While our goal at PACE is to guide students in practicing ongoing habits of political and civic engagement, when the fall semester coincides with a presidential election, the PACE engine goes into overdrive to tap into the excitement, controversy and discussions that revolve around the election season. During the fall semester, we did precisely that, as we put together a number of dynamic events that served to educate, stimulate and infuse the campus with a much-needed dose of engaged citizenship.

Voting may not be the only aspect of political engagement, however, it is a vital and important part of a representative democracy. It provides citizens with the opportunity to communicate with public officials and to choose candidates who will be better reflect their views on shaping public policy. Despite past laments about the lack of young people participating in elections, for the last two presidential election the youth vote, in fact, has been decisive, especially in the ever-important swing states such as Florida, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Ohio. Building on this momentum of young peoples’ participation in elections, a key program in the fall was the PACE 1-credit, voting class, taught by PACE Managing Director Leah Reynolds. Through the course, PACE’s Presidential Citizen Scholars learned about the most effective methods for registering their peers to vote and then embarked on such practices, setting up tables in Sea Gull Square and registering students in their classrooms and in the dorms. In addition to voter registration efforts, for the first time ever, PACE sent two students to the 2012 Democratic and Republican national conventions. Based on the presentations that they delivered to the campus community upon their return, it was a transformative experience for these two students who embody the democratic ideal of the politically engaged citizen.

In order for political engagement and participation to have an impact on a broader audience, PACE tackled two of the most controversial issues appearing on the state ballot this November – same sex marriage and the Dream Act. The two forums were very well attended by students as well as the entire SU community as PACE modeled what it is to create civil discourse and political learning even when there is passionate disagreement among the public. In addition to the forums on the state ballot issues, we also teamed up with the Maryland Humanities Council to create a unique deliberative dialogue around the divisive conflict of support for a vibrant agricultural industry while adequately protecting water quality on the Eastern Shore. Students, farmers, developers, scientists and others gathered in small groups to brainstorm ways to find common ground on this issue that often dominates policy making on the Eastern Shore.

Once again, such dialogues and access to information is vital to our mission at PACE, as the more informed the public is, the more they will be able to connect their views and interests to their political participation and engagement. When it appears that so many turn off and tune out when it comes to politics and policy debates, it becomes all important to heed the words of James Madison who warned that “A popular Government, without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy; or, perhaps both.”
As the 2012-2013 academic year at Salisbury University progresses, the current Presidential Citizen Scholars remain politically active and continue to be civically engaged on campus and throughout the community.

Dr. Harry Basehart and Dr. Francis Kane founded the yearlong Presidential Citizen Scholar Program in 2004 to guide students toward becoming future community leaders while partaking in civic engagement experiences. The program consists of 36 academically astounding scholars of all majors who earned a 3.5 GPA and were easily distinguished from their peers. Each scholar received a personal invitation from the President’s Office before the fall 2012 semester to become a part of the prestigious organization.

In the fall, the Scholars hit the ground running. They attended lectures, forums and community events throughout the semester, in addition to volunteering at each event planned by Institute for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement (PACE). Scholars volunteered at the Dream Act Forum, Gay Marriage Forum and the World Café meeting. They served as escorts, ushers, timekeepers and representatives for the PACE.

Scholars were also extremely engaged in the Voter Registration Project, with a goal of getting as many Salisbury University students registered to vote as possible. Each scholar was certified as a voter registration volunteer by the Wicomico Board of Elections and trained to answer any questions posed about voter registration. Every Wednesday from 11a.m. to 3p.m., the Scholars enthusiastically ran a voter registration table in Red Square to reach the greatest amount of student traffic on campus. They held a total of 10 voter registration tables up until October 10 and registered over 100 new voters. They also received a substantial number of absentee ballot applications.

As the 2013 spring semester begins, PACE has a number of exciting events planned. The scholars will be taking a trip to Annapolis to attend the Hargreaves Award event, a trip to Washington, D.C. to tour the White House and the Capital, and numerous lectures with a variety of influential speakers.

Each Presidential Citizen Scholar class equips students with the tools to understanding government and the meaning of civil discourse through courses offered by PACE as well as lectures, forums and trips. The program is an important part of Salisbury University and thrives as it greets each new year.

In preparation for the 2012 election, PACE held a Dream Act Forum on October 3 to address Maryland Ballot Question 4 concerning tuition rates for undocumented immigrants. The event took place in the Wicomico Room of the Guerrieri University Center and was moderated by PACE co-founder and Professor Emeritus, Dr. Francis Kane.

“Our mission at PACE is to teach political engagement and civil discourse,” said Leah M. Reynolds, PACE managing director. “So we want to educate people on the language of the referendum, the topic, and give them distinguished panelists from all sides of each
Gay Marriage Forum

By Elaina Iosue

In celebration of Constitution Day at Salisbury University, the Institute for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement (PACE) held a Gay Marriage Forum in light of the 2012 election. Four panelists met in the Wicomico Room in the Guerrieri University Center on October 15 to educate the audience about Maryland Ballot Question 6 through the lens of the Constitution.

The Civil Marriage Protection Act initiative establishes that Maryland’s civil marriage laws allow gay and lesbian couples to obtain a civil marriage license. A few conditions present in the referendum included protection of clergy from having to perform a marriage if it conflicts with their religious beliefs and that religious organizations are not required to provide goods, services or benefits if the union violates their religious stance.

“We were fortunate to have had a panel of such knowledgeable individuals with rich backgrounds on both sides of this issue,” said moderator Dr. Adam Hoffman, director of PACE. The panelists consisted of Dirk Selland, an Atlanta judge, and Mayor Jim Ireton of Salisbury speaking in favor of the initiative. Maggie Gallagher, founder of the National Organization for Marriage, represented the opposition to the ballot question. Also, Dr. Odeana R. Neal, associate professor of law at the University of Baltimore, spoke as a neutral party and expert on how the Constitution and the Supreme Court has dealt with this complex issue of same sex marriage.

Judge Selland was discharged from the Navy after announcing his homosexuality in 1993 and testified to support lifting the ban on gays in the military before the Senate Armed Services Committee. He believes that the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy does not protect gays and lesbians in the military. Mayor Ireton is a teacher at Glen Avenue Elementary School and spoke on behalf of Equality Maryland. This organization promotes the civil rights of the state’s lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community.

Gallagher is a nationally syndicated columnist and the author of four books on marriage, including the recently released Debating Same-Sex Marriage, written with Professor John Corvino for Oxford University Press. Neal is a constitutional expert, specializing in sexual orientation and the law and human rights. She has written for numerous law journals and is a member of the bars in Massachusetts and Washington, D.C.

Each panelist had five minutes for an opening statement, two minutes to respond to screened questions asked by the audience, a one-minute rebuttal and three minutes for a closing statement. PACE sponsored Salisbury’s annual Constitution Day, with a goal of educating SU students and the surrounding community about the gay marriage debate by presenting both sides of the issue and viewing the controversy through a Constitutional lens. The forum brought an audience of over 150 attendees that included a diverse mix of students, faculty, staff and members of the community.

“What was remarkable was the civility of the evening – discourse, civil discourse, not finger pointing, not name calling, not attacking, not denigrating others,” said Carolyn Stegman in Salisbury’s The Daily Times. The Gay Marriage initiative was passed with 52 percent of Maryland voters supporting the measure and 48 percent opposed to it.
On October 16, over 50 Salisbury University students crowded the couches and floor in the Guerrieri University Center’s Fireside Lounge to watch the second presidential debate. As President Barack Obama and Governor Mitt Romney battled over foreign and domestic issues on the big screen TV, Dr. Adam Hoffman, director of PACE, controlled a large projection screen in sync with polls4everywhere.com to create an engaging and interactive experience.

“I thought that the Debate Watch Party was beneficial, educational and brought students together with similar interests in politics,” said senior Jillian Poppe, a business management major. “More college students need to be educated on what is going on in the political world today and this event was capable of doing that.”

As the debate was taking place, questions created by Hoffman were projected on the screen for the entire lounge to see. Students could text in an anonymous response to these questions and then view their responses on the screen. The questions were designed around each candidate’s performance during the debate and students were able to “voice” their opinions in a civil and informative manner. In turn, their peers could respond in a like manner. A few of the general questions asked were:

- What is your political ideology?
- Who answered the last question better?
- How well did each candidate answer the question?
- Who do you think won the debate?

PACE’s mission is to get students engaged in politics and to educate them on the political process. The Debate Watch Party succeeded in bringing students of various backgrounds and political ideologies into one room and allowing them to take part in a civil discussion. The polling Web site and equipment used catered to the new generation of advanced technology and today’s technology-based society.

The interactive experience was catered with pizza, popcorn, chips, drinks, and red, white and blue cupcakes. Students were attentive and respectful during the entire 90-minute debate and were raving about the experience by the end of the night.

Continued from page 2

 Dream Act Forum

side of the topic, to be able to make their own decisions when they go to the polls.”

Question 4 establishes that individuals, including undocumented immigrants, are eligible to pay in-state tuition rates at community colleges in Maryland, provided the student meets certain conditions. These conditions include attendance and graduation at a Maryland high school, filing of income taxes, and the intent to apply for permanent residency in Maryland.

The panelists consisted of Delegate Ana Sol Gutierrez and Kim Propeach, the political director of CASA de Maryland, representing the pro-argument. The panelists against the passage of the Dream Act were Delegate Pat McDonough and Bob Dane of the Federation of American Immigration Reform (FAIR).

A native of El Salvador, Delegate Gutierrez was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates in 2002. She serves on the house Appropriations Committee and is a past member of the Governor’s Commission on Hispanic Affairs and former Montgomery County Board of Education president. Since 1999, Propeach has served as CASA’s political director. CASA de Maryland assists low-income Latino and immigrant communities throughout the state through programs promoting English for Speakers of Other Languages, classes, employment placement, legal services, health education and advocacy.

Delegate McDonough served as a member of the House of Delegates from 1979-1983 and was re-elected to the House in 2002. Among others, he is a member of the House Health and Government Operations Committee and Maryland Rural Caucus.

Dane became the Communications Director of FAIR in 2006 after 20 years in the radio broadcast industry. The organization’s initiatives include increasing border security, curtailing illegal immigration and promoting lower immigration rates.

Each panelist had five minutes for an opening statement, two minutes to respond to screened questions asked by the audience, a one-minute rebuttal and a three-minute closing statement. The objective of the forum was to inform and educate the Salisbury community, as well as students, on the ballot questions that they, as voters, would be faced with on November 6. It is the right of every American citizen to vote and it is their civic duty to be a well-informed voter.

The Dream Act initiative was ultimately approved by Maryland voters with 59 percent in favor of the Act and 41 percent opposed.
National Convention Student Presentations

By Elaina Iosue

Salisbury University sent two of its very own Sea Gulls to the 2012 Democratic and Republican national conventions for the first time. To share their experiences, senior communication arts majors Jessica Cahill and Chelsea Brown gave a presentation on October 9 to a room filled with peers, faculty, staff, community members and special invites.

“Both women were deeply impacted by the experience and it was very transformative for each of them,” said Leah Reynolds, managing director of the Institute for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement (PACE). They were the only students at each convention from the State of Maryland and won the opportunity through an essay contest hosted by PACE. They were placed into internships by The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars in order to gain the most beneficial experience possible. The program was funded by the Provost’s Office and the Charles R. and Martha N. Fulton School of Liberal Arts.

A native of Severna Park, MD, Jessica Cahill attended the Republican convention in Tampa, FL, and was assigned to CNN. Through the course of her duties, she ran lines with reporter Anderson Cooper and interacted with other on-air personalities, including Piers Morgan and Wolf Blitzer. Cahill got to see Governor Mitt Romney’s presidential nomination acceptance speech, as well as actor Clint Eastwood’s “empty chair” speech.

“I was able to combine my passion for media and politics through my fieldwork placement with CNN,” said Cahill. “In just a week, I was extremely motivated to pursue my career in the media and the opportunity affirmed for me that is the correct career path for me. I was able to experience the daily happenings in a cable newsroom.”

A native of Coeur D’Alene, ID, Chelsea Brown attended the Democratic convention in Charlotte, NC, and interned for the U.S. State Department Foreign Press Center. While fulfilling her duties as an intern, she got to live a dream, seeing her idol, former President Bill Clinton, in person. She also saw high-profile political supporters including actor Jeff Bridges, MSNBC’s Chris Matthews and U.S. Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz (FL).

“With [personal advice from] and contacts made with the State Department, I now know what directions I need to take to get where I want with my career in national security,” said Brown. She met and interviewed many individuals serving in the president’s administration, including former undersecretary of defense for policy Michele Flournoy, associate policy director for national security Marie Harf and Colin Kahl. All were advisors for the Obama for America campaign.

Cahill and Brown went into the conventions having previous experience working with government officials. Cahill already had interned with the Republican National Committee and with U.S. Representative Michele Bachmann (MN). Brown worked as a civil servant for the U.S. Protective Services Division at NASA’s Wallops Flight Facility.

The two Sea Gulls experienced such a large-scale political event at a very intimate level and called their experiences “transformational.” Cahill and Brown received a once in a lifetime opportunity and both women utilized their time at the conventions to network with prominent political figures and work alongside some of the best in the media business.

“I will be eternally grateful to Salisbury University and PACE for allowing me this opportunity of a lifetime,” said Cahill. Every four years PACE will hold the National Convention Essay contest and send two more students to partake in the same experience as Cahill and Brown.
Delegate Bohanan Receives Hargreaves Fellowship

By Elaina Iosue

On February 21st, Maryland Delegate John Bohanan received the 2013 John R. Hargreaves Distinguished Legislative Fellow Award presented by the Institute for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement. The award was created by PACE in 2001 in honor of the late John R. Hargreaves, a former member of the Maryland General Assembly from Caroline County. It honors an exceptional legislator for their distinguished public service.

The event was held in the Lowe House Office Building in Annapolis. It was well attended with members of the House of Delegates, executive staff from Salisbury University, and SU students interning in the State Legislature as well as from PACE’s Presidential Citizen Scholar Program and the Student Government Association.

“The Hargreaves Fellowship salutes public servants and also allows SU students to meet with outstanding state legislators to learn firsthand about the responsibilities and rewards of their work,” said Dr. Adam Hoffman, PACE director. “Delegate Bohanan values higher education and recognizes the importance of civic experience for college students.”

Delegate Bohanan represents the 29B Legislative District of St. Mary's County and was first elected in 1999. He has been a member of the Appropriations Committee since 2003, the chair of the Education and Economic Development Subcommittee and the chair of the Spending Affordability Committee since 2007. Bohanan has served as a member on the Ways and Means Committee, served on special committees and commissions to examine higher education adorability, and is a member of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland and Rural, Veterans, and Bicycle and Pedestrian caucuses. He was recognized for this success in the development of the Patuxent River Naval Air Station and the expansion of the Southern Maryland Higher Education Center in St. Mary’s County.

“Delegate Bohanan Jr. is one of Maryland’s hardest-working legislators,” said President Dudley-Eshbach. “A true visionary, he is an excellent role model for our students as they pursue careers in public service.”

As in years past with other recipients of the Award, Delegate Bohanon will visit SU later in the spring semester, where he will have the opportunity to engage the Presidential Scholars and other students in a smaller, more intimate seminar-style setting, providing for a dynamic discussion about serving in the Maryland General Assembly.
A Student’s Perspective

By Erika Liggins

As I walked past the energetic and enthusiastic Presidential Citizen Scholars actively registering students to vote in the 2012 election, I immediately wanted to find out more about PACE. I earnestly wanted to be a part of an organization that is as dedicated to student involvement in the upcoming election as I am. I was especially excited about my first opportunity to vote in a presidential election and I wanted other students to be just as excited. Voting is one of the most important rights that come with being a U.S. citizen and as PACE strongly conveys to students, “When you skip voting, it’s not rebellion. It’s surrender.” I was ecstatic to vote for the first time, knowing that my vote counted and that my voice was finally heard.

With their bright blue t-shirts and loud, cheerful voices, the Presidential Citizen Scholars drew an abundant amount of attention to their voter registration table and eagerly informed students about the voter registration and absentee ballot process. One of the scholars was a friend of mine and he instantly asked me if I was going to vote in my hometown or if I needed an absentee ballot. I asked him how he was able to participate in the Voter Registration Project and he told me that the project was sponsored by PACE. Even though I could not participate in the Voter Registration Project, I remained dedicated to ensuring that as many students registered to vote as possible. Every Wednesday, I spread the word about PACE’s Voter Registration Project and encouraged students to register to vote and submit their absentee ballots on time.

The Voter Registration Project not only took place in Red Square, but also in the classroom. At the end of our psychology class, one Presidential Citizen Scholar, who was also enrolled in the voter registration class on campus, announced that she would pass out an absentee ballot to any student in our class that needed one. I was glad that the Voter Registration Project had extended to the classroom because some students were unaware of how to obtain an absentee ballot and how to register to vote.

It seems like PACE was everywhere during the Fall semester, as I remember seeing flyers around campus and hearing students discussing the Gay Marriage Forum, sponsored by PACE. Students were especially interested in hearing Mayor Jim Ireton of Salisbury speak in favor of the Civil Marriage Protection Act. This forum was an effective way to educate students about the controversial issue of same-sex marriage by presenting supporting and opposing arguments.

It was also gratifying to see one of our professors, Dr. Adam Hoffman, who is the Director of PACE, host an educational and interactive Presidential Debate Watch Party. Dr. Hoffman chose a comfortable environment for students to watch and discuss the second Presidential Debate, while allowing them to anonymously text a response to questions posted on the Fireside Lounge flat screen TV. This was an excellent way for students from both political parties to collectively and respectfully voice their opinions, as they discussed and analyzed the debate in a civil manner.

PACE showed great effort in preparation for the 2012 election and succeeded in getting students informed about political issues and the political process. This organization has a heart for encouraging Salisbury University students to become politically involved, deepening our understanding of the art of politics.

Voter Registration At Its Finest

By Elaina Iosue

In the spring and fall semesters of 2012, Presidential Citizen Scholars were trained and certified by the Wicomico County Board of Elections to conduct voter registration on campus. A total of 79 scholars were trained throughout the year. In the efforts to register 100 percent of Salisbury University students to vote in the 2012 election, Scholars participated in an extensive Voter Registration Project conducted by PACE.

During the spring semester, tables were set up in front of the Commons every other week to register students during the busy lunch hours. During the fall semester, every Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. a table was set up in Red Square to reach the largest amount of student traffic to and from classes. The dedicated scholars also worked voter registration tables during 10 lectures and forums in September and October.

The Voter Registration Project also included working with the 10 SU resident halls to register students living on campus and a booth was set up during freshman orientation. During the year, posters encouraging voter registration and voting were installed across campus.

As a result of their outstanding efforts, some 300 students registered to vote and a substantial number of absentee ballot requests were taken to the Wicomico Board of Elections. In addition, PACE offered a course called College Student Voting, whose primary activity involves students visiting classrooms throughout the campus to present information and register their fellow students.

This class was taught by PACE managing Director Leah M. Reynolds. Reynolds started the campaign: “When you skip voting, it’s not rebellion, it’s surrender.” The class discovered that peer-to-peer activity is the most effective means of getting students registered and ready to vote.

Presidential Citizen Scholars working the Voter Registration table.
Help Support PACE!

Name: __________________________________________

Mailing Address: __________________________________________

________________________________________

Phone: __________________________________________

E-mail: __________________________________________

Amount of Donation: __________________________________________

Make checks payable to SU Foundation, Inc.

2013 Maryland General Assembly Interns

Richard Arnold:
— Delegate Dana Stein (D)

Colin Buzzerd
— Senator McFadden (D)

Gloria Chibueze-Azinge
— Delegate Eckhardt (R)

Stephen Craig
— Delegate Conway (D)

Theodore Cusimano
— Senator Pipkin (R)

Leah Edwards
— Delegate McComus (R)

Daniel Feeney
— Delegate Norman (R)

Hannah McCartan
— Delegate Glass (R)

John Plinke
— Delegate Barnes (D)

Staff Notes

Leah M. Reynolds is managing director of PACE. Since arriving at PACE, she has helped strengthen the connection between students and faculty at Salisbury University and helped the local community through civic engagement projects. She has also initiated partnership and collaboration with local community groups.

Elaina Iosue is staff assistant since January 2012. She is a senior communication arts - journalism and political science double major at SU. She plans to work in public relations and event planning following graduation in May.

Jessica Cahill interned during her last semester at Salisbury University. She graduated in December 2012 with a B.A. in communication arts - journalism/public relations and minor in political science. Cahill is currently a production intern for The Laura Ingraham Show.

Michael Buckless interned during the fall 2012 semester and is a junior at Salisbury University studying business and marketing.

Erika Liggins interned during her last semester at Salisbury University. She is majoring in communication arts, with a minor in psychology. Following graduation in May, she plans to attend graduate school to get an M.B.A.