the season, she attributes the ultimate success to the entire team. "This year, we had a

large incoming freshman class," said Heyde. "We bonded as a team from the very beginning of the season, and it's translated very well into competition."

Heyde remembers the team's best and toughest meet of the year as Mary Washington, whom the Seahawks defeated 122-83 on Jan. 13. Just coming off the team winter training trip in Florida, Heyde felt the team didn't necessarily swim their fastest or make their best times, but "we swam our butts off," she said.

Top performances of the men's season came by junior Billy DeBois-siere, who earned CAC Swimmer of the Week honors four times and set the top times in the CAC for the 500 Freestyle, the 1000 Freestyle, and the 100 Breaststroke individual events. Junior Cameron Hedquist also landed in the top five times for multiple events including the 50 Freestyle, 500 Freestyle, 100 Freestyle, 200 Freestyle, and 100 Backstroke.

As for the championships, which begin for both squads on Friday, February 17 at St. Mary's in the Michael P. O'Brien Aquatic Center, Heyde said, "We just really want to win. After coming in second place last year, I think that's ultimately what we're looking for."



PHOTO BY KEVIN BAIER

Jasmine Jones '13 dribbles the ball in a Seahawks win against Hood. The final score of the game was 71-52. The team's next game is on Feb. 1, a home game against York College.

## Wow, It Must Suck to be You

SUBMITTED BY: ALICIJA BULOVA  
CLASS OF 2014

In reference to the meeting held by Dr. Botzman on the "luxury liner."

Dr. Botzman, I understand that last semester has been extremely hard on all of us, but I beg you to please imagine yourself in this situation, as ridiculous as it may sound.

Dr. Botzman, I would like to let you know that your office has mold. So, you need to pack up your office belongings and move them to President Urgo's house within 12 hours. Don't worry about getting to work

because we have organized for SafeRide to pick you up every morning at 5am, running every 5 hours.

I guess you'll have a head start prepping for that meeting at 8 am since you will have been at work for 3 hours already. Unfortunately

while prepping for the presentation in the meeting you realize you don't have your computer. Well that stinks because the van isn't going back to Urgo's until 10am. Good thing this presentation for your meeting isn't for a grade or anything.

Oh wait! Now that you have settled nicely into Urgo's house, you are going to need to pack up your stuff again because you're running up his water bill. But don't worry! We have a luxury liner waiting for you in historic St. Mary's City!

Be ready to move in at 2 PM... no wait we mean 4 PM...actually you're just going to have to wait until next Thursday. So while you are waiting to move you can practice packing and unpacking so you're really good at it when you get to the boat.

Don't worry about getting work done because we are using two of your unpaid work days to help you transition.

Well, now that you've made it to the boat, all the way through the woods, down the hill from grandma's house, you get to check out your new room! You know what's really exciting? I requested you as my roommate! And don't worry, there's plenty of room in our crew cabin! You can sleep on the top bunk, but since you look like you are over 4'2" so you might not fit. Don't worry though because even if you are uncomfortable, the constant, soothing noise from the generators will lull you right to sleep.

So now as you prepare for work, you pack all of the things that you will need for the day and trudge back up the hill. Once in your office you realize that in your old age, you have forgotten your laptop once again, but this time your colleagues will not accept your excuse for not having all of your materials since the boat is technically within walking distance. So for the second time today, you face the hill.

Now that you have been on the boat for a while it's time for that yearly financial report and it's due on Thursday. You are already behind from all the time you spent moving, but the report is still due Thursday. After pulling an all-nighter you receive an email stating that you need to be moved out of the boat by 4pm, on Thursday. Failure to complete either duty will result in deduction of pay or termination.

While you are sitting in your metal, windowless crew cabin wondering how you will survive the coming days, you find out that your good friend Joanne Goldwater who has been living in the Greens, who had to move only once, is getting monetary compensation.

Wow, it must suck to be you.

## President Urgo, Let's Make Campus Living Wage a Reality

Dear President Urgo,

We were happy to read your recent all-campus email describing your anticipation for the semester ahead. We too feel an exhilarating mix of trepidation for the future and enthusiasm for the potential held in the present. Potential, especially, for our ability to make a positive change for the frequently overlooked community members to whom we owe so much.

That's why we were especially inspired to read your acknowledgment of the ongoing distress and worry that the state pay freeze has caused in our campus community, particularly for the grounds, housekeeping, and maintenance staff who are paid the lowest salaries on campus. In fact, several of these staff members earn well below a living wage, defined as the gross income needed to support one's self and family with basic essentials.

In St. Mary's County, according

to Pennsylvania State University's living wage calculator, you might be surprised to learn that the living wage for a single parent raising one child is \$34,317. Many of our grounds, housekeeping, and maintenance staff members are in fact single parents, however, they make salaries as low as \$24,500.

It also surprised us to learn that the presence and growth of the Patuxent River Naval Air Station has caused a radical increase in the median income of St. Mary's County residents, jumping up to \$88,444 in 2010 - making our area's median income no significantly different than that of the Washington, D.C. - Arlington - Alexandria area. Despite this, St. Mary's staff members have seen only meager increases in their salaries, not nearly enough to keep up with the rising cost of living in the County.

This discrepancy is alarming, but we need not be hopeless. St. Mary's has taught us the importance of respect, inclusiveness, and social responsibility, and the challenge posed by inadequate staff wages presents an opportunity to move closer to our

## A Plan to Compensate Formerly Displaced Students

SUBMITTED BY: MARK SNYDER  
SGA PRESIDENT

Over winter break, I was really impressed by an article that Julie Durbin, a sophomore at St. Mary's, wrote for The Washington Post College-Inc blog. For those of you who didn't have a chance to read it, Julie discusses why residents of the Sea Voyager were not compensated, either financially or through artificial GPA inflation, because of the impracticality of both proposed solutions. Julie ends the article by saying, "the experience may bring its own reward."

Students who were relocated to the Sea Voyager (and all others that were displaced) dealt with an exceedingly tough semester, so school life should be a breeze when these students don't have to move multiple times, live in hotels 45 minutes from campus, and finally settle on a cruise ship.

Julie is absolutely correct. Those students who were displaced, especially those students who lived on the Sea Voyager, went through a unique learning experience, and I think it's about time they got credit for the class in Applied Hard Knocks they took last semester.

The proposal I brought to the administration was a housing credit bump given solely to students who lived on the Sea Voyager, valid only for this spring's round of housing selection; the number of credits we all finally settled on was four.

Why should this four credit bump apply only to students who lived aboard the Sea Voyager? Students who were displaced but remained on campus fell into two different groups: those who have already been compensated financially, and those who moved into empty beds.

Those who have been financially compensated have already gotten a bite of the apple by getting a money transfer to their account. Those students who were displaced into an existing vacancy certainly went through a difficult experience, but it was certainly a much difference experience than those who moved to the Sea Voyager.

The next question is two-pronged: for those who would receive the credit, "how much will this help me?" and for those who won't, "how much will this hurt me?" I sat down with Assistant Director of Residence Life Kelly Smolinsky and Associate Dean of Students and Director of Residence Life Joanne Goldwater and looked at the effect these credits

stated ideals. We are confident that the diverse and creative minds of our campus can collaborate to not only remedy the problem, but promote lasting, meaningful changes that will uplift our community as a whole.

To echo the insightful message you delivered to the Board of Trustees this past December, "...we do not understand ourselves to be reliant on the course of events for our progress;

would have. Four credits will be just enough to give the former Sea Voyager residents a boost in their order in choosing their housing.

This means rising juniors would get their second choice in suites instead of their third or fourth, and rising sophomores would get some of the best rooms in PG and Caroline, or if they play their cards right, possibly a suite. These credits will not have the same disproportionate effect as the 15 credits given to juniors who were moved out of the Crescents for mold last year.

Four credits are not enough to blow the remaining rising juniors and rising seniors out of the water — we will not see the Greens dominated by juniors

who got these credits. Due to the sheer number of credits accumulated as students progress, the effect of these four credits diminishes as the housing options improve.

This could also pose a problem for first years living in Queen Anne, Calvert, and Dorchester. Since the number of credits they apply towards housing is smaller, there

was a concern these students might be stuck in the non-air-conditioned residence halls for another year. To help mitigate this problem, Residence Life has agreed to block out fewer rooms for next year's first years in Caroline and PG, opening up more spots for rising sophomores.

There are certain things a tight-knit, compassionate community does when we see our classmates, our teammates, or our friends struggling: we show love, support, and give what we can. The students of PG and Caroline went through something I couldn't imagine.

As a community, we can all agree we would never want to go through what those seafaring students did, and for those of you who did spend much of the semester at sea, I'm sure none of you would want to relive the whole experience.

This compromise acknowledges we sympathize with what the Sea Voyager students went through last semester, and that as a compassionate community we're willing to give others a leg up in room draw because of the extremely raw deal they got; but most importantly it signals that we're willing to pay more than lip service to our beliefs.

We keep talking about how we want a tighter community, one that is built on trust, respect, and compassion; this is our opportunity to take one step closer toward that goal.

on the contrary, we feel the burden of being responsible for the course of events."

President Urgo, we look forward to working with you, staff, faculty, and fellow students to find a way for all campus employees to earn the living wage they deserve.

Sincerely,  
Emily Saari '12, Hortensia Montoya '12, and Abiola Akanni '15

**"DR. BOTZMAN,  
I WOULD LIKE TO  
LET YOU KNOW  
THAT YOUR OFFICE  
HAS MOLD. SO  
YOU NEED TO PACK  
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**-ALICIJA BULOVA**

**"WE KEEP TALKING ABOUT WE WANT A TIGHTER COMMUNITY, ONE THAT IS BUILT ON TRUST, RESPECT, AND COMPASSION; THIS IS OUR OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE ONE STEP CLOSER TOWARD THAT GOAL"**

**-MARK SNYDER  
SGA PRESIDENT**

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The Point News is published bi-weekly during the academic year by the undergraduate students of St. Mary's College of Maryland. The ideas and opinions expressed on its pages are not necessarily those of the College.

We welcome all readers to submit Letters to the Editor. Letters can be sent to *The Point News*, dropped off at our office in the Campus Center, e-mailed to Amanda Zelaya (akzelaya@smcm.edu) or Steve Rees (sdrees@smcm.edu), or sent through our web site at <http://thepointnews.com/contact/letter>.

All letters and articles are due by 5:00 p.m. on the Thursday before an issue is printed. We do not guarantee that any letter or article will be printed. The author should sign his/her name, provide his/her phone number, hometown and class standing if they are a student. Letters of less than 250 words are preferred. Letters are more likely to be printed if they have relevance to a considerable portion of the college community, are likely to spark dialogue, or present new ideas.

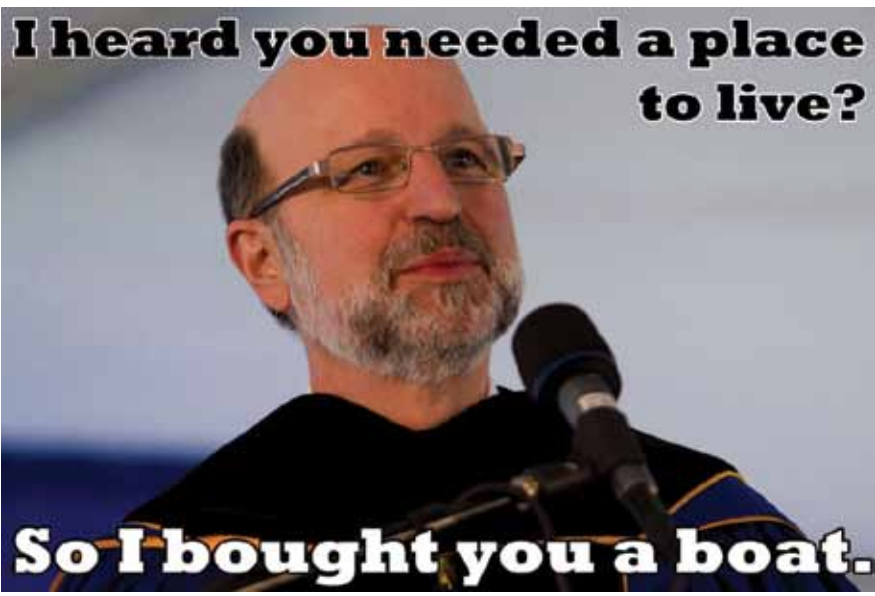
The opinions expressed in commentaries and letters are solely those of the writers and not necessarily the views of *The Point News* or St. Mary's College of Maryland. Unsigned editorials represent the opinion of at least two-thirds of the editorial board. We reserve the right to edit any work submitted to *The Point News* in order to correct errors in spelling and grammar, or to shorten length.

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Any news tips, story information, corrections or feedback may be sent to [akzelaya@smcm.edu](mailto:akzelaya@smcm.edu), or submitted through the web site at <http://thepointnews.com/contact>

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# So wait...What IS *The Point News* staff doing after layout weekend?



10. Sailing for Adventure – The Muppets



THAT looks productive.

<http://pointless.thepointnews.com>

By CAITI SULLIVAN  
Cartoonist

Cartoonists



## Do you have something that you simply **NEED** to say?

Public Safety, must you go around the back of parties to catch the public urinators first? At least give them a heads up!



Do you know how much it stinks to have to use a credit card at the Grind? I don't have flex to use; just felt like commenting.



\$100 to graduate? Can we see the quote for renting a tent and folding chairs?



I MISS THE BOAT!  
COME BACK, CAPTAIN!

Anyone know the band coming for World Carnival this year? And I don't mean which one; does anyone ever know who these bands are?

Every single student here should take a mandatory parking class. Just parking. I have never seen such bad parking in my life.



The Great Room food has been fantastic so far this semester. The variety is increasing, and the meat seems more...fresh. Can we expand breakfast a little, though?



I love the Pub dearly on Fridays and Saturdays, but not my Flex balance. Darn you, delicious nachos!



Submit your Squawks today to Steve Rees, our Managing Editor ([sdrees@smcm.edu](mailto:sdrees@smcm.edu)), and have your maximum 40-word rant printed for all to see and agree with. Or disagree with. It's your call.

Posts CAN BE ANONYMOUS if desired.

**MUST BE SUBMITTED BY Friday, February 10th @ 5 p.m. to be included in the next issue!**

Compiled by Steve Rees

### Punching Babies

By HEATHER PRIBUT  
Cartoonist



## WE'RE IN A DORM

Bring your flippy floppies... I guess.