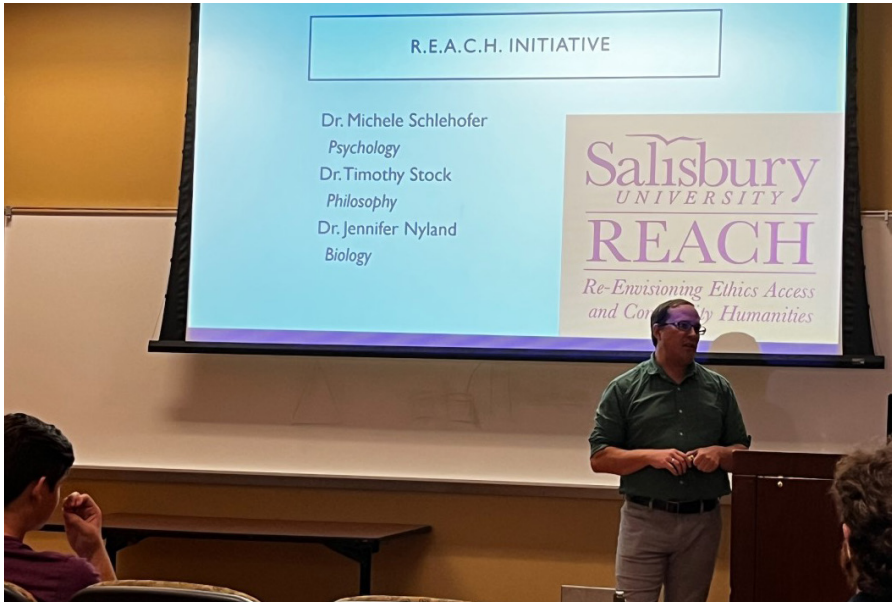


Salisbury University's Re-envisioning Ethics Access and Community Humanities (REACH) Initiative: Integrating Community and Curricular Ethics is grant-funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Humanities Connections Program. REACH, led by Co-Directors Michèle Schlehofer, Timothy Stock and Jennifer Nyland, focuses on ethics, ethics literacy and ethics agency through new curricular and co-curricular resources, and connecting with the community.



REACH Team Advocates for “Ethics Enfranchisement” at Multiple Events

This fall, the REACH team has been busy presenting our model for developing community-situated ethics. Dr. Tim Stock represented the team at a presentation on Salisbury University’s campus on October 24. The presentation was part of the “Democracy Across the Disciplines” seminar series. The theme of this semester’s seminar series, Controversy and Resilience, explores the controversies facing democratic societies and the ways those societies are resilient in the face of challenges. Dr. Stock’s presentation focused on the question “What are universities for?” and made the case for Salisbury University’s community-engaged identity, in particular as a place where supporting ongoing conversations about ethics can forge stable and meaningful “enfranchisement” of community members and community organizations around areas of pressing concern. Recordings will be available next semester; please stay tuned!

In addition to presenting on campus, we have brought the REACH model into wider professional circles. On October 13, the “enfranchisement” model was presented at the National Conference for Higher Education in Prison, highlighting several activities that Dr. Stock has led (along with Dr. Grace Clement and honors/philosophy student Carly Nascimbeni) at the Eastern Correctional Institution, including an Ethics Workshop and three Ethics Bowl teams at the prison. Dr. Stock will also be presenting in January at the American Philosophical Association’s Teaching Hub, making the case for public philosophy and community-based ethics teaching.

Listening Session Scheduling

We are working toward scheduling a listening session for members of our local community. Listening sessions are opportunities for our partners to network and discuss ethics, community problems and solutions to those problems in a safe, confidential setting. Please fill out this short form to indicate what dates and times generally work best for attendance in a listening session.



salisbury.edu/REACH-listening-session-feedback/

What Makes a Good Mission Statement?

From our surveys, we learned that many organizations in our local area could benefit from developing a stronger mission statement. A well-crafted mission statement can help your organization clarify its purpose and establish a framework by which to prioritize day-to-day work. All stakeholders in your organization (staff, clients, board members, etc.) should be familiar with the organization’s mission. Consider it your elevator pitch: If you only had a short elevator ride to describe what your organization does, what would you say?

Good mission statements are short (one or two sentences), specific and answer these basic questions:

- **What does your organization do?**
- **Who does your organization do it for?**
- **What are your organization’s top values?**

The REACH team is available for consultation to help develop strong mission statements.

ETHICS PROFILE: Susan Parker

Wicomico Environmental Trust

On January 2, 2019, I walked out of the newsroom at *The Daily Times/delmarvanow.com* for the last time after accepting an early retirement, ending a 28-year career in journalism. That fall, I joined the board of directors of the Wicomico Environmental Trust, a nonprofit I had interacted with a number of times during my tenure as editorial page editor.

Wicomico Environmental Trust (WET) was founded in 1989 in Wicomico County as a grassroots organization concerned about the direction (or lack thereof) of the county's environmental policies. In 2005, the WET board of directors secured IRS nonprofit status and began to focus on the county's rapidly increasing residential sprawl. By 2011, water quality and the health of the Wicomico River and its watershed were added to WET's evolving mission. WET began working with government and other NGOs to develop a watershed management plan (WIP) for the river.

WET's current mission to "champion a healthy environment for all" is now carried out through its strategic goal to serve as an integral part of the restoration of the Wicomico River through water quality monitoring, education and outreach, public engagement in stewardship, environmental justice, and public advocacy for the benefit of the watershed and all of its inhabitants.

My primary position with WET is coordinator of the Wicomico River Creekwatchers, a program that uses trained volunteers to collect data and samples from 26 sites along the Wicomico River, from Delmar to Mount Vernon in Somerset County.

Ethics has always loomed large in my



professional life. A news outlet relies on its audience's faith in the reporters and editors who create the content they consume.

Our society is filled with political rhetoric, division, polarization, ill will and sometimes physical violence. As an employee of an environmental organization, which absolutely should not be political, I prefer to keep my political opinions to myself most of the time.

Ethics and ethical behavior seem to me to be the best and perhaps only way to bring humanity together to work toward slowing climate change and improve our relationship with the environment.

Most faith traditions teach us to be good stewards of creation – our planet and shared home. Parents want their children to grow up in a world where resources are shared and accessible to those who need them, where an honest day's work will provide at least enough money to support a family. Most people want to be treated kindly and with respect; they therefore should understand the need to demonstrate

kindness, generosity and respect in their own dealings with others.

Ethics therefore makes for better relationships with family, friends, acquaintances, colleagues and passers-by alike. Honesty, trustworthiness and being dependable are foundations upon which friendships can grow and a community can thrive.

However, when we abandon ethics to elevate self-interest rather than caring about others, we make life more difficult than it needs to be.



Join Our Community Advisory Board!

Do you have ideas on how to improve ethics training and ethical practice?

We are seeking motivated individuals from our region to serve on our Community Advisory Board! The Community Advisory Board meets regularly and provides the REACH team input on current community-facing initiatives, as well as helps steer what types of products the REACH team develops and implements in our local community. We seek a diverse array of representation across multiple sectors: government, nonprofit, business and advocacy groups. Positions on the Community Advisory Board come with a modest financial stipend. Please email us at REACH@salisbury.edu if interested.

Introducing New Team Member Katie Stella-Breeding

Please welcome Katie (Katelin) Stella-Breeding to the REACH Team!

Katie will be working part time for REACH as our community outreach coordinator. She will be helping to update and expand the partners in our Community Ethics Network and promote the REACH initiative at community events. Please be on the lookout for communications from Katie as she settles into her new role.



Make Tomorrow Yours

SU is an Equal Opportunity/AA/Title IX university and provides reasonable accommodation given sufficient notice to the University office or staff sponsoring the event or program. For more information regarding SU's policies and procedures, please visit www.salisbury.edu/equity.