



SENIOR SCIENCE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 8, No. 1
October 2019



General Membership Meeting featuring



**Ross Coates
Harford County Dept. of
Emergency Services**

**Nov. 19, 2019, 6:45 P.M.
Harford Comm. College
2nd floor Darlington Hall**



The next General Membership Meeting will be on Monday, November 19, 2019 in Darlington Hall on the Harford Community College campus. We will begin in the second floor gathering area at 6:45 PM for an informal “meet and greet”. About 7:15 PM we will move into the classroom for a brief business meeting. The featured presentation will follow the business meeting. All members, significant others, potential members, and students are invited.

Our guest speaker will be Ross Coates, Communications Center Manager for the Harford County Department of Emergency Services. Mr. Coates will speak about science and technology behind the county’s 911 Communications and Dispatch Center, including the geospatial data tied into the system.

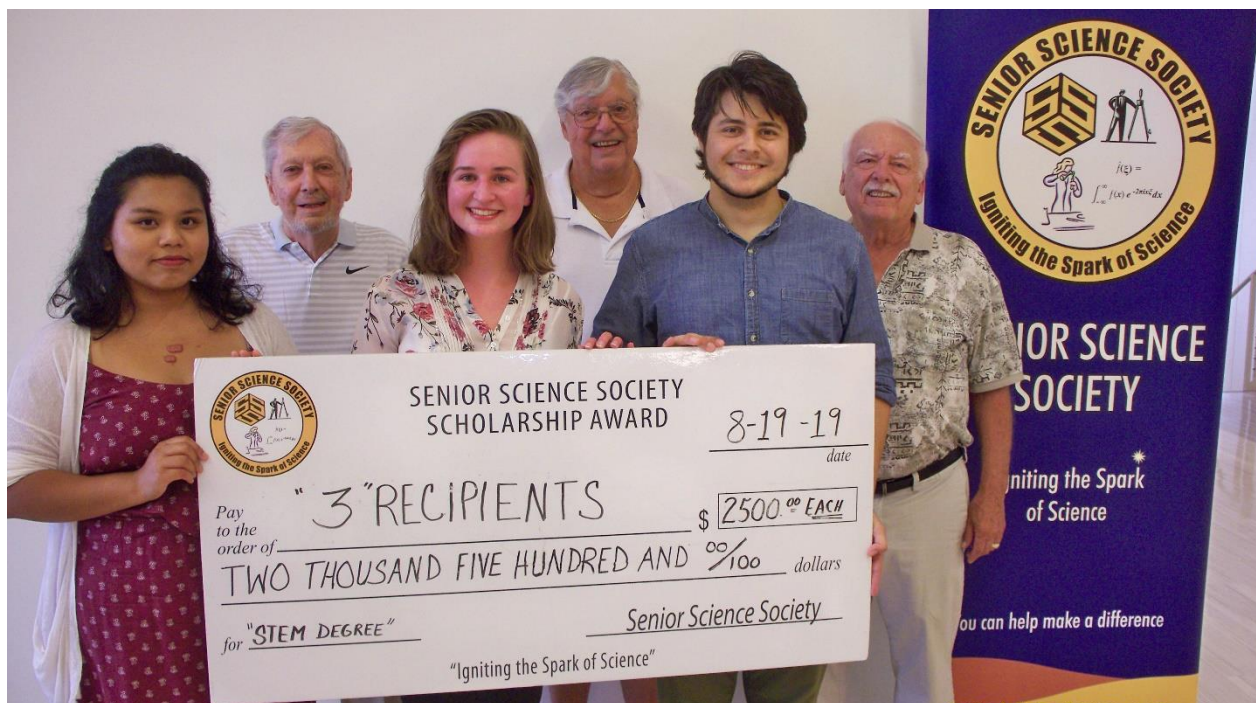


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2019 Transfer Scholarship Winners Celebrated

A highlight of the Senior Science Society calendar is the annual awarding of transfer scholarship to one or more deserving Harford Community College students. This year the SSS Scholarship Committee interviewed a whopping 11 nominees and forwarded the names of three outstanding students to the SSS Board of Directors who approved the awarding of \$2,500 transfer scholarships to Michael Warner (Edgewood, University of Maryland College Park, Aeronautical Engineering); Michelle Ramsahoye (Edgewood, University of Maryland Baltimore County, Physics & Biology); and Allison Dietz (Fallston, University of Maryland Baltimore County, Mechanical Engineering). Congratulations to the winners, and thanks to the many hours of work by the Scholarship Committee.



At the August 19 general membership meeting, winners of SSS transfer scholarships proudly hold the ceremonial "Big Check". They are, from left to right, Michelle Ramsahoye, Allison Dietz and Michael Warner. In the background are Scholarship Committee members Skip Albert (Chair), Bruce Burns, and Charlie Nietubicz.



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SSS Transfer Scholarships: Setting the Bar High

Transfer scholarships are designed to help students pursue a bachelor's degree after graduating from Harford Community College. The Senior Science Society is one of six organizations that offer transfer scholarships to HCC students, ranging from \$500 to \$2,500. Based on the availability of our funds, SSS offers a \$2,500 transfer scholarship. So, what's it take to be awarded a transfer scholarship from SSS? Quite a lot! Seven criteria are required for consideration of this scholarship. An applicant must ...

- ❶ be a U.S. citizen, and
- ❷ a Harford County resident;
- ❸ be a graduate of the HCC STEM program;
- ❹ earn an overall GPA of 3.2, and
- ❺ a GPA of 3.5 in all STEM courses;
- ❻ present a letter of acceptance into a bachelor's program in Science, Engineering or Mathematics at a four-year institution; and,
- ❼ interview with the Senior Science Society of Harford County Scholarship Committee.

Interested in serving on the SSS Scholarship Committee? Chair Skip Albert would love to chat with you at an upcoming general membership meeting.



SSS Officers

President:	Dick Schwanke
Vice President:	Robert McKenzie
Secretary:	Edward Schmidt
Treasurer:	Fred Robbins

Congratulations to our newly
elected officers!

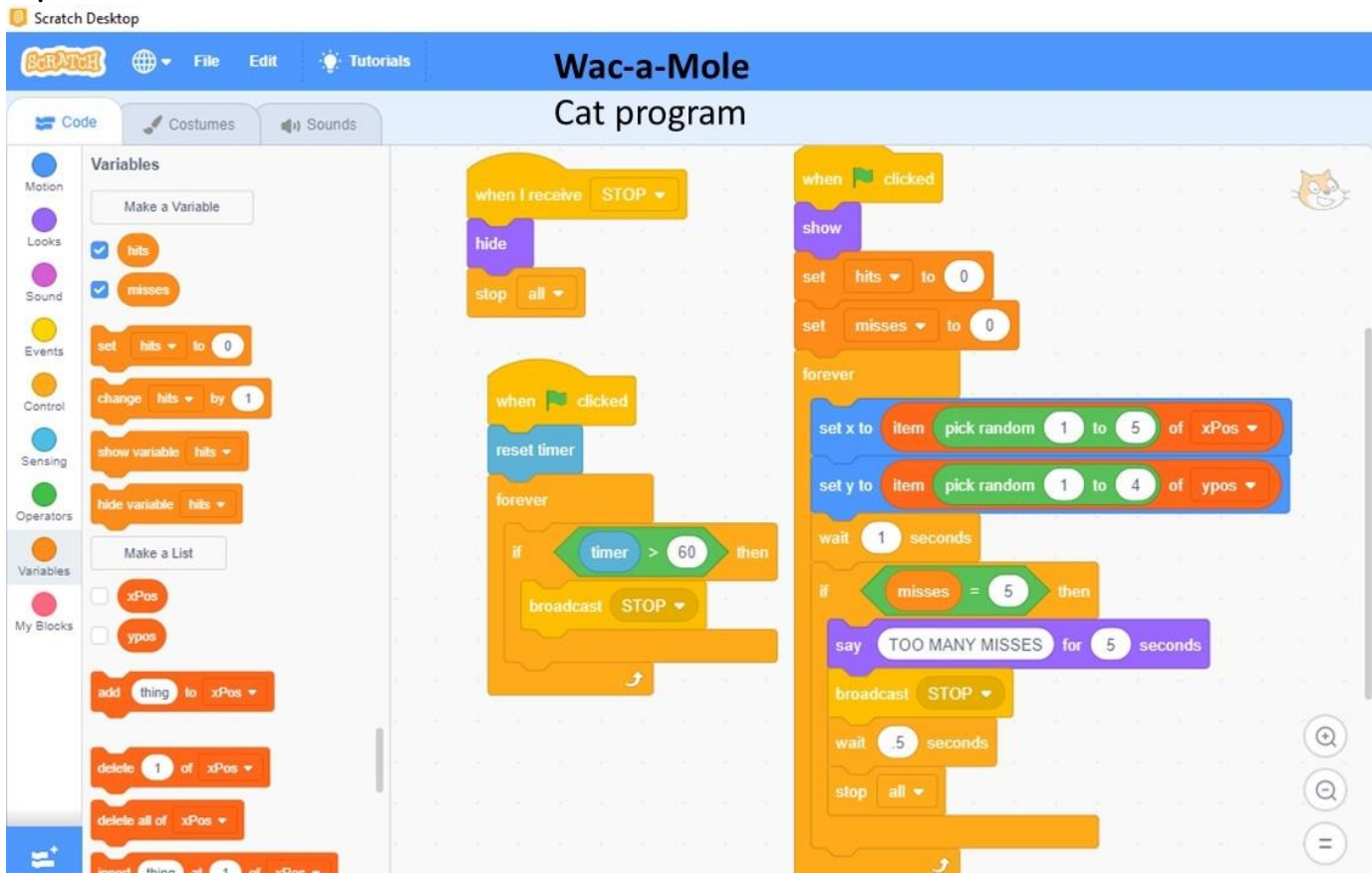


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SSS Member Instructs Course on Scratch Block-Oriented Programming Language

“Scratch” programming classes started in October at the Edgewood Boys and Girls Club, taught by SSS member Greg Fox. Eleven weekly 90-minute classes start with fundamentals of the block-oriented language, progress to programming cartoon animations, and graduate to programming simple games like Pong and more complex ones like Wac-a-Mole. The dozen students range from 3rd to 9th grade and, interestingly, are predominately girls. From the Scratch website: “With Scratch, students can program your own interactive stories, games, and animations. Scratch helps young people learn to think creatively, reason systematically, and work collaboratively — essential skills for life in the 21st century. Scratch is a project of the Lifelong Kindergarten Group at the MIT Media Lab.”





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Project Lead the Way

"Project Lead the Way" has been restarted in Bel Air Middle School under the leadership of Ms. Jill Orsini, and the Senior Science Society has been supporting her efforts through the integration of several SSS teaching modules into her curriculum. This engineering-based project consists of five class periods: two 6th-grade class periods, two 7th-grade class periods, and one 8th-grade class period, with each grade level focused on specific, but different aspects of engineering and associated projects. To make matters more interesting, the students change four times a year, so each group of students has a 45-day program.

We have had several of our SSS members engaged: Joe Domanico, Greg Fox, Al Horst, Fred Robbins, Dick Schwanke, and Bruce Burns. SSS participation is coordinated by Bruce Burns. The overall thrust of this project is to expose students to the engineering processes, including mechanics; thermodynamics, down to the atomic level; and machines. The objective of the "Project Lead the Way", as currently conceived is to reach all students in the school, and it will take several years for that goal to be realized. As we go through this year, we will have helped to educate roughly 600 students, with all grades being exposed to at least two SSS 45-minute modules.

Did You Know?

The acronym STEM is a widely accepted part of the American lexicon, referring to both the field and the curriculum centered on education in the disciplines of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. The STEM acronym was introduced at the turn of the century by scientific administrators at the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF). This organization previously used the acronym "SMET" when referring to the career fields in those disciplines or a curriculum that integrated knowledge and skills from those fields. In 2001, however, American biologist Judith Ramaley, then Assistant Director of Education and Human Resources at NSF, rearranged the words to form the STEM acronym.

(Source <https://www.britannica.com/topic/STEM-education>)