Several years ago, I began taking a spoonful of local wildflower honey each day during the winter months with the hope that, when spring allergy season arrived, I would already be desensitized to a number of local flower and tree pollen. As my supply dwindled, I began searching for a local beekeeper who sold wildflower honey. To my surprise, I found that Zachary Keller, Facilities Services, is a beekeeper. Once I procured my pound of honey from him, I asked Zachary if he would sit down with me and tell me how he became interested in beekeeping.

Zachary lives north of Biglerville and has been beekeeping for about six years and owns 80 hives. He estimates that there are between 50,000-60,000 bees in each hive during the spring. By winter, the number has decreased to about 10,000 per hive due to normal diseases and lifespan. One of the pests that affects bees is mites (a problem similar to fleas on dogs).

There are three types of bees in a colony: drones (males), smaller worker bees (females), and the queen. The spring and summer are particularly hard on the bees because of the wear on their bodies and wings from so much activity. According to Zachary, there are always some bees that are in the process of dying, even in fall and winter. During the fall, the worker bees live about six months (until spring), but during the spring and summer their average life span is about 35 days.

Although drones will travel from hive to hive, a queen remains in her own hive, mating with drones from the other hives and never with drones from her own hive. As part of the mating ritual, the queen flies to what Zachary refers to as a “congregating area.” It is in this space that the queen and drone mate while in the air.

Zachary does not keep all of the hives in one place because there would not be enough flowers in one area to support that many bees. Instead, he places hives about three to six miles apart, with approximately fifteen to twenty hives per location. Each spring, he rents out his hives to a few area orchard owners to pollinate their orchards, moving the hives to the orchard sites. During the time that the bees are in the orchards, Zachary allows the bees to keep the honey they make. Once he moves the hives back to where they are usually kept, he sells the honey, always leaving enough during the winter months for the bees.

Zachary puts the wooden frame kits together and slides them into the hives and waits until the bees produce the honeycomb. When the frame is full, he removes it from the hive and, taking a hot knife, cuts off the wax. He places the entire frame into an extractor. There is always honey left in the wax cappings when he cuts off the wax. The wax cappings can be melted down to separate the wax from the honey; the wax can then be used to make items such as candles and soaps.

If you are interested in purchasing wildflower honey, I’m sure Zachary will be more than happy to accommodate you. My jar is almost empty, so I’ll be emailing him soon! (zkeller@gettysburg.edu)
Many of us know that Schmucker Hall is home to the arts at Gettysburg College — where music, studio art, and art history courses take place and aspiring young artists come to curate and exhibit their works. But, did you know that Schmucker Hall is more than just another academic building? In the fall of 2015, Shannon Egan, Director of the Art Gallery housed in Schmucker, and Molly Reynolds, the gallery preparatory, created a program which benefits not only the students but also everyone in the Gettysburg community.

During select weeks of the semester, trained students offer tours of the current exhibits on Tuesdays and Thursdays over the lunch break. Molly says that “[the students] don’t receive class credit, but this training is considered part of their part-time work for the Gallery. It is a valuable opportunity for students interested in working in cultural and historical institutions, and while we’ve had really stellar art history majors participate, it gives students interested in art but majoring in other departments a way to learn and talk about art outside of their coursework.”

The best part? These tours are free and open to everyone! Bring your friends, bring your family, bring your neighbors or colleagues! Some tours are even offered in Spanish, such as the Gallery’s last exhibit, Paul Strand and Manuel Álvarez Bravo: Photography in Mexico. Each new exhibit is also accompanied by a lecture series, which goes into further detail about the art pieces and artists themselves. Tours will begin again in fall 2016. If you can’t make a tour, the Gallery is open to the public 10-4pm, Tuesday-Saturday, with free admission.

For more information and a schedule of upcoming tours, check out the Gallery’s website or their Facebook page. You can also find info on the digest or on posters around campus. Hope to see you there!

With a Name Like Schmucker, It Has to Be Good  
by Megan Blount

It seems that more and more organizations are publishing rankings of college and universities on a wider and wider variety of topics — ranging from the long-time U.S. News & World Report rankings (which are heavily influenced by institutional wealth), all the way to the Daily Caller rankings for most haunted colleges (yes, Gettysburg is on that list!).

Recently, The Princeton Review issued a new set of rankings, and I point out below some of the lists where Gettysburg stood out, as there is much of which we should be proud:

- Colleges that Pay You Back: #46 in the nation (based on stellar academics, affordability/generous financial aid, and our graduates’ career prospects.
- Best Internships: #11 in the nation.
- Best Alumni Network: #14 in the nation.

This grouping reflects the high quality of the overall educational experience, our ability to provide financial assistance to those with need, and our recent efforts in the area of Career Development.

In addition, The Princeton Review conducts student surveys that have placed us among the top 20 colleges and universities in the nation on a number of lists. However, I need to note that these are not uniformly positive. Of greatest concern is that Gettysburg students express the lack of race/class interaction on our campus. This is clearly an area in which we need to improve as we work together to create a more inclusive community.

Other top 20 lists include Intramural Sports Participation, Best Athletic Facilities, and Best Campus Food — suggesting, perhaps, a fit and well-fed student body!

And finally, we find ourselves on two additional top 20 lists: Students Who Study the Most, and Happiest Students. I like this combination — happy and hardworking students.

Although these rankings are far from perfect, they indicate some of the great work that’s being done on our campus, as well as areas where we need to improve. I hope you share both my pride in our accomplishments, as well as my determination to make the Gettysburg experience better for all students.

President’s Post  
Janet Morgan Riggs
President’s Dinner for Support Staff 2016
January 9, 2016
Click here to view additional dinner photos on Flickr.
Retirees

ROW 1: Kim Breighner, Mary Ann Remaley, Edna Showers, Steve Bussey. ROW 2: Carrol Hoover, Carol Proctor, Shirley Aldrich, Sandy Buhrman, President Riggs.
5 Years
ROW 1: Becky Beegle, Terry Cotter. ROW 2: Jennifer Hance, President Riggs.

10 Years
ROW 1: Deb Savidge, Becky Best, Angela Alexander. ROW 2: Travis Mathna, Diana Laughman, Niamate Leeper, President Riggs.

15 Years
ROW 1: Sajma Hadzic, Christina Arnold. ROW 2: Marie D'Souza, Lisa Wolf, President Riggs.

20 Years
ROW 1: Joyce Topper, Paula Gladfelter. ROW 2: Carol Coon, President Riggs.

25 Years
ROW 1: Tom Ahlers, Eddie Wetzel. ROW 2: Linda Miller, President Riggs.

30 Years
Ruby Shy, President Riggs, Ruth Miller.

35 Years
Paula Boehner, Joan Swisher.

40 Years
Anne Laughlin.

Service Honorees

5 Years
Sheryl Allen
Kathryn Barako
Rebecca Beegle
Theresa Cotter
Sunnii DeNicola
Kimberly Fischer
Jennifer Hance
Marian Taylor-Bower
Timothy Wilkinson

10 Years
Angela Alexander
Charles Andjeski
Becky Best
Robert Brown
Cheryl Klein
Diana Laughman
Niamate Leeper
Travis Mathna
Carol McGeehan
John Plank
Suzette Redding
Deborah Savidge
Paul Showers
Dustin Smith
Jeffrey Thompson
Joseph Wagaman

15 Years
Miguel Aguilar
Christina Arnold
Lillian Chapman
Jane Cookson
Marie D’Souza
Sajma Hadzic
Susan Holz
Virginia Rinehart
Roger Ritter
Juan Sierra
Lisa Wolf

20 Years
Lorri Bishard
Carol Coon
Paula Gladfelter
Gary Hummer
Patricia Ogg
Joyce Topper

25 Years
Thomas Ahlers
Ellen Hawk
Linda Miller
Edward Wetzel

30 Years
Guy Bowling
Dennis Mickley
Ruth Miller
Ruby Shy

35 Years
Paula Boehner
Joan Swisher
Relishing Retirement
by Cindy Helfrich, Andrea Switzer

Congratulations to those staff members who have retired from Gettysburg College since December 2015.

SANDRA HUBBARD  Admissions
Sandra worked in the Admissions Office for 35 years and retired in December 2015. Unlike many long-term employees, she didn’t work for a different office at any point. As typewriters gave way to computers and counselors came and went, Sandra’s warmest memories are of working side by side with her cousin, Doris Heintzelman, who recommended her for the job in the beginning. Sandra also works part-time at the Majestic Theater, which she’ll continue to do. Thanks for the years of dedication you’ve given, Sandra!

CAROL HOOVER  Counseling Services
Carrol started with the College in 1987, working in Human Resources. She moved from there to Academic Advising, and then moved to Counseling Services, where she spent her remaining 23 years. Carrol worked during the times when IT had to encourage staff to use email, and she was responsible for transitioning thousands of student folders to an electronic medical recordkeeping system. She remembers most dearly getting to know some very unique students on a personal level. Now that she is retired, Carrol plans to relocate closer to her son and grandchildren, where she will do volunteer work and indulge in her many hobbies. Happy retirement, Carrol!

SANDRA BUHRMAN  Center for Career Development
Sandy retired in January after 30 years at Gettysburg College. She started working for Career Services. In the early 90s, she moved to the Dean of the College’s Office. Coming full circle, she moved back to the Center for Career Development in the early 2000s. She has many favorite memories of her time here, but she won’t forget the day she interviewed. There was a driveway around Penn Hall at the time. Her husband had to do “the Gettysburg 500” around the building to keep their 5-month-old son from crying. She will cherish the times when students came into the Career Center to announce that they had been offered their first jobs. She appreciated the chance at her 25-year recognition to publicly thank everyone for their support during her chemotherapy and radiation treatments for breast cancer. Sandy is enjoying her retirement but says she truly misses her Gettysburg family.

Ready, Set, Retire!
by Joyce Sprague

CAROL PRIEST  Philosophy, Religious Studies, and Latin American, Caribbean, Latino Studies
Carol has worked at the College for 35 years and will retire on June 3, 2016. For the first 18 years, she worked in the College Store and Student Activities. Her remaining years have been spent with Philosophy, Religious Studies, LACLS, and she also worked with Global Studies until 2003. Carol feels her true calling has been with the academic division and wishes she had worked there earlier in her career. She has seen a lot of changes over the past 35 years, but noted that some things come back full circle. Carol has been married to Jon for almost 35 years, and they have one daughter, Megan, who is a 2006 Gettysburg grad. Carol plans to spend a lot of her early retirement years serving as caregiver to granddaughter, Aisling, while Megan and her husband, Corey, are at work. In addition to spoiling her granddaughter, Carol might be found reading, exercising, gardening, and doing crossword and Sudoku puzzles. We wish you all the best, Carol!
As the daffodils on campus are blooming and spring is upon us, it is hard to believe that the 27.4 inches of snow we received in a 24-hour period happened only two months ago on January 23 and 24.

You may remember that the storm arrived on a weekend, dashing the hopes of a rare “snow day” for the roughly 3,400 members of the campus community. Most of us stayed in our homes, baked cookies, watched Netflix — partaking in all the typical snow-related activities. However, there were those dedicated College employees who were working to keep our facilities and students safe and fed during the blizzard.

“The goal in a situation like this is to have nothing change,” stated Gary Brautigam, Director of Dining Services. Weekends typically are a little lower on the production scale. Bread and produce are typically delivered every Saturday; however, arrangements were made for the delivery to come on Friday prior to the snow’s arrival. Gary credits his reliable staff for keeping the strength of the dining program intact.

The Department of Public Safety encountered obstacles while driving to incident calls. The mounding snow caused the roads to be impassable, and they found themselves digging their trucks out several times while running routine patrols. Staff who were willing to work but unable to drive themselves due to road conditions were picked up at their homes and given rides into the office.

Facilities Services Grounds Supervisor, Eric Richardson, confirmed that 631 staff hours were disbursed between 31 staff members during that weekend. These dedicated employees cleared 12 miles of sidewalks and 26 parking lots. Entrances and steps to 78 on-campus buildings were cleared for access. One ton (2,000 pounds) of rock salt was used and 150 bags of ice melt were spread across our 200-plus acre campus. Eighteen pieces of equipment were prepped and used for the snow removal.

Because of the hard work of this steadfast crew, classes resumed and offices opened on Monday, January 25, at their regularly-scheduled times. An enormous “thank you” goes out to our emergency personnel colleagues who spent time away from their homes that January weekend to go above and beyond their everyday duties. We are Gettysburg Grateful!