

## Campus Successes



Dr. Polly Stewart



Dr. George Whitehead



Safe Spaces Seating Dedication



Dr. Alison Dewald



Dr. Elsie Walker

### Ensuring Safe Spaces

As founder of SU's Horizons program (now known as Safe Spaces), Dr. Polly Stewart provided safe spaces for many Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, Intersex and Asexual (LGBTQIA) students and faculty during her 30-year tenure at SU. Her legacy lives on more than a decade after her retirement in 2004 and her death in 2013 thanks to a new safe space seating area dedicated in her memory. The Office of Institutional Equity's Safe Space training is an innovative, dynamic, hands-on approach to creating safe spaces for all; focusing specifically on the LGBTQIA community. From the classroom bully to the unintentional exclusion by use of certain language, LGBTQIA people frequently find themselves excluded and uncomfortable in a variety of settings. This workshop aims to reduce the often unwelcoming and even hostile environments in which LGBTQIA people navigate in their daily lives.

### Public Service Honors

Two SU faculty were honored for their exceptional public service.

Dr. Alison Dewald, Chemistry, received a Patriot Award from the U.S. Department of Defense's Maryland Office of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR). She was nominated by an SU student for being highly supportive and understanding of his service in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. The award recognizes individuals who "provide outstanding patriotic support and cooperation" to those who have answered their nation's call to serve.

Dr. George Whitehead, Psychology, founded the Wicomico Youth Leadership Academy (YLA), an annual program that has provided leadership training opportunities for hundreds of middle and high school students in the county. For his decade of work with the YLA, Whitehead was named as a national Daily Points of Light Award winner.

### Walker Earns Distinguished Faculty Award

Dr. Elsie Walker, English, earned SU's 2015 Distinguished Faculty Award, honoring exemplary teaching, professional development and service. In the past five years, Walker has presented six international conference papers, produced three peer reviewed publications, guest edited a special pedagogical issue of the journal *Music and the Moving Image* and published the book *Understanding Sound Tracks Through Film Theory*. She also has a second book, *Hearing the Cinema of Michael Haneke*, under contract with Oxford University Press. Walker also serves as co editor of SU's *Literature/Film Quarterly*, a 40 plus year old journal with subscriptions in over 30 countries. She chairs the English Majors Recruitment Committee, advises the English Honors Society and served as a mentor for SU's first student film festival.



### Lenox Honored for Inclusiveness and Fostering Relations

During his first year at SU, Benjamin Lenox earned two prestigious awards.

He was honored nationally as one of Campus Compact's 2016 Newman Civic Fellows for his impact on inclusiveness across campus. An international relations and political science double major, Lenox has been an advocate for LGBTQIA issues on campus. He presented a request to SU's administration to review policies related to gender inclusive housing. He also benchmarked other state institutions and helped facilitate discussions with SU's Student Government Association (SGA) to support greater inclusion across campus.

In addition, he helped make the SGA itself more accessible by advocating for a change to its constitution that now permits any student to run for executive office. He has worked with SU's Counseling Center to promote mental health awareness; assisted with state lobbying efforts for higher education funding; and volunteered for SU's "I Love Salisbury" cleanup event, which builds connections with the community.

Lenox also was honored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs with a Critical Language Scholarship. During the summer, he spent two months based in Lucknow, India, immersed in Urdu language and cultural studies. Lenox is one of just 560 U.S. students selected for a CLS scholarship in 2016. The goal, ultimately, is to build relationships with other countries.

Increasing the number of American scholars who speak Urdu and understand the culture will help foster relations in that part of the world, Lenox explained. He hopes to one day work for the U.S. State Department on affairs between the U.S., India and Pakistan.

### Green Fund Projects

SU students have implemented two new Green Fund projects. A new Solar Dok picnic table, equipped with solar panels, was installed near Henson Science Hall. At the table, students may use stored solar energy to charge their smartphones, tablets and other devices with USB or standard plug inputs while chatting, studying or dining. A push-button requirement and timer ensure energy is not wasted when not in use. Solar power also is used to light the table and its benches at night. SU's Green Fund also supported the purchase of a Green Energy Demonstration Kit, which included solar cooking equipment to illustrate the real-world applications of living green. Green Fund projects may be proposed by individual students or teams involving students.