

ASM Ink

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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.



www.marylandarcheology.org



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Have you looked at a calendar lately?

Some months spring up on you when you are not looking. First Thanksgiving tells you the end of the year is near and then holiday shopping duties let you know you're running out of 2019. That's not the only thing you're running out of. Your ASM membership needs to be renewed. So before you spend all your money on holiday gifts, commit a little to your favorite avocation, Maryland archeology. A renewal form is with this newsletter and also is on line. Do it now, so you don't have to worry about remembering it and you can concentrate on what to get Mary. Maybe one of those books reviewing in this issue?

Upcoming events

April 18, 2020: ASM Spring Symposium, Crownsville, all day.

Volunteer opportunities

The following volunteer opportunities are open to CAT participants and other ASM members:

ASM Volunteer Lab, most Tuesdays: The lab in Crownsville. Contact Charlie Hall at charles.hall@maryland.gov or Louise Akerson at lakerson1@verizon.net. It is currently working on cataloging artifacts from the Levering Coffee House Site, Baltimore (a mostly late 18th/early 19th Century site).

The Smithsonian Environmental Research Center seeks participants in its Citizen-Scientist Program in archeology and other environmental research programs in Edgewater. Field and lab work are conducted Wednesdays and on occasional Saturdays. Contact Jim Gibb at jamesggibb@verizon.net

Montgomery County for lab and field work volunteers, contact Heather Bouslog at 301 563 7530 or Heather.Bouslog@montgomeryparks.org

The Anne Arundel County Archaeology Program and the Lost Towns Project welcome volunteers in both field and lab at numerous sites. For diggers, the Linniston site on Gibson Island shows signs of occupation from the 17th through 19th centuries. Digging is on Fridays from 8 to 3. Through February, the lab at Historic London Town in Edgewater will be open for volunteers only on Mondays. On Wednesdays and Thursdays, come to the Anne Arundel collection facility at 7409 Baltimore-Annapolis Blvd. in Glen Burnie. For more information and to sign up email Drew Webster at volunteers@losttownsproject.org or call 410 222 1318.

Mount Calvert. Lab work and field work. 301 627 1286.

Jefferson Patterson Park invites volunteers to take part in its activities, including archeology, historical research and conservation. Contact Ed Chaney at ed.chaney@maryland.gov or 410 586 8554.

The Archaeological Institute of America provides an online listing of fieldwork opportunities worldwide. Call up www.archaeological.org/fieldwork to get started.

UPAG/Howard County Recs and Parks invites volunteers interested in processing collections and conducting historical research to contact Kelly Palich at Kpalich@howardcountymd.gov or 410-313-0423.

CAT corner: For information on the CAT program, contact Sarah Grady at sarahgrady11@gmail.com

Help Wanted! Looking for a Teacher of the Year

The academic year 2018-2019 is half over and Bill McIntyre, chair for the Teacher of the Year Award needs help. ASM members who may be aware of a teacher who seems to fit the description for nomination to receive this award are asked to contact Bill. The teacher may be elementary, middle or high school level and teaching in public or private school. It is important to identify potential nominees as soon as possible.

Contact Bill at williamlmac@comcast.net or 410-939-0768.

Long-lost bones found at JefPat

By Erin Cox

Condensed from the Washington Post, November 1, 2019

Janice Hayes-Williams was just starting out as an amateur local historian two decades ago when she found out a prominent black man had been deeply disrespected.

A grave holding the remains of Smith Price, founder of the first free black community in Maryland's state capital, had been dug up during an urban renewal project in the 1980s. And for years, no one she talked to knew where the bones had gone.

"How do you dig up people and take them away?" Hayes-Williams said in an interview earlier this week.

On Friday, she stood in St. Anne's Cemetery in Annapolis and ran her hand along a pair of custom wooden caskets. "At last," she said, "they're home."

Price died in 1807. He and a son both were buried behind the church he helped found. Their bodies presumably stayed in that small graveyard until the early 1980s, when the poor black residents who still lived in the neighborhood were displaced. The area was bulldozed to make way for townhouses they could not afford.

"We had told these developers there was a cemetery there, but I don't think they took it to heart until they dug a basement and found the skeletons," said Robert Worden, who lives in a neighboring community.

It was actually Wayne Clark, then a state archeologist, who stumbled into finding them. He visited the construction site the day the graves were sliced in half during a basement excavation.

The skeletons were lodged in a dirt wall, close to coffin nails that appeared centuries old. He suspected other remains might have inadvertently been sent to a landfill with construction debris.

"I have a habit of checking construction sites around town," Clark, 69, recalled in an interview this week. "I was shocked and upset that there was no archeology done on this area."

He pulled together an emergency team to salvage what he could and boxed up the bones to keep them safe. Then he did some research, learning about the graveyard. The bones were sent to storage.

"My intent in removing the remains was to save them from the disrespect they had been given," Clark said. "There was no funding, and I did this on an emergency basis. We didn't have any resources to do follow-up."

After the bones were rediscovered, the Rev. Carletta Allen, pastor at Asbury United, asked longtime members why they did not object at the time to their being cast aside rather than reburied.

She said her parishioners answered: "Pastor, what were we supposed to say? We had no power. So they did what they did, and we watched."

Hayes-Williams says she was disheartened by the disregard for his graveyard — and surprised to learn that post-revolutionary Annapolis had a thriving community of black people even as enslaved Africans were still being unloaded from ships in the Annapolis Harbor.

"This is my story, my people," Hayes-Williams said. "I mean, these guys were leasing lands, running shops and taverns, buying their own people out of slavery. And nobody knows."

She spent a lot of time trying to figure out where the bones had been taken. But the Internet was in its infancy back then, and so were her skills as a researcher. Over time, she let it go.

She became a well-known local history buff. Eventually, then-Maryland House Speaker Michael E. Busch (D-Anne Arundel) designated her to serve on a few committees.

Four days after Busch died in April, Hayes-Williams drove to her final event as his representative — a commission meeting at the Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum in Calvert County, a multiuse state facility that also happens to house 8 million archeological artifacts.

She can't explain why she never looked for the missing bones there before. When she arrived that day, she blurted out a question. Do you have any bones from Annapolis?

"When they said, 'We have the Smith Price graveyard,' I almost passed out," Hayes-Williams said.

A team led by state archeologist Julie Schablitsky concluded that the bones seem to belong to a 6-year-old child and a man between 45 and 55 who had arthritis and a tooth worn down from a tobacco pipe. They used facial reconstruction techniques to create a portrait of the man they believe is probably Price.

More mysterious lines found in Peru

By Iliana Magra

Condensed from New York Times, November 21, 2019

A huge carving of a monkey with its tail twirled in a spiral; vast, geometric images of a condor and a hummingbird; an immense spider — the 2,000-year-old Nazca Lines in Peru have awed and mystified modern viewers since they were first seen from the air last century.

Now, 143 more images have been discovered, etched into a coastal desert plain about 250 miles southeast of Lima, the Peruvian capital. The Japanese researchers who found them combined on-the-ground work with the most modern of tools: satellite photography, three-dimensional imaging and, in one case, artificial intelligence.

The newly discovered carvings, or geoglyphs, depict human forms and a broad variety of animals, including camelids, a group of mammals that includes llamas and alpacas; cats; fish, and snakes, according to the research group from Yamagata University.

The shapes, some of which are believed to date from at least 100 B.C., were mainly identified in the western side of the area through fieldwork — picking through pottery remnants, stones and soil — and by analyzing high-resolution imagery, the university said. The largest are more than 300 feet long.

But one geoglyph was revealed as a result of a collaboration between the university research team and Watson, IBM's artificial intelligence system.

When the university and IBM Japan analyzed data with software called Watson Machine Learning Community Edition, they identified various candidates for "biomorphic" shapes. The university said the researchers then chose one of them and, after conducting work on the ground in 2019, discovered a previously unknown, 16-foot figure of a human standing on two feet.

The Nazca Lines cover an area of about 173 square miles and are thought to have been scratched into the earth from 500 B.C. to A.D. 500. The shapes are best seen from the air and many are impossible to discern from the ground.

UNESCO has designated the Nazca Lines a World Heritage site that bears witness to "the culture and magical-religious tradition and beliefs," artistic and technical skills, and land use techniques of societies in pre-Columbian South America.

Masato Sakai, a professor who led the research team, said in a video that the enigmatic drawings must become more visible to ensure their survival. "The most important point is not the discovery itself," Professor Sakai said, adding that the lines were "facing a crisis of destruction."

"They should be cleaned up," he said. "If they become clearly visible, they will be protected as important cultural heritages."

In 2014, Greenpeace activists left marks on the protected site after they entered the area to place a sign promoting renewable energy. And nearly two years ago, a truck driver was arrested after he intentionally drove his tractor-trailer off the Pan-American Highway, which runs through the archeological site, and damaged three straight-line geoglyphs, Peru's culture minister said at the time.

All of the Nazca works were created by removing the darker top layer of earth to reveal the white sand beneath.

The new findings are categorized into two types that differ in scale and purpose.

The representational group, depicting animals and anthropomorphic figures, includes figures that usually span less than 165 feet, according to the university. The other, more abstract and geometric group, includes much larger shapes. The longest one stretches more than 330 feet.

Archeologists say they believe some of the etchings played a role in astronomical rituals. The Yamagata University team said that geometric shapes signified places where people held ceremonies that involved the breaking of ceramics, while the smaller, representational figures, which were found close to paths or slopes, are believed to have been travel markers, "designed to be looked at."

The researchers plan to use another IBM system, called PAIRS, to organize data collected from the ground over the past 10 years and conduct more groundwork to create a map of the geoglyphs.

Book review: How archeology tells state's story

The Archaeology of Colonial Maryland: Five Essays by Scholars of the Early Province, Edited by Matthew D. McKnight, The Maryland Historical Trust Press, 2019; 184 pgs., illus., \$35 hardcover, \$20 softcover

While the essays in this beautifully illustrated book may represent "but a sampling" (quoting the editor) of contributions made by archeologists, the reader comes away with a broad understanding of the complex history of 17th-Century Maryland. The authors provide numerous examples of how the information extracted from material evidence at early Colonial-era sites can both support and contradict historical accounts.

Collectively, the essays reveal fascinating secrets about the Colonial landscape and the daily lives of its Native American, European (primarily English) and African inhabitants. Endnotes and high quality color images and graphics enhance the narratives. In fact, rare is a page with text alone.

Chapter One's focus is on Lord Baltimore's capital at St. Mary's City. The St. John's site was a plantation established in 1638—only four years after the arrival of Baltimore's settlers. Henry Miller notes that "the excavations at St. John's provided the foundation for 17th-Century historical archeology in Maryland." He then uncovers major structures within the capital itself— the Catholic brick chapel (with its lead coffins), Leonard Calvert's House (ca. 1635) and Smith's Ordinary (1667). Their physical locations in relationship to other known sites support the conclusion that St. Mary's City was built according to a uniquely Baroque plan.

Julia King offers evidence in Chapter Two that indicates most of the immigrant experience took place on plantations, not in towns. The earliest plantations started on St Mary's River, but English settlement gradually spread up the waterways to as far as the mouth of Port Tobacco River by 1641.

Only three of these sites have been excavated to any degree, but it seems the earliest wealthy planters sought to replicate framed English farmhouses. In contrast, the Stevens site (1651) at the mouth of the Patuxent is characterized by the more practical, and affordable, earthfast dwellings that became common by the 1660s.

Nonetheless, artifacts from the Stevens site reflect the owners' desire for goods imported from all over Europe. Other early Colonial sites suggest a trend toward moving indentured servants and slaves out of the manor house into separate quarters. Matapany, Notley Hall, Charleston and My Lord's Gift all have large archeological footprints reflecting an elite status.

In Chapter Three, Al Luckenbach summarizes key discoveries from the Lost Towns Project of Anne Arundel County. The Puritan settlement of Providence is the main subject, although the port towns of Herrington and London are briefly discussed. In 1649, Lord Baltimore welcomed Virginia Puritans to settle within his colony. Physical evidence of their main settlement on the Severn River remained elusive until 1989. Eventually, archeologists identified eight sites clearly associated with early Providence, which Luckenbach describes as a "hamlet" comprised of disparate earthfast dwellings built near springs and protected coves.

Located on the upper Patuxent River, Mount Calvert Town was created in 1684 by legislation supplementing the 1683 act that created port towns like London in Anne Arundel County. However, Mount Calvert did not develop according to the legislated grid plan. Michael Lucas describes in Chapter Four how geography and politics shaped this river landing community, which was renamed Charles Town in 1696.

As a courthouse town and a tobacco trade port, Charles Town grew rapidly until about 1715. Archeological investigations revealed that a road once paralleled the Patuxent River, running from the landing to the edge of town where the courthouse and church were located. Ordinaries and stores lined the road. Artifacts from these "activity nodes" include items that likely belonged to enslaved Africans.

The final chapter deals with the impact of colonization upon native peoples up through 1712. Scott Strickland first outlines Late Woodland settlement patterns, noting that major villages as well as ossuaries were placed close to waterways and enjoyed a wide "viewshed" of the surrounding landscape. Using John Smith's 1608 map of the Chesapeake, Strickland describes investigations at occupation sites on the Potomac and Patuxent rivers that predate the English.

Special attention is given to Secowocomoco and Accokeek Creek (possibly Moyaone), which were abandoned by the time Lord Baltimore's colonizers arrived in 1634. Gradual displacement of the Piscataway and other native groups becomes evident from material remains at Choptico, Mattapanian Fort and Zekiah Fort.

Each of the chapters has sidebar articles contributed by the editor, topics that provide explanatory or supplemental information that tie the essays together. An historical timeline of important events and key persons precedes Chapter One, while Chapter Five is followed by an article that traces the migration to Ohio by a majority of the Piscataway people. A short piece about earthfast structures is especially helpful in understanding early 17th-Century building techniques. Another sidebar brings attention to the Colonial Encounters Database and the Maryland Archaeological Synthesis Project, both available online.

Although the overall work focuses mainly on the Western Shore, editor McKnight's article about William Claiborne's fort on Kent Island clarifies that the first English settlement was located on the Eastern Shore.

Besides serving as an introduction to Maryland's early history, the work conveys the importance of archeological investigations in helping the present generation make sense of its past. The publication is an indispensable reference that belongs in the libraries of Middle Atlantic archeologists, professional and avocational. It's safe to say that quite a few ASM members will appreciate the recipes for rattleskull and flipp.

- Aaron Jarvis

Book review: It's treat to beat feet in Thames mud

Mudlark, by Lara Maiklem, Liveright Publishing, 2019, 314 pages, \$28

Mudlarking is a form of salvage archeology. In this case it refers to people, mudlarks, who walk along the banks of London's Thames River, when the tides allow them to, looking for historical debris. They don't keep records of where precisely they find things, but they are collectors, not looters. Because what they find didn't originate there and if they don't salvage the objects they find these artifacts most likely will be reburied by the mud or swept out to sea, maybe never to be seen again.

Maiklem is following in the footsteps, maybe sometimes literally, of Williamsburg's Ivor Noel Hume, who developed his interest in archeology by walking the Thames before turning his passion into his profession. A mother of an ever-growing family, Maiklem has no interest in turning professional but she is aware of the historical value of some of her finds and complies with British law to report and/or show possibly notable ones to authorities.

She is not alone in her searching, in fact she usually isn't as she climbs down to the foreshore, keeping one eye on the ground and the other on the river to make sure the next tide doesn't trap her away from her picked-out escape route. The fear is more than theoretical. She relates times when she is "racing" toward her exit point as the water moves closer and closer and the mud keeps trying not to release her boots.

Walking the Thames is a lesson in history, with various sections telling various stories. She's researched some of the objects and writes histories of coinage or whatever. She explains that early English tobacco bowls were small because tobacco then was rare and expensive; as it became more available, bowl size grew. She knows some of her finds will deteriorate after being removed from the protection of the anaerobic mud and knows the different ways different objects need to be treated.

Her finds range from the B.C. era to objects recently deposited directly or indirectly into the river. The greatest number of objects found by Thames mudlarks was clothing and personal accessories: Nearly 300 shoes from one dump alone, shoe pattens, scabbards, fragments of silk cloth, a hair net, a wooden comb, 92 different kinds of pins, a bronze ear pick, rings, wooden and glass beads, coins from various eras, etc.

Also iron chain, bone knife handle, iron knives, wooden bowls, bucket handles, the leg of a copper skillet, plated fiber mat, roof tiles, lead window comes, an iron box, candleholders, part of a copper lantern, more etc.

Some spots, she has learned, specialize in certain types of artifacts or eras and she often is rewarded anew when she returns to them time and again. If she thinks she has enough specimens of an object, she'll leave new finds for someone else to find - if it is still there and visible.

Some artifacts are quickly identifiable, others she doesn't recognize as artifacts unless the light is right. Others, "I shudder to think of the treasures I have left behind simply because I didn't know what they were."

Maiklem combines a keen interest in her subject with being a talented writer. Writing 300 interesting pages on walking through the mud while keeping the reader interested could be a challenge to, but not to her.

- Myron Beckenstein

Chapter News

In addition to the listed chapters, ASM has chapters at Hood College and the Community College of Baltimore County and a club at Huntingtown High School in Calvert County, run by Jeff Cunningham; visit its website, <http://hhsarchaeology.weebly.com/>

Anne Arundel

Anne Arundel Chapter will be meeting at the Schmidt Center at SERC, the second Tuesday of each month, 7 to 9 p.m. Parking in front of the venue. For information, contact Jim Gibb at JamesGGibb@verizon.net

Central Chapter

Meets the third Friday every other month at the Natural History Society of Maryland at 6908 Belair Road in Baltimore. Business meeting begins at 7, talk at 7:30. For information contact centralchapterasm@yahoo.com or stephenisrael2701@comcast.net or 410-945-5514. Or www.facebook.com/asmcentralchapter or <http://asmcentralchapter.weebly.com> or Twitter [@asmcentral](https://twitter.com/asmcentral). Note: chapter may be deactivating in January.

Charles County

Meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday (September-May) at the LaPlata Police Department. Contact President Carol Cowherd at ccasm2010@gmail.com. Website ccarchsoc.blogspot.com and Facebook [@ccasm2010](https://www.facebook.com/ccasm2010)

December 12: Catherine Dye on an Analysis of Baylor: a Contact-Period Native Site.

January 9, 2020: TBD

February 13: Carolin McManus. TBD

March 12: Esther Doyle Read. TBD.

April 9: Patricia Samford with a Post-Colonial refined earthenware workshop.

Mid-Potomac

The chapter meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Needwood Mansion in Derwood. Dinner at a local restaurant at 5:30 p.m. Contact Don Housley at donhou704@earthlink.net or 301-424-8526. Chapter website: <http://www.asmmidpotomac.org> Email: asmmidpotomac@gmail.com Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Mid-Potomac-Archaeology/182856471768

Friday, December 20: (note change from regular meeting day): Chapter Holiday Party, from 6 to 9:30 p.m. at the Agricultural History Farm Park Activity Center, 18410 Muncaster Road, Derwood.

January 16, 2020: Montgomery Parks archeologist Heather Bouslog and Karl Franz of the Ottery Group will speak on the history, restoration and surprise archeological find at the Seneca Store (Poole's store).

Monocacy

The chapter meets in the C. Burr Artz Library in Frederick the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. For more information, visit the chapter's web page at digfrederick.com or call 301-378-0212.

December 8: Jeremy Lazelle will give an overview of federal considerations for the environment, historic preservation and socio-economics.

Northern Chesapeake

Members and guests assemble at 6:30 for light refreshments. A business meeting at 7 is followed by the presentation at 7:30. Contact Dan Coates at 410- 273-9619 or dancoates@comcast.net Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/northernchesapeake>

Friday, December 13. Mike Tritsch. "Encroachment of Domestic Religion at Temple of Karnak." ASNC annual dinner meeting. I.O.O.F. Hall, Aberdeen.

January 8, 2020: Prehistoric Resources of the Upper Bay. Dan Coates & Dave Peters. Rising Sun Historical Society, Rising Sun.

February 12: Subject TBA. Havre de Grace City Hall.

March 11: Subject TBA. Historical Society of Cecil County, Elkton.

Friday, April: Date & subject TBA. Edgewood Hall, Harford Community College, Bel Air.

May (Exact date TBA)

Annual Picnic Meeting. St. Patrick's Irish Catholic Church, Conowingo

St. Mary's County

Meetings are the third Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Joseph D. Carter State Office Building in the Russell Conference Room, Leonardtown. For information contact Chris Coogan at Cicoogan@smcm.edu

Upper Patuxent

Meets the second Monday at 7 p.m. at 9944 Route 108 in Ellicott City. Labs are the second and fourth Saturdays. On Facebook, www.facebook.com/pages/Upper-Patuxent-Archaeology-Group/464236446964358 or www.upperpatuxentarchaeology.com or try uparchaeologygroup@gmail.com

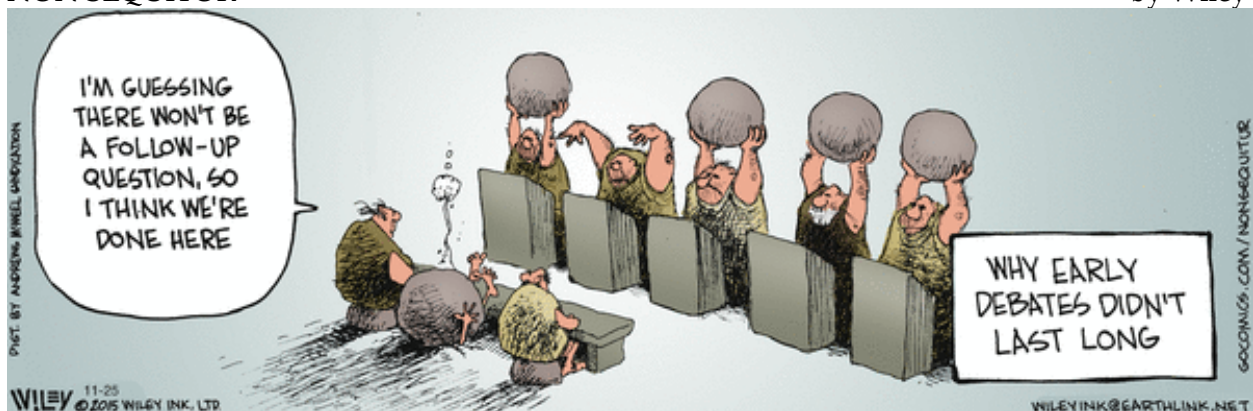
Western Maryland

Programs are the fourth Friday of the month, at 7:30 p.m. in the LaVale Library, unless noted. Contact Roy Brown, 301-724-7769. Email: wmdasm@yahoo.com Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/wmdasm>

January 24, 2020: Annual show-and-tell program. NO MEETINGS IN NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER.

NON SEQUITOR

by Wiley



The Archeological Society of Maryland Inc. is a statewide nonprofit organization devoted to the study and conservation of Maryland archeology.

ASM members receive the monthly newsletter, ASM Ink; the biannual journal, MARYLAND ARCHEOLOGY, reduced admission to ASM events and a 10-percent discount on items sold by the Society. Contact Membership Secretary Ethan Bean, 609 N. Paca Street, Apt. 3, Baltimore, MD 21201 for membership rates. For publication sales, not including newsletter or Journal, contact Dan Coates at ASM Publications, 716 Country Club Rd.,

Havre de Grace, MD 21078-2104 or 410-273-9619 or dancoates@comcast.net

Submissions. Please send to Myron Beckenstein, 3126 Gracefield Rd., Apt. 106, Silver Spring MD 20905
240-867-3662 or myronbeck@verizon.net

President

Don Housley
301-424-8526
donhou704@earthlink.net

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Larry Seastrum
410-740-2613
seastrum@verizon.net

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brentchip@embarqmail.com

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Ethan Bean
765-716-5282
beans32@comcast.net

Lynne Bulhack
301-460-5356
lbulhack@aol.com

Aaron Jarvis
410-997-1962
jarvisa@juno.com

Secretary

Elaine Hall
240-426-1298
Elaine.frances.hall@gmail.com

Katharine Fernstrom
410-243-2757
kfernstrom@towson.edu

Fran Kline
571-228-0171
fran.eno.kline@gmail.com

