



Pillars

Spring 2017
Volume 31

Newsletter of the
Gettysburg College Support Staff

John Coffin's Care for the Purple Martins

Joyce Sprague



*John Coffin hanging
Purple Martin
housing.*

Spring is just around the corner and with it comes several species of migratory birds. One such bird that has found a home at Gettysburg College, due to the loving care of retiree John Coffin, is the Purple Martin.

John started at Gettysburg College in 1988 and retired as groundskeeper of athletic fields in 2004. One day John saw Purple Martins flying around the Quarry pond. He asked his supervisor, Marty Crabill, for permission to put up housing. The College had been spraying the pond each year to eliminate flying bugs. Once the housing was built and colonized by the Purple Martins, there has been no need to spray the pond, thus saving the College money and protecting the environment.

When John first set up the housing, he used metal houses with 12 holes in each house. He soon learned that when one Martin gets mites, they all get mites, or any other disease, so he switched to gourds that only house one nesting pair. The birds stay healthier with separate housing. The initial gourds were garden gourds. John painted them white to deflect the heat of the sun. He also learned through research that it is best to locate the entry hole facing east or west — the sun is

too hot from the south and the weather too cold from the north. In addition, the entry holes are relatively small to prevent large swallows from moving in, and the best holes are crescent-shaped because starlings' legs are too long to allow them entry. Eventually, John switched to white plastic gourds which last longer.

The Purple Martin, which is a swallow, winters in Brazil. They will begin arriving in mid-April and leave in early August. The Martins send a scout ahead to scope out the area and, like clockwork, will appear a few at a time on the same day every year. They travel with tree swallows, the largest of the swallow species. Their enemies are the English sparrow, starlings, hawks, and snakes. John puts up 60 gourds each year (16 gourds per pole) and has found that a few pine needles in the bottom, or some debris from the previous year's nesting, will entice the Martins to return to the gourds.

Martins raise over 200 fledglings each year at the College, laying 5 to 6 white eggs in the spring. If the Martins survive migration (weather, disease, predators), some of them may return to the Quarry Pond where they were born and others to backyards throughout the state, including John's own backyard.

John will soon erect the poles and hang the gourds once again, in preparation for the Martins' arrival. He will come every day to take care of their needs, although he doesn't know how much longer he can continue to do it. John is hoping that someone else will have the interest and commitment to take over the job. If interested in this worthwhile project, please contact John's daughter, Melissa Runk, in Facilities. To learn more about Purple Martins, please visit

<https://www.purplemartin.org>.



President's Post

Janet Morgan Riggs



Many of you participated in the campus climate study last spring. The results of that survey, the summary of feedback from post-survey discussions completed by the Campus Climate Study Implementation Group, and President's Council's response to that summary can all be found on the Diversity and Inclusion Office website under the Climate Study tab. I encourage you to review these materials if you have not yet done so.

One finding of the campus climate study was that some members of our community do not understand why the College is focused on diversity and inclusion. As I said at the town hall meeting a few weeks ago, this area is important to us for a variety of reasons.

First, the racial and ethnic composition of the country is changing dramatically. To attract strong classes to Gettysburg, we must embrace an inclusive environment and continue to welcome a diverse student body.

In addition, we hear more and more from prospective students that they want to go to a college that offers exposure to students from different backgrounds. Many students are looking for diversity when they're making their college choices, because they know that exposure to people who have had different life experiences makes for a lively and stimulating environment and enhances educational quality. There is nothing like really getting to know people who have different experiences and perspectives.

Of course it's also important for us to attract diverse faculty and staff who can mentor students who come from a variety of backgrounds, who can serve as role models for our current students, who can bring to the curriculum areas that are currently not represented, and who can challenge us to think differently.

This leads me to the most important point, which is that a diverse and inclusive learning environment is key to offering an excellent education and preparation for post-college careers and citizenship. **We simply cannot achieve excellence without diversity.** A liberal arts education is about learning to bring multiple perspectives to complex problems and issues. Exposure to diversity enhances the educational experience and is essential to preparing our students to thrive in an increasingly diverse, globally interconnected world.

Remembering Ellen Hawk

Deb Hydock



Ellen Hawk

After 25 years of service to Gettysburg College Dining, Ellen Hawk retired in Feb 2016. Sadly, Ellen passed away on Nov 16.

Ellen came in every day prepared to work. She could always be counted on to make sure every job was complete at the end of her shift, even if it wasn't her direct responsibility.

The one thing that would prevent Ellen from coming to work was snow. She made it very clear that she did not like it and would not drive in it. She would make arrangements for transportation at the first whisper of a snowflake. Ellen was better than a meteorologist at predicting winter weather!

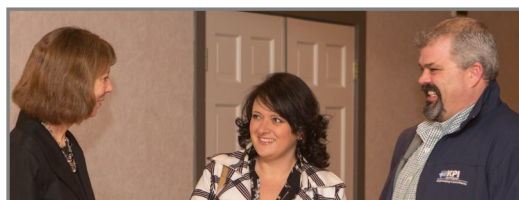
Ellen was passionate about her job but also liked to have fun. If something struck her as funny, she would laugh until she was in tears! Above all else, Ellen loved her family and would do anything in her power to help anyone who needed it. Ellen enjoyed having her family to dinner on Sundays, and all were welcomed to her table.

We miss you, Ellen!

President's Dinner for Support Staff 2017

January 7, 2017

[Click here to view additional dinner photos on Flickr.](#)



Support Staff Council

ROW 1: Kathy Ambrose,
Becky Best, Amy Smith

ROW 2: President Riggs,
Sid Williams, Sue Holz,
Mike Redding

Not present: Jesse Mains,
Becca Barth, Graham Larkin





Retirees

Diann Cooper
Ellen Hawk, posthumously
Lan Khuu
Susan Noel
Carol Priest
Eugene Riffle
Sandy Stambaugh

Retirees

ROW 1: Carol Priest, Diann Cooper, Sue Noel.
ROW 2: Gene Riffle, President Riggs



Service Honorees



5 Years

*Zachary Keller, Renee Weikert,
President Riggs, Edith Pigeon*

5 Years

Suzanne Gockowski
Lisa Heinbaugh
Zachary Keller
Ashley Mowery
Edith Pigeon
Renee Vargo
Renee Weikert
Tina White
Brent Yoder

15 Years

Eric Day
Charlene Felton
Melissa Garber
Travis Griffie
Pamela Lafferty
John McNally
Paul Miller
Susan Moyer
Coltt Nelson
Michael Plank
Stephanie Sanders
Jose Sierra

10 Years

*ROW 1:
Steve Belenski,
Nick Heller, Terry
Oyler, Deb Small.
ROW 2:
Lisa Antonich,
Karen Mesher,
President Riggs,
Lin Myers*



10 Years

Lisa Antonich
Ray Aughinbaugh
James Baer
Stephen Belenski
Sandra Blair
Chad Brodbeck
Amy Flickinger
Nicholas Heller
Christina Marsh
Karen Mesher
Sally Miller
Lindora Myers
Terry Oyler
Debra Small
Lasandra Spivey
Tammy Strawsburg
Mickie Woodward

20 Years

Dian Cramer
Lisa McNamee
Lisa Snyder

25 Years

Donald Brill
Matthew Miller
Deborah Rinehart

30 Years

Rose Taylor
Cheryl Vogel

35 Years

Kenneth Legore

40 Years

Sharon Kuhn



15 Years

*Paul Miller, Stephanie Sanders,
President Riggs*

20 Years

*Dian Cramer with
President Riggs*



25 Years

*Donald Brill,
President Riggs,
Deb Rinehart*



30 Years

*Rose Taylor with
President Riggs*



35 Years

*Ken Legore with
President Riggs*



Kickin' It Outside of Work

Linda Miller



Phomma Phanhty and Jenna Showers work for Dining Services — Phomma as morning Servo chef since 2008, and Jenna as cold food product staff since 2013. But what do they do outside of work? Well, this past fall, they coached the Women's Soccer team from Fairfield High School to its first state title!

The Fairfield Lady Knights did what they had done all season — score, score, score. Their dominant 9-4 win over Shady Side at the PIAA Class 1A championship in Hersheypark Stadium gave Fairfield High School its first state team title in any sport in its history.

Phomma has been involved with soccer his whole life. He was a four-year letter winner in high school and played some college ball. He has been coaching soccer for 15 years — 11 years with Bermudian Springs as both the boys and girls head coach, and now with Fairfield girls for 4 years (2 as assistant and 2 as head coach).

Jenna, as well, has been involved with soccer her whole life — AYSO, club soccer for South Penn, middle school and 4-year varsity starter for Biglerville High. She has coached Biglerville Middle School boys and girls teams from 2009-2015 (even while in college getting her baking and pastry degree), then took the assistant coaching job at Fairfield with Phomma.

Phomma and Jenna go way back, with Phomma coaching against Jenna's Biglerville teams, but also coaching her in the senior all-star game. Both Phomma and Jenna agree that they get along well at work and soccer. At work, they can talk and joke about anything. On the soccer field, Phomma's experience and leadership are keys to his team's success. Jenna is the mother to the team and takes charge of the organizing of paperwork, uniforms, and preparing the girls to go to the games. Together, they communicate and understand each other without



The Lady Knights (Phomma and Jenna on both ends of the back row, and Nora at end of the second row in front of Jenna).

saying a word, and are passionate about the game and coaching.

On a side note, Nora Clarke is one of the stars of the Lady Knights. Nora is the daughter of Ian and Emily Clarke, both employees of Gettysburg College. Phomma is pleased with her skills and declares her to be a smart young lady both on and off the field.

We congratulate Phomma, Jenna, and the Lady Knights on their winning season and wish them the best for many years to come!

ALL-CAMPUS PICNIC

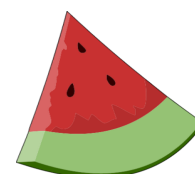
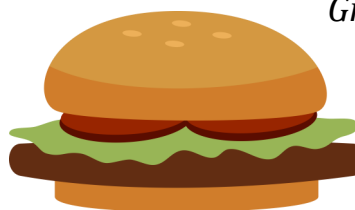
Wednesday, June 7

11:30 in CUB Ballroom

VOTING FOR COUNCIL POSITIONS DURING PICNIC.

Join us for Bingo after lunch.

Great prizes!



WE WANT YOU!

Accepting nominations for 17-18 Support Staff Council



Department of Public Safety Paraprofessional/Clerical Dining Services

One open position in each field with a required 3-year commitment and mandatory attendance at regular monthly meetings.

Email Becky Best at bbest@gettysburg.edu
by MON MAY 1 with a nomination.

New Support Staff Hires

since November 2016

- Kaylynn Barber Educational Technology, IT
- Derek Brenneman Dining Services
- Michael Buchheit Department of Public Safety
- David Conway Dining Services
- Anthony DiBartolo Athletics
- Homer Hek Custodial Services
- Tony Hughes Grounds Services
- Michael Miller Athletics
- Katie Pennington Custodial Services
- Damian Poalucci Athletics
- Rebecca Strevig Musselman Library
- Urese Taylor Department of Public Safety
- Jacqueline Wilkins Custodial Services
- Stacy Winemiller Bookstore

Staff Transfers to Admin Positions

since November 2016

- Melissa Runk Housekeeping Supervisor to Housekeeping Manager, Facilities

Staff Transfers to Staff Positions

since November 2016

- Valerie Anderson East Asian Studies to Eisenhower Institute
- Diane Brennan Civil War Institute to Civil War Era Studies
- Miranda Wisor Admin Assistant to Technical Services Assistant, Musselman Library
- Sladana Zigic Food Service Worker to Dining Coordinator, Dining Services

Support Staff Retirees

since November 2016

- Lillian Chapman Custodial Services
- Diann Cooper Department of Biology
- Lan Khuu Dining Services
- Susan Noel Dining Services
- Carol Priest Religious Studies, LACLS, Philosophy
- Eugene Riffle Grounds Services
- Sandy Stambaugh Custodial Services

compiled by Niamate Leeper
and Linda Miller

Pillars Staff

Cathy Bain

Linda Miller

Rebecca Barth

Joyce Sprague

Cindy Helfrich

Andrea Switzer

Niamate Leeper