



### **Geography Mentor Honored Nationally**

The American Association of Geographers (AAG) featured SU alumnus and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) project manager Ryan Mello on its monthly GeoMentor Spotlight.

AAG's GeoMentors enhances GIS and geographic learning in K-12 schools across the U.S. Mello is part of a nationwide network of mentors available to assist teachers with ArcGIS Online and other classroom applications.

Mello initially came to SU to study science education, but he loved his geography courses so much that he changed his major. Being a GeoMentor combines both fields, he said.

Mello is a GIS project manager at SU's Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative. For six years, he has worked on its Maryland Critical Area Remapping project. He earned his bachelor's in geography with concentrations in earth and atmospheric science in 2008 and his master's in GIS management in 2014, both from SU.

## DiBartolo Earns Geriatric Nursing Professorship

With over 10,000 baby boomers turning 65 every day, Dr. Mary DiBartolo, Nursing Department, says there is a national health care crisis. To educate others about this issue, DiBartolo received SU's first Fulton Endowed Professorship in Geriatric Nursing.

DiBartolo worked in long-term care facility administration before joining SU's faculty in 1995. Certified in gerontological nursing, her areas of interest include Alzheimer's/dementia and caregiving, Parkinson's care, and end-of-life issues.

SU's Fulton Endowed Professorship in Geriatric Nursing was made possible by a \$500,000 gift in 2008 from the estate of Charles Fulton. Its goal: support SU's Nursing Department by providing awards to faculty to benefit students, the University and the

community, and recognize leadership and dedication in education related to geriatric nursing.

DiBartolo has long been involved with research, teaching and outreach related to the care of older adults, and the three-year appointment allows her to continue this work.



## Taylor In Science Magazine

Dr. Ryan Taylor, Biological Sciences Department, published in *Science* magazine with a team from the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama on how "Bats Perceptually Weight Prey Cues Across Sensory Systems When Hunting in Noise."



The article is Taylor's third *Science* appearance in as many years.

"We live in an increasingly urbanized world and with that comes more noise," Taylor said. "There have been a number of studies on how anthropogenic (human induced or created) noise influences bird communications, but we don't know much about the impacts on other species."

Noise pollution, according to the study, has been linked to lower survival and reproduction because it masks environmental cues and makes it hard for animals to hear moving prey or approaching predators.

Taylor helped design the experiment, including two robotic frogs used to mimic mating calls and vocal sac expansion when placed in a flight cage with the bats.

## Nursing Students Assist Doctors In Nicaragua

Two SU nursing students went south in the winter, joining local surgeons for a La Merced medical mission trip to Nicaragua. Alison Farmer and Kristen Murphy spent four days assisting Drs. Vincent Perrotta of Peninsula Plastic Surgery and Florian Huber of Peninsula Orthopaedic Associates, gaining valuable clinical experience as the doctors treated patients with severe health conditions and injuries.

"The students got a front-row seat in the operating room," said Dr. Mary DiBartolo of SU's Nursing Department, who accompanied them. "We were in two public hospitals, where the poorest of the poor are treated, and they were all very appreciative." Their health problems, she explained, are not typically seen in the U.S., such as

very advanced breast cancer and untreated fractures, which required extensive procedures.

The students contingent also spent time at a church-based medical clinic, assisting Salisbury dentist Dr. Kraig Stetzer with procedures including extractions and fillings.



## Lab Science Students and Faculty Honored

The American Society of Clinical Laboratory Science published – and honored – research about over-the-counter drug test devices conducted by an SU professor and students.

Their article, "OneScreen Drug Test Devices: Adulterant Effects

and Untrained Subject Use," appears in the Winter 2016 *Clinical Laboratory Science* journal. The project also earned the 2016 Scientific Research Award – Honorable Mention, which recognizes the development of research on such topics as test methodology, quality control and instrument development.

Dr. Diane Davis, chair of SU's Health Sciences Department and director of the Medical Laboratory Science Program, collaborated on the project with two students from SU's Honors College: Emma Albrittain, a 2014 medical laboratory science graduate, and Kyle Bowen, a 2015 biology graduate and current respiratory therapy major.

